

Delegate report from Diann Bauer for USAS Convention 2016
Atlanta, Georgia
September 21-25

On Thursday, September 22, I attended the first House of Delegates meeting, the Breadbasket Zone meeting, the Finance #2 meeting, the Registration meeting, the Open Water meeting, the second House of Delegates meeting, and the LMSC Social.

In the Breadbasket zone meeting we discussed upcoming meets in our zone. We will be trying a new concept of the “virtual meet” where remote meets will combine results. Ozark will host the 2017 zone championships.

In the Finance meeting we discussed a proposed fee of \$100 for meet recognition. The current fee for a USMS sanction is \$50. The committee explained that this fee is an incentive for meet organizers to put on a sanctioned meet as opposed to a recognized meet, and also stated that meets need to pay for the publicity and “branding” afforded them by USMS. This proposal received a fair amount of discussion in the House of Delegates and it was brought to light that a number of Senior Olympics meets and other currently recognized meets across the country would not be able to afford this fee. Ultimately the proposal passed, by a narrow margin. This new fee will affect at least a couple of meets in our LMSC, such as the FRAY meet and Senior Olympics. The fee will be charged to the LMSC in which the meet is held.

Else in finance, the \$2 membership increase (to \$41) is part of a 5 year plan which was approved 3 years ago. There will also be an increase in the cost to register a workout group, it will go from \$25 to \$41.

The Registration committee meeting was fairly uneventful as everything is going relatively smoothly with registrations, in large part due to the work of the national office and the continuous improvement of the online registration program. We discussed the technicalities of club transfer rules as well as the fairly consistent percentage of members who don't want to print their own cards. It has been determined the new members are the most likely to want a card mailed to them.

The Open Water committee discussed temperature safety rules and proposals, as well as training for Safety Coordinators. There are some annual swims where temperatures can easily fall outside the temperature regulations and this leads to debate on changing the rules.

On Friday, September 23, I attended LGBTQ Alliance Breakfast, a workshop called Turning Resources into Satisfied Swimmers, a workshop on Adult Learn to Swim programs, the sports medicine presentation, a workshop on diversity, the third House of Delegates meeting, and the International Masters Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

The workshop addressing resources covered ways in which LMSCs with enough funds can provide members with additional resources such as clinics and programs to promote fitness. We were encouraged to find out what different types of members, such as competitive, fitness, or recreational swimmers, would like to have as additional programming from their clubs. The

slides from this presentation, as well as those from the diversity workshop, can be found on the USMS website through the convention links.

The diversity workshop focused on identifying types of swimmers who face challenges in Masters swimming due to their minority status and discussing ways that we can be inclusive. Much of this workshop was spent talking to a partner about issues and ideas so not a lot of information was imparted. My partner shared with me that they have a transgendered swimmer in their club who has been transitioning since starting with Masters and has not yet taken on issues of competing as a female rather than a male.

This year's sports medicine presentation focused on how performance changes as swimmers age and the difficulties of measuring physiological changes since the sport occurs in water, where most measuring instruments cannot function. The presenter was a delight and very humorous. He used a large number of studies to support his generalizations. This was the best presentation of the convention.

Friday evening I attended the Hall of Fame inductions where our own Tom Maine was honored. The entire ceremony was very moving.

On Saturday, September 24, I attended the fourth House of Delegates meeting, the national committees speed dating, a round table lunch, the fifth House of Delegates meeting, and the Aquatic Sports Banquet.

During the speed dating event I spoke with the Long Distance Committee about some of the challenges of passing rules that everyone can live with relative to conditions in their own areas of the country. I also visited with the Fitness and Education Committee about addressing the needs of different types of swimmers and examples of how recreational swimmers have been encouraged to become Masters swimmers were shared.

I attended the round table lunch for registrars and we mostly discussed processing meet results.

The Aquatics Banquet was very entertaining with each contingency giving a presentation and in some cases some comic relief. Katie Ledecky's brother accepted her Swimmer of the Year award. Our past-president, Nadine Day, received the Arthur Ransom award for service to USMS.