

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

United States Synchronized Swimming /USAS Convention

Dearborn, Michigan

September, 2006

The second year of my term has been both exciting and very busy so I thought I might begin this report with a summary of my activities.

October, 2005 – Attended and judged the US Masters Nationals in Florida
Judged National Team Trials

November, 2005 – Board of Directors Reorganization Meeting in Colorado
Participated in and served as a lecturer at the Judges Training at
Colorado Springs
Attended a meeting of the TSSC Commission with Cornel Marculescu
in Lausanne, Switzerland

December, 2005
Attended the National Team Coaches Retreat and the Coaches College
in Colorado Springs
Gave two Judges Updates - Ohio and Illinois

January, 2006
Board of Directors Meeting in Indianapolis
Visited ED and staff at the office

February, 2006- Attended FINA TSSC Meeting and organized the Worldwide Seminar in
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; served as lecturer

March, 2006 Attended the National Collegiate Championships –Stanford

April, 2006 Attended US Junior Nationals – Minnesota
Visited USSS Office for meeting with ED
Attended US National Championships – Florida

May, 2006 Performed the site inspection for the 2006 World Cup in Yokohama,
Japan

June, 2006 USSS Board of Directors Meeting – Indianapolis
Visited the staff at the USSS office - Indianapolis
Attended the USOC Olympic Assembly – LaJolla, California
Attended the US National Age Group Championships

July, 2006 Attended US Opens in Orlando

August, 2006 Attended the FINA Masters Congress and reception at Stanford
Will serve as referee for the FINA Masters Championships at Stanford
Will attend the Pan American Age Group Championships in Mexico

September, 2006 Will attend the Synchronized Swimming World Cup and FINA TSSC meetings in Japan
Will serve as a presenter at the FINA World Conference in Madrid

The 2006 competitive season has been an exciting one with great performances and tremendous enthusiasm on the part of athletes and coaches. Congratulations to all competitors and coaches! Special thanks to our meet hosts who provided the venues, volunteers and resources to make these various championships a reality. Thank you to the judges and scoring personnel for endless hours of time and energy. National Team 2 did a great job at US Open. Be sure to read about them in Laura's National Team Director's report. The US Masters athletes have more competition ahead of them with World Masters and US Masters Championships yet to come! Internationally our USA Team 1 and USA Junior Team are working very hard in preparation for the World Cup in Japan and the Junior Worlds in China. Know that Synchro USA is behind you all the way!

The Board of Directors faced the challenges of completing a major governance change in the structure of USSS and they have worked diligently to effect that change in a way that will benefit our members and particularly the athletes. Betty Hazle has effectively incorporated the changes into the Code – you will find that body of work in the Law and Legislation packet. We believe you will find that the new structure meets the needs of the organization by creating vice presidencies which are directly related to important functions such as Membership, Marketing, International Relations, Competitive Operations and Education /Certification. The new approach to this last area – combining the training of coaches and judges under one vice presidency- will assure that we are all” on the same page.” Your participation on newly structured committees will be essential to the success of the structure.

I am truly sorry that I will not be with you in Dearborn on the occasion of this convention. After careful deliberation I determined that it is vitally important to attend the FINA meeting and the World Cup in Japan. At this halfway point between the Olympics it is important that I support the National Team by my presence in Yokohama and fulfill my duties as Honorary Secretary of the TSSC. Past president Betty Hazle will

conduct the Board of Directors and Board of Governors meetings on my behalf and as you know, she is highly qualified to do this task. Thank you to Betty and the Board of Directors for their leadership at this convention.

I would like to express my gratitude to Kay Davies and the nominating committee for the excellent work they have done in putting together a list of highly qualified individuals for this year's election. Special thanks to Stephanie Crocker for her work in planning this convention! United States Aquatics Sports does a tremendous job in preparing for and executing this annual meeting – if you have an opportunity, be sure to thank them!

As I have read each Board member, Committee Chair and Zone Chairman's reports I am aware of just how much progress we have made this year and I am grateful to all of you. I will not repeat here the tremendous work that has been accomplished – the reports speak for themselves! I salute our Executive Director and the staff of USSS for a job well done – you will be pleased to interact with the staff at convention and I am sure you will agree that this group of highly motivated professionals is working daily to help Synchro grow and excel! Together volunteers and staff are working on important projects such as growth and development of programs in high schools, colleges and YMCAs along with Education initiatives to support new coaches. Our National Team Director works closely with the Olympic International VP and the USOC to maintain excellence in the National Team program. Staff and volunteers are generating new ideas to enhance membership growth and implement creative marketing strategies. You are all to be commended.

To the athlete representatives, your role at Convention is extremely important. Let your voice be heard in committee meetings and at the Board of Governors. Remember that we exist as an organization to provide quality programs and competitions so that you may reach your full potential as athletes. I am certain that this will be a rewarding experience for you. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the USSS Foundation and its many contributors for your commitment and support as well as to our great sponsors! All of us together – working as a team – will insure a bright future for Synchronized Swimming!

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Jasontek
President – United States Synchronized Swimming