

Minutes of the April 13, 2014 VSI House of Delegate Meeting

Present: David Strider (Disability), Bob Rustin (Treasurer), Bill Geiszler (Financial Chair), Gordon Hair (Make A Splash), Jessica Simons (At-Large), Bryan Wallin (Officials Chair), Peter Maloney (Diversity and Inclusion), Terry Randolph (Administrative Chair), Steve Hennessey (General Chair), Lisa Liston (Technical Planning Chair), Steven Phillips (Club Development), TJ Liston (Coaches Rep), Ted Sallade (Senior Chair), Kevin McHaney (Coaches Rep), Kara McHaney (Athlete Rep), Scott Baldwin (Age Group Chair), Mary Turner (Registration/Office Administrator), Hans Fuhs (TIDE), Daniel Demers (TIDE), Courtney Jones (RPST), Catherine Dominick (TAC), John Stanley (CCA), Drew Hirth (NOVA), MC Thomas (NOVA), Jonathon Douglas (STAT), Madison Douglas (STAT), Christine Dominick (TAC), Alex Morin (RPST), Kelsey Naylor (LY), Steven Mills (LY), David Lynch (PSDN), Justin Smith (BAC), Jordan Filchuck (CGBD)

The General Chair called the House of Delegates to order.

To begin the meeting the General Chair recognized BAC and QSTS for achieving a 25% participation rate in the Athlete Protection Training, and CAST and LY for achieving a 40% participation rate. Congratulations to these teams for doing an outstanding job with this program.

He also recognized outgoing Senior Athlete Rep, Katherine Webb, for her service to VSI.

Jessica Simons made a motion to approve the minutes from the last HOD meeting. Peter seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer, Bob Rustin, presented the summary through March of the VSI finances and noted these are posted to the website. The treasurer's report stood as a motion and was seconded by Lisa. The treasurer's report was approved.

Age Group Chair, Scott Baldwin, reported that there were 24 individual VSI records set at Age Group Champs and 10 relay records. Despite the stricter qualifying standards set two years ago, there were 60 additional swimmers in this year's meet. The Age Group committee has voted to allow District meets to have 10 & Unders in the finals session. This decision is at the discretion of the District and does not have to be uniform across all Districts. Additionally, short course Age Group Champs will add one heat of 10 & unders in finals at night. 10 & unders will be limited to 7 events.

Scott hopes to ensure that the new Zone process is communicated quickly and effectively to all teams and readily available to swimmers and parents – through email, the website, and meet heat sheets.

Senior Chair, Ted Sallade, reported that there are 4 VSI teams in the top 100 of the USAS Virtual Championship. Currently NOVA is in 6th, PSDN is 19th, Coast Guard is 56th, GATR is 64th. Senior Champs was successful. 14 VSI records were set. Henry Campbell of QDD was the male high point winner, Sydney Pessetti of PSDN was the female high point winner. The Athlete Rep election was held during Senior Champs and 4 athletes ran for the position. Emily Erard of PSDN was elected to be the new Jr Athlete Rep beginning in the fall. Francis Townley Haas of NOVA and Jessica Arnold of SMAC made the USAS National Junior Team. At today's meetings, 9 teams were represented. Discussion included

allowing an additional event at Senior Champs – currently it is 6 and the discussion was to allow 7. No decision yet made but will look at timelines and make a proposal in September. Working to refine the Athlete Travel Reimbursement policy. Ted noted that some coaches would like to be invited to officials' briefings – these briefings are open and coaches are welcome to attend. Discussion in Senior Committee included the improvement on deck in the coaches/officials atmosphere and they hope this continues. Benefit of the doubt always goes to the swimmer – officials observe, they don't inspect. There was discussion about a succession plan for chair positions on committees.

The Financial Chair, Bill Geiszler, presented the budget. Bill reported that the finance committee consists of himself, Bob Rustin, Dave Henderson, Ted Sallade, Gordon Hair, and athlete Kelsey Naylor from LY. This was the first time an athlete attended a financial committee meeting. Bill explained the increase on the revenue line – mainly due to money added for Zone meet revenue and Sectional meet revenue. Note that USAS registration fees will go up \$2 next year. VSI spending more money on Zone athletes this year. He noted that there will be two banquets following in the next budget cycle due to the change in banquet date. He reviewed expenses – Zone, banquet expenses. Bill also presented percentages of where money comes from (registration, meets, etc.) and where money goes (athlete programs, administration, volunteer support). TJ seconded Bill's motion to approve the budget. TJ said that the Coaches asked for an additional \$100 per coach for the Zone coaches. No need to alter the current budget as this amount will not significantly disturb the budget. The budget was approved.

Technical Planning Chair, Lisa Liston, presented the 2014-2015 meet schedule. Bids continue to come in. Next year's short course Age Group Champs will be held in Richmond, Sr Champs in Christiansburg. Long course Age Group Champs will be held in Christiansburg and SR Champs in Richmond. No conflicting bids so far. Note that there have been no meets bid at the Freedom Center. QDD has a new facility where they will run meets for a limited number of teams and swimmers. Contact them if you are interested. The spring Northern Region meet has been bid by the RAYS in Richmond. Technical Planning decided to remove the region labels from these meets so there would be more flexibility in assigning teams to venues. The Technical Planning Committee did not feel that we needed to provide any further limitation beyond the USAS rules to 13 & over session timelines. Lisa noted that host teams need to be aware that if their rebate fees are not being paid and up to date, we will not issue sanctions for upcoming meets.

Club Development Chair, Steven Phillips, presented the Club Mentoring Program that USAS is promoting. VSI agreed to put \$2,000 into the budget and USAS will pay an additional \$4,000 in support. We are pursuing getting approval from USA Swimming for a VSI program. Mary added that the swimposium/banquet weekend is the first weekend in October. There will be an athlete clinic. The date is a little later due to the convention being a week later than normal. Peter requested that there be a coach clinic of some kind at the swimposium, maybe something specifically for female coaches.

Diversity and Inclusion Chair, Peter Maloney, reported that there will be a Winning Spirit Diversity Camp on Saturday, May 3rd. JJ Bean will be the head coach. More coaches are needed. If you are interested contact Peter. Applications will be on the website or contact Peter for an athlete application.
diversitycoord@virginiaswimming.org

If your team would like to run a camp or clinic, just contact Peter and he will help you. One VSI swimmer, Maicoll Gomez from CCA, made the USAS Diversity Select Camp at Colorado Springs in the 200 butterfly. Four VSI athletes attended the Zone Camp last year.

Administrative Chair, Terry Randolph, had just returned from a workshop and said helpful tools are coming to help identify swimmers at various levels through SWIMS. This will help with all kinds of things including meet management.

Registration Chair/Office Administrator Mary Turner reminded coaches to use their club portals through USA Swimming to access team information including athlete rosters, non-athlete rosters. The information available can help you track team history, keep up with coach certifications, keep up with athlete registrations. The deck pass account has coaches' registration information on it and tells when certifications expire. If you don't know how to access your portal, contact Mary.

Registration numbers are about 100 behind last year at this time.

Mary reminded everyone of the requirements to maintain your club's USA Swimming Insurance coverage.

Mary needs cards right away on certifications. She receives automatic notification of anything completed through SWIMS or the USAS website. She is automatically notified of background checks, athlete protection comes to her, the educational requirement for Foundations of Coaching comes directly to her. Copies of these items do NOT need to be sent to her.

Coach certification clinics are scheduled at CSAC on August 23rd and October 7th.

There is a \$2 dues increase this year.

VSI needs to decide whether to offer Pay Pal as a means to pay for registration. Currently teams must pay by check.

Athlete Committee Representative Kara McHaney reported that the Athletes mainly discussed the Awards banquet. They felt that it was not necessary to include 8 & unders in the banquet. They also felt that the competitive spirit award at the LSC level can be done away with – their feeling was that is the kind of award that should be dealt with at a team level if desired. She reported they actually tried to call Busch Gardens this morning but with no luck. They would like for the honorees to attend for free with the parents paying a fee. Discussion ensued about developing a plan within the budget for the banquet.

On other topics, Kara reported that the athletes would like deck space to be a consideration during the meet bid process. They would also like to see the pace of finals slowed down at Senior Champs. And they also requested that the top seed be able to select the march in song for their event. Ted said he would try to work with the facility on this request.

Coaches Representative TJ Liston reported he will be accepting nominations for coaches rep for the next two weeks. He has received no nominations to this point. The Coaches Committee endorsed the bylaws and P & P changes as well as the items coming out of the Age Group and Senior committees. The application for Zone Coaches should be posted on the website with the athlete's application for Zones.

Officials' Chair, Bryan Wallin, reported they had a good meeting. He said they talked about ways to make training more accessible to people as well as have better tracking of volunteers following training

clinics. He said that officials are preaching observation of swims versus inspection of swims. He reiterated that coaches are always welcome in officials' briefings. Most meets have been well staffed, though some times of year are more difficult, i.e. during high school season.

The General Chair, Steve Hennessey, made special note of the outstanding job the officials have been doing and the general atmosphere of cooperation on deck between coaches and officials.

Disability Coordinator, David Strider, reported that the VSI Disability committee has been meeting via email. There have been two disability meets. The first was February 1-2 at CSAC. It was a Paralympic meet. Well attended and several VSI officials there helping. And then last Sunday, April 6th, there was a meet for wheel chair athletes. Twelve VSI officials attended that meet. David encouraged folks to come to these meets.

Gordon Hair reported that the board had approved six recommendations to be added as Best Practices for air/water quality to the VSI Safety Procedures:

- **Contract/Bid considerations-** Host pools bidding on meets should provide what if any provisions they plan to make in preparation of hosting a meet. Examples: Filtration rate normal and meet day, Air exchange rate normal and meet day, Water test normal and meet day.
- **Complete USA Facility check sheet prior to meet.**
- **Shower for all swimmers before entering water.** (This will be process of education, beginning with adding to Meet Announcement, Signage, providing education to swimmers, coaches, and parents.)
- **Meet size and duration for venue,** Example: Number of swimmers,(splashes), time line each session to include warm up and events, Number of days for meet)
- **Breaks for Volunteers off deck.**
- **Swimmer off deck seating.**

Gordon also reported that VSI finished its first year of awarding grants for the Make A Splash program – learn to swim and drowning prevention. Providing a bridge program into a USAS team is a requirement of those grants. Money also needs to be provided to help swimmers through the bridge in the second year. 3 grants were awarded this year. Two to YRVS, and one to Tsunami. About 300 swimmers were served through these programs.

There was no report from Open Water.

Jessica Simons reported that the athletes are keeping her busy updating records. She is awaiting results from the April meets.

In the absence of the Legislative chair, Mary and Steve presented the changes to the Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures.

TJ made a motion to approve Revision #1 to the Bylaws dealing with the Coaches Committee. Lisa seconded. The motion passed.

TJ made a motion to approve Revision #2 to the Bylaws dealing with the Coaches Rep election. Lisa seconded. The motion passed.

TJ made a motion to approve Policy Revision #1 clarifying the language about submitting financial reports and meet rebate fees. Ted seconded. The motion passed.

TJ made a motion to approve Policy Revision #2 regarding Zone uniforms and the necessity for chaperones to pass a background check. David seconded. The motion passed.

TJ made a motion to approve Policy Revision #2 clarifying the language of the privacy policy. Terry seconded. The motion passed.

Jessica made a motion to approve Procedure Revision #1 regarding officials' hotel expenses during championship meets. David Strider seconded. The motion passed.

Jessica made a motion that the meeting adjourn. Terry seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,
Lisa Liston