



USAS Convention Report

Presented by Clint and Laurie Benton.

Once again, this year Laurie and I were honored to be able to represent Pacific Swimming at the annual USAS Convention. As in years past ours was a busy time allowing us to interact with the hundreds of USA Swimming attendees.

Our activities were both attending meetings, meeting with individuals to learn and discuss the issues that face our sport today. This year USAS decided to not provide a “computer café” that would allow members access to computers, printers and the ability to print documents needed for meetings. There was one printer sent to Laurie by USA Swimming for the use of Credentials and confidential needs of USA Swimming staff.

Once we arrived, we met with the USAS Convention staff to coordinate the USA Swimming Credentials desk, storage for USA Swimming awards, credentials, other supplies and the confidential meeting room.

The Credentials and Elections Committee was open for business on Tuesday so that arriving attendees were able to register and get their credentials. This year USAS had a new badge that did not allow for USA Swimming to use their badge holder for our credential, so changes needed to be made on the fly. Additional changes will be made to improve the process for next year.

On 9/11/19, I attended the Board of Directors meeting to get a feeling for how the new Board functions. For the open part of the meeting the Board requested that everyone in the audience stand and introduce themselves. There was then a report from the Nominating Committee on the process they went through to select the candidates for election this year. The USA Swimming Foundation is also being restructured and their staff will be integrated with the USA Swimming Staff, “interesting”.

I also attended the LSC Development Meeting. They discussed how the LSC analytics will be simplified for the access through the LSC Portal. The LEAP program will be changed after 2020. LSC's will have to only achieve one level, pass or fail. The new categories to be measured will be programming, administration, governance. This new process will begin 1/1/2021. This year the focus of the Mega LSC workshop will focus on coach leadership in the LSC. LSC's will be given a visit on any topic that they need twice each quad. LSC library will provide information

regarding recruiting helping volunteers, General Chairs handbook as well as LSC best practices. An update on this information was presented at the General Chairs luncheon.

On 9/12/19, the Western Zone House of Delegates meeting was held. Once again it was not very effective. Conducting the election was not a problem. Selecting the site for the WZ Age Group Champs was easy only one bidder Elk Grove, Sierra Nevada. Ultimately Clovis was once again selected for the Senior Champs. What was the hold up with that Clovis lost money last year so a change in our entry fees was called for. However, there was no presentation of the reasons for the increase in fees, provided before the meeting, so it was sprung as a surprise to the body and then demanding an immediate action to save the meets. From my position discussing the increase is appropriate if everyone is given the information in advance, I proposed an amendment that financial information that needed action should be presented to the LSC's 30 days prior to the meeting, it was defeated. The motion to increase the entry fees was approved with \$1 going to the Zone the rest to the host.

If WZ continues to bring financial changes to the HOD at the last minute the meeting will continue to be chaotic and lack transparency. Sad!

On 9/13/19 I attended the SafeSport Workshop. Several issues came up, one was the coaches concern that the curfew for coaches to contact swimmers by any means was limited to 8 AM to 8 PM. Coaches believe that this is too early as practices may not end until 8:00 PM. They wanted 9 PM and the answer was a straight no without further discussion. Other issues were that there are those who believe that any person can make a complaint without recourse. The answer was that less than 5% of all allegations are false, in addition there is recourse if it is found that complaint that was made was not only unfounded but that it was made to harm the person accused. Also discussed was how to implement the part of the MAAP that says that adults and minors can not be alone in the restrooms or locker rooms. There are 4 possible ways to monitor this, even though at meets this will most likely not be an issue it needs to be considered for teams during practices. Each club and each facility will have to handle this on their own.

During the team building group activity Western Zone had the best plan and build the tallest tower but be had an issue with the stability of the base, still it was the tallest!

At the Operational Risk meeting on 9/13/19, I came away with two items, one is that when swimmers come to a meet without their coach, they should have the certificate that they can do racing starts with them. This may be something that we need to pay more attention to. The other item is that insurance is available if a professional Dr. Nurse etc. is willing to volunteer and they are afraid that their insurance will not cover them. They just need to contact our underwriter and he will draw up a policy to cover them at no cost. Another remark was made about air quality issues and it was stated that our athletes take in more air that sedentary people and so that should be considered as well.

9/13/19: HOD this was the primary awards ceremony for USA Swimming also presentations were made on the state of the sport by the Board President and the USA Swimming Staff.

9/14/19: HOD. Election was held winners were Bill Schalz, Kathleen Prindle, Kenneth Chung, Jennifer Gibson. In my opinion all the candidates were good. During the convention I was able to talk to seven of the eight candidates one on one and I have served on a National Committee with Bill. I feel confident that those elected will not forget the needs of the LSC's and the grassroots of the sport.

Legislation: One LSC wanted to change the rules regarding how swims were observed. The reason is that their high school association did not allow USA Officials on the deck to observe swims to make sure they meet our rules. They wanted the USA Officials to be able to make calls on turns from the stands not on the deck. This seemed a no brainer to me and it did not pass.

The other issue that was discussed was the increase in dues for clubs. The staff wanted this passed because they wanted to use the money for programs, however, they were not able to provide any specifics about those programs. My amendment to reduce the amount of the increase to \$150 to renew and \$250 for new clubs was defeated. Others had other more unusual amendments one to increase new clubs' fees to \$1500 was also defeated. Another amendment for an increase based on size of club, however, how this would be implemented was not discussed. In the end the motion was returned to sender with request to do a better job of putting the proposal together for next year. This will come back next year with more details. We should be ready for this and have our own ideas on how to handle this.

The banquet was modified because of the new MAAP requirements for our swimmers so master's had to limit their skit.