# United States Masters Swimming Executive Committee Conference Call May 22, 2007

President Rob Copeland called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. EDT. Also present were Meg Smath, Mike Heather, Julie Heather, Mark Gill, Jim Miller, Todd Smith and Tracy Grilli.

Rob welcomed our new executive director, Todd Smith, to his first Executive Committee meeting.

### **Officer reports**

#### Past President:

Jim reported that the National Publication Renewal Task Force had a highly productive meeting on 5/8. Following the meeting, Jim and Patty met with Grant Murphy and Bill Edwards of Douglas Murphy Communications for two hours on 5/14 to set the stage for future discussions and covering the areas of mutual interest.

That task force's next conference call will be 5/22.

Steady progress has been made by the Benefits Task Force in regard to the benefits to the executive director and all of the full-time employees. This task force has been very productive under the chair, Nadine Day. We are within days of finalizing the agreements with the health insurance carrier. The terms of the retirement, vision, dental, disability and life insurance are also close to completion. Finishing touches should be in place for most of the products by 6/1. Jim is currently named as the trustee of the retirement plan.

Jim sits with Rob, Mel Goldstein and Tom Boak on the Transition Team. They have had one formal meeting with Todd and one organizational meeting prior. Jim had the role of coordinating the production of the press release announcing Todd's hiring. He thanked Bill Volckening and Bill Edwards for their role of conducting interviews and getting a professional press release together. Todd was instrumental in providing the contacts that were used to distribute the release.

Jim also announced that ASUA has selected Rio de Janeiro for the next Pan American Championships. The date is November 14–18, 2007. Once an English version is available, we will work hard to distribute it and promote the event.

#### VP Community Services:

Mike reported that all committees in his division have received the Mission, Objectives and Goals worksheet, and *Marketing* has finished already. He will be helping *Sports Medicine, Health and Safety* and *Fitness* with theirs, as requested.

Marcia Anziano has agreed to take the chairmanship of Fitness for the rest of the term. Terry Laughlin will stay active on the committee as time allows.

Mike will be setting up a regularly scheduled conference call for the committees and liaisons so they will be able to join the call if able, rather than trying to work out a "best for everyone" for each call.

Mike proposed the following quote by Goethe for this year's convention theme: "Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it." All agreed it was a great quote, but a little wordy for a convention theme. We decided to trim it to only the first sentence.

**FINAL** 

For Todd's benefit, Mike outlined the committees and liaisons in his division. He noted that Mel Goldstein is the new YMCA liaison, replacing Stu Marvin.

#### **VP Local Operations:**

Julie reported that the *Records and Tabulation Committee* is very nearly done with the MOG worksheet, thanks to Ed Tsuzuki. The *Zone Committee*, which Julie heads, hasn't started yet, but will next weekend.

The Club Development Task Force report is out for review, and she is starting to get comments.

Deb Morrin-Nordlund, chair of the Election Committee, reported that all incumbent officers are running for reelection, and there have been no additional nominations.

#### **VP Member Services:**

Mark reported on the committees in his division. *Championship*: We had one. It ran well. The next one is coming up in August in The Woodlands, Tex. Online entries are up and running for that meet with 20 entries so far. Tracy added that she has received 30 paper entries. The LC nationals will be the first to use the graded payment system, in which the earlier a swimmer enters, the lower the fee. This is being done to try to prevent 50 to 60 percent of the entries all coming in the last five days before the deadline. The Championship Committee is working on their MOG worksheet and should be done soon. The committee reviewed plans to host a virtual short course meters national championship. This year will be a test year with hopes of launching in 2008. Championship has also been identifying policy in the rule book that can be moved to a policy manual. The committee prefers keeping the information in an appendix of the rule book rather than in a separate document because they are concerned that people looking for information on how to bid for or run a championship meet will not know where else to look. Meg commented that leaving policy in the rule book, even in an appendix, defeats the purpose of having a policy manual.

*History and Archives:* They have a draft of their MOG worksheet out to their committee and are making final revisions.

*Communications:* The subcommittee that selects the communications award has been formed and is busy at work. The chair of the committee just put on an excellent national championship and Mark hasn't bothered him this week.

*Recognition and Awards:* The committee is still working on redesigning themselves. Several proposals are in the works. Congratulations to Jeanne Ensign, this year's recipient of the Ransom Arthur Award.

Mark has also been working with Webmaster Jim Matysek on prioritizing tasks.

The local organizing committee for last summer's World Championships has now collected all but about \$3000 of the hotel income they were due. The Stanford bill has been paid in part.

#### Secretary:

Meg said she has been busy with minutes, as usual. She explained to Todd that she has jurisdiction over the *National Board of Review* and the *Editorial Committee*. The Editorial Committee will hold a planning meeting for *USMS Swimmer* on July 26 in

Richmond, Va., but it is not clear yet who is going, which will depend on the budget. The committee has also completed revision of its definition, and will be submitting it as a legislation proposal for convention.

### President:

Rob explained to Todd that he has jurisdiction over the *International Committee* and the liaisons to other governing bodies. The International Committee is working on the MOG worksheet.

# Strategic planning update

The task force's next meeting will take place sometime next week. Rob noted that the vice presidents will be responsible for leading discussions of their committees at the planning retreat. They are strongly encouraged to contact their committees and liaisons so that they have a complete understanding.

# **Online registration**

Mark reported that he and Leo have been waiting for comments from the webmaster, and will now be moving on with putting together an RFP.

## Next meeting and adjournment

The next meeting of the EC will be July 10 at 7:30 p.m. EDT. The next meeting of the BOD will be June 14 at 8:00 p.m. EDT, at which Todd will be introduced to the board members who have not yet met him. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m. EDT.