

September 22, 2011

Convention Summary Sept 2011

The USAS Convention was held in Jacksonville, FL this year, with an enthusiastic group from around the country. Ozark was represented by four experienced delegates who canvassed the meetings for information.

I attended all of the House of Delegate meetings. We nominated a new national board with Nadine Day as President, replacing Jeff Moxie. Many topics of interest were discussed throughout the 4 day meeting.

Olympic Trials and Long Course Nationals were discussed in depth, and are of particular interest to us because of Omaha's close proximity to St Louis. We would like to encourage our group to swim in these Nationals, and have the joy of seeing the elite national swimmers compete.

In addition to the HOD meetings, I am vice chair of LMSC Development. We had two meetings and are pursuing conformity amongst the LMSC's in accordance with the National office. The program was also presented to the membership.

I assisted Mel Goldstein in two clinics, in which Club Development was the subject. Mel and I have done these almost every year, and he emphasizes the USMS membership, and broadening the scope of endeavors in which to gain more athletes and make programs successful and profitable.

I also attended the USMS Save a Life meeting, in which USMS is hoping to have older swimmers assist in teaching and making safe older insecure swimmers. My meeting with Doug Church (Chair) was informative, and he is investigating diversifying the thought process to include hospitals and medical facilities with the help of Jerry Clark from Charlotte N, Carolina. This is close to my heart because my father is an unsafe swimmer.

I carried that into a USAS committee meeting of the Make A Splash program where young people have limited sources and pools in which to learn to swim. This is a USA Swimming Foundation endeavor, and is growing daily. We have very limited access at this time to this program due to limited interest, ie education/knowledge of the program. Ozark might be interested in pursuing this actively because it would give us a bigger name in the community.

Respectfully submitted.

Lori Payne