

## **2006 Convention - North Zone Minutes** **Thursday, 14 September 2006**

Linda Loehndorf called the meeting to order at 12:30pm. Current Officers in attendance: Linda Loehndorf, NZ Administrative Chair; Shari Darst, NZ Officials Chair; Allison Coates, NZ Athletes Representative. Absent: Scotti Nichols, NZ Secretary, was engaged in meetings at Convention which prevented her from acting as Secretary at the Zone meetings; Myrna Hagedorn, was asked to step in early as Secretary; Joan McCord, NZ Technical Chair, has been absent for 10 months; Lori Eaton, Education Chair was home with new baby boy Jacob.

### Report from Scotti Nichols:

Of the 21 total new Life Members who joined in the recent promotion, 11 are from the North Zone.

### Report from Joyce Lindeman:

Charlotte Davis has been active in Masters Speed Swimming and obtained new World Records in the 400 IM and 200 IM at the most recent World Master Championships. She unfortunately had to withdraw her nomination for Olympic International Vice President since her husband became ill. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Alexa Tchekmarov from Michigan attended the Pan Am Age Group Championships and placed first in 12-under Age Group Solo. The NEST team, which included team members from the Cincinnati Synchronators, Indy Synchro and the Columbus Coralina Club as well as the New Canaan Aquianas and NY Arianas attended the Pan Am Age Group championships. The team placed third in 16-18 Age Group Team competition. Congratulations!

The National Team Staff has begun to develop a Talent ID program. Thirteen athletes were selected from the 12-13 Age Group Solo and Duet entries at the 2006 Esynchro National Age Group Championships; tentatively these athletes will attend the 2006 Coaches College for additional training. The staff is also looking for talented athletes who will be synchro age 13 or 14 in 2007. A procedure will be developed so that coaches who feel that they have possible candidates may submit videos for the Talent ID program.

### Report from Re Calcaterra:

Thanks for the sympathy card and donations on behalf of her late husband.

### Report from Shari Darst:

Rita Barr has been diagnosed with cancer. Best wishes from all of us for a successful recovery. A card was signed and sent from the North Zone.

### Report from Linda Loehndorf:

This year, because of the expense of the suites (~\$457/night!), it was decided to delay getting the North Zone suite until the Thursday of Convention. We need to discuss the financing and value of the convention suite at the North Zone Championships. We should consider the option of getting a meeting room and having each individual bring in their food to the meeting room.

Lori Eaton is home with baby boy Jacob so Linda will present Lori's report later.

Technical Routines: Linda has judged three international age group competitions during the past season. Most recently, Linda and Shari attended the Pan Am Age Group Championships as invited judges and they found that FINA does not do technical routines for Age Group athletes as we do. Although Canada did promote a technical routine program some years ago, it does not now do tech routines for age group athletes. A straw pole showed that the majority were not aware of this. Although we use similar age groupings to FINA (FINA: 12-under, 13-15 and 16-18) and identical routine times, we have technical

elements which are not a part of FINA competition. Recently, our 12-under Soloist had to compete in Mexico with our technical solo program against free programs from other countries. In order to develop our athletes to be more competitive and prepared for international competition, we need to consider whether or not we should continue with our current technical routine program. Free programs for young age group athletes would help them develop routine swimming skills to do mirror actions, pass-throughs, blind movements, rapid pattern changes et al. After some discussion and straw votes, the majority were generally in favor of having Free routines for Age Group athletes. The preference was for Novice and Intermediate programs to remain as is. A compromise position would be transforming 10-under and 11-12 Age Group Tech Routines into Free Programs with Technical Elements. There was general agreement that the 13-15 routines should be completely free. Two proposals containing these ideas will be presented during the Rules Committee Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Hagedorn, North Zone Secretary

**2006 Convention - North Zone Minutes**  
**Friday, 15 September 2006**

Linda Loehndorf called the meeting to order at 12:40pm. Current Officers in attendance: Linda Loehndorf, NZ Administrative Chair; Shari Darst, NZ Officials Chair; Allison Coates, NZ Athletes Representative. Absent: Scotti Nichols, NZ Secretary, was engaged in meetings at Convention which prevented her from acting as Secretary at the Zone meetings; Myrna Hagedorn, was asked to step in early as Secretary; Joan McCord, NZ Technical Chair, has been absent for 10 months; Lori Eaton, Education Chair was home with new baby boy Jacob.

Agenda for Friday, 15 September 2006: Reports from various committees.

Agenda for Saturday, 16 September 2006: Officer's Reports, Bids for the Zone Championships, By-Laws Revisions and Convention Suite costs.

Report from Officials Committee: Shari Darst reported that a major goal will be to speed up the process for becoming a national and international judge now that FINA has dropped all judges who are 60 or over (leaving the US with only 8 International judges. The proposal being presented this year encompasses several ideas. One is to introduce routine judging at Level 1 so that it is not so intimidating to begin routine judging a wide spectrum of technical routines at Level 3. The second is to combine the Association and Regional judging levels into a single level since the skill levels are similar and available judges are limited at the regional level. The third is to promote advancement into routine judging at the national level by combining figure and routine tracks.

Level 1 - Novice and Intermediate B figures, and Novice routines

Level 2 - Intermediate A/12-under figures and Intermediate routines

Level 3 - Junior figures, and Association and Regional Routines and possibly 13-15 AG at Zones

Level 4 - Zone

Level 5 - National (National Age Groups, US Masters and US Collegiates)

Level 6 - International (US Nationals, US Juniors and US Open)

There was much discussion of the combination of the Association and Regional levels as well as loss of the figure track. The need to be able to move through the levels faster was understood. However, there was some resistance to combining association and regional levels as well as not having a figure track.

Note: In the BOG meeting on Saturday, the proposal was referred to committee for further discussion.

There was a request to be able to watch videos with someone giving feedback on the video as part of the judges training program. This will be passed on to the individual in charge of Judges Training.

Report from Competitive Structure: Myrna reported that there was discussion of the possibility of combining US Juniors and US Collegiates into one week as well as discussion of the concept of a Zone Age Group Championship as a stepping stone to the US National Age Group Championships to reduce the size of the latter. Ideas for our competitive program can be submitted to Myrna or Carole Mitchell.

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Hagedorn, North Zone Secretary

## **2006 Convention - North Zone Minutes Saturday, 16 September 2006**

Shari Darst called the meeting to order at 12:40pm. Current Officers in attendance: Shari Darst, NZ Officials Chair; Allison Coates, NZ Athletes Representative. Absent: Scotti Nichols, NZ Secretary, was engaged in meetings at Convention which prevented her from acting as Secretary at the Zone meetings; Myrna Hagedorn, was asked to step in early as Secretary; Joan McCord, NZ Technical Chair, has been absent for 10 months; Lori Eaton, Education Chair was home with new baby boy Jacob.

Shari reported that Linda Loehndorf's father had passed away and that Linda was on her way home. Our sympathy goes out to Linda and her family.

Convention Suite Costs: Shari requested approval for the Zone to explore the possibilities for food and meeting room (versus the convention suite) for next year. The amount that the Zone currently collects does not cover the suite cost and we will be housed in Hyatts (no cooking in the rooms!) for the next few USAS Conventions. MSP

Education Report: Lori Eaton's report stated that we would have three clinics in the Zone this year:

- |                         |                   |                                                                                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Ohio:                | Dec. 1-3,         | Contact: Julie Jasontek                                                                       |
| 2. St. Paul, MN:        | Dec. 1-3 or 15-17 | Contact: St. Paul Stars, Vicky Knutsen,<br><a href="mailto:knutva@aol.com">knutva@aol.com</a> |
| 3. Littleton, Colorado: | Nov. 11-12        | Contact: Melanie Stanton<br><a href="mailto:tommel1226@msn.com">tommel1226@msn.com</a>        |

A national team clinician would attend each clinic. All three clinics would have the same content. Please submit suggestions for content to Lori at [synchrolo@sbglobal.net](mailto:synchrolo@sbglobal.net). Ideas discussed in the zone meeting included lifts, throws, strength training and a year long program for 13-15s with special attention to safety for the young athletes. Funding for the clinic was discussed and Scotti indicated that it was voted last March to apply \$1500 from the Zone Education Fund to help defray costs for the clinics. Myrna will send out an email blast to everyone once Lori's plans are finalized.

North Zone Mailings: Three members do not have email service. Myrna proposed that, rather than bother with the hassle of collecting a fee for postal mailings, the zone absorb the mailing fees. MSP. Scotti reminded everyone to email an update of association officers to Myrna after Fall elections.

Awards Report: Nan Zack proposed that we change the composition of the Athlete Awards Committee since many athlete recipients are in their Senior year at school. Instead, she proposed that the athlete representative and the athlete representative in training serve on the committee. MSP.

### 2006 Award Recipients:

Contributor Award: Lisa Mooney

Coaches Award: no nominations

Athlete Award: Robin Pirik, Columbus Coralina Club

NZ By-Laws: Shari pointed out that a number of changes will be necessary in our By-Laws to align with the new USSS committees. These will be presented for approval at the North Zone Championships.

NZ Scoring Chair: We are in desperate need of a permanent scoring chair in our Zone. Bob Wiegand and Dave Olson will be coming to the championships in the North Zone this year (US Nationals in Indianapolis and US National Age Groups in Ohio) but we will have to pay their expenses. The sites committee has made it clear that we will not be allowed to bid for another national meet until a scoring chair is in place. Please canvas your association for candidates and respond to Shari Darst by

Dec. 1. Bob Wiegand runs a training clinic in Lake Placid each Fall to teach scoring chairs what they need to know for zone and national meets. Note that the Zone does not pay expenses for the scoring chair except to provide a room for the duration of the championship.

Compensation for Unaffiliated Judges: Becky proposed that we amend the By-Laws so that an unaffiliated judge will be provided with a room (maximum of 2-3 to a room) if he/she is available to judge for at least 2/3 of all of the events (rather than the current 100%). MSP

The problem of obtaining rooms for judges and the scoring chair was discussed. Carolyn Presbrey pointed out that many hotels will work with a host by providing comp rooms based on the number of rooms booked (please use the host hotel for this reason!). Alternatively, the hotel may add a small charge to each room booked to be used toward comp rooms. It was proposed that the following priority be used to obtain comp rooms for the unaffiliated judges, the Zone Scoring Chair and the Zone Admin. Chair:

1. Book all rooms through the host hotel and obtain comp rooms based on this number.
2. A small fee can be added to each room booked to provide the necessary comp rooms
3. If cooperative hotels were not available in the area, then a small fee (a maximum of \$5/athlete) sufficient only to guarantee the needed number of comp rooms may be added to the zone entry fee. The fee is not intended to provide profit to the host.

2007 North Zone Senior Championships and 13-15 Age Group Invitational: One bid was submitted by the Rocky Mountain Association for the meet to be held on the third weekend in March in Fort Collins, CO. A second bid was submitted by the Kansas City Sea Sprites, Missouri Valley Association, for the meet to be on the second weekend in March in Lawrence, KS. The Kansas bid received the majority of the votes. The facility is a 50M high school and community pool with lap lanes for warmups and nearby gym. It is approximately 50 miles from Kansas City.

Figures were drawn for the North Zone Senior Championships and 13-15 AG Invitational:  
13-15 Age Group Invitational - Reverse Catalina and Kip, Twirl  
Senior Zone Championship - Kip, Split and Subalina

Officers and Committee Representatives were elected at the 2006 North Zone Championships. These officers and representatives will begin their duties after the close of 2006 Convention:

Zone Admin Chair: Shari Darst  
Zone Officials Chair: Linda Loehndorf  
Zone Technical Chair: Denise Shively  
Zone Education Chair: Lori Eaton  
Zone Awards Chair: Nan Zack  
Zone Scoring Chair: To be determined  
Secretary: Myrna Hagedorn  
Treasurer: Lisa Mooney  
Nominating: Carolyn Presbrey and Amy McClintock  
Membership Committee: Shari Darst  
Outreach Committee: Nan Zack  
Governance Committee: Scotti Nichols  
Site Committee: Becky Meitin

Respectfully submitted,

Myrna Hagedorn, North Zone Secretary

Attachments: 2006 Treasurers Report, 2006 Officials Report