

**REPORT OF BRUCE HOPSON
FROM USAS CONVENTION 9/17/09-9/20/09**

As a member of the Long Distance Committee, my main function was to attend both of the USMS Long Distance Committee meetings, as well as any House of Delegates meetings, Breadbasket Zone Meetings and LMSC workshops.

Long Distance

The Long Distance Committee held its first meeting on September 17, 2009. At that meeting, we accepted bids for the 2011 Championship events after bids were presented and discussed. Secret ballots were handed out to the members of the committee with the results to be announced at our second meeting, September 18, 2009. Committee chairs presented their reports.

On September 18, 2009, we had our second meeting. At that meeting, we awarded the following 2011 championship events:

Open Water

1. >6 Mile: Ft. Myers, FL (4/30 or 5/1)
2. 3-6 Mile: Coney Island, NY (6/25)
3. 1 Mile: Central Oregon Master (7/3)
4. 2 Mile Cable: Lake Placid, NY (8/13)
5. 1-3 Mile: Lake Monona, Madison, WI (8/20)
6. 25K: Noblesville, IN (7/16)

Postal Championships

1. One Hour: Tualatin Hills (1/01-1/31)
2. 5000/10000 meters: YMCA SwimFit (5/15-9/15)
3. 3000/6000 yards: Chicago Smelts (9/15-11/15)

The Committee again addressed the overhaul of the long distance and open water committee as they related to legislative proposals L70 and L71. The Long Distance committee will be charged with the administration of the rules and events, and the Open Water Committee will be charged with the promotion of open water events.

We also discussed the development of open water cable swims, which are events where there is a ¼-mile cable attached to either fixed or temporary buoys. The Long Distance committee sought and later received from the budget process an additional \$500 to help defray the costs of measurement, certification and installation expenses for the course. The Committee leadership strongly encouraged St. Louis to explore this possibility so as to make it the cable swim of the Midwest.

Finally, Club Assistant made a presentation on the implementation of the software for the 5K/10K postal event held this summer.

For more information about the meetings, please see the detailed minutes provided by the committee that can be found at: <http://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/ld-2008-9-27-2.pdf>.

LMSC Workshop: Hosting a Successful Multi-Day LMSC, Zone or National Championship

I also attended an LMSC workshop on Hosting a Successful Multi-day LMSC, Zone or National Championship Meet. Mark Moore of Southern Pacific, Jody Smith of Pacific and Tom Boak of Gulf presented the workshop held on Thursday, September 17, 2009. I took away the following suggestions: have a non-sanctioned, relay meet as a way of getting novice swimmers into the idea. You would not need to have standard relays but more creative ones such as a 4 x 100 IM relay, a crescendo relay (25-50-75-100), 4 x 50 breaststroke, etc. Also, think about mixing two experienced swimmers with two non-experienced.

Have an announcer at a meet. That person can play a vital role in keeping the meet organized and more interesting.

Members of the audience suggested sending hand-written thank you notes to volunteers.

The panel also discussed good ways on how to obtain volunteers. The panel suggested the following: lane sponsorships by businesses, retirement centers, groups needing to raise money such as high school sports teams, military groups, and civic organizations.

Finally the panel discussed the pros and cons of having a surcharge plus individual event fees versus a flat charge. The recommended amounts were \$20-30 (late entry) for a one day meet and \$45-60 (late entry) for a two-day meet.

Other Meetings

I also attended all House of Delegate Meetings as well as the Breadbasket Zone Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce E. Hopson