

Minutes of Dixie Zone Conference Call Sunday February 3, 2008

The conference call was initiated by the Dixie Zone chairman, Debbie Cavanaugh. It commenced at 5:30pm. Present on the call were: Bill Cleveland (Southern), Nan Olsen (Southeastern), Jon Olsen (Florida Gold Coast), Tom Bliss (Florida), Rob Copeland (substituting for Lisa Watson, Georgia), Pete Palmer (South Carolina), Jerry Clark (North Carolina) and Debbie Cavanaugh, Chairman.

I. Online Registration. Rob gave us an update about how online registration was progressing and conveyed good news that, subject to unknown items that might come up on a conference call at noon on Monday, February 4, he expected the online registration system to be put back in "live" status early in the coming week.

II. Zone Championship Meets. Debbie opened discussion about this item saying we go to conventions each year only to find no volunteers to host zone championships. The ensuing conversation led to some questions and comments. One pertained to the SCY meets in Auburn and Clearwater being held on the same weekend. Debbie mentioned the long distance between the two venues, saying that this had been brought up at convention years ago and the zone had decided that since there was no way to patrol this that it would be allowed to happen, but a strong note of objection would be noted. So it is ok to have both on the same weekend. Furthermore, Debbie said that it's only our national championship meets that are protected from competing meets. Pete mentioned being at the South Carolina state meet this very day; it too is close to the Auburn and Clearwater meets. Jerry threw out an idea of having the Sunbelt Meet in Charlotte, which is held the last weekend of January every year, be included with the other three aforementioned meets with sending a backup of these meets to someone who could merge all of them and come up with results for a virtual Dixie Zone short course yards championship. Debbie agreed to talk with Ed Saltzman in Atlanta about the feasibility of this and report back to us.

Further conversation was held about Dixie Zone championship meets having medals and/or ribbons for awards. Debbie said there are no guidelines about this, mentioning that having these kinds of awards make a meet more prestigious. Tom Bliss said the meet in Clearwater other things such as raffles and an awards banquet that make the meet popular. Pete said his LMSC gives a meet host \$500 toward awards and Debbie mentioned that the Zone does not have any money for helping a specific meet. We agreed to continue to discuss this and try to come up with something to vote on at this year's convention.

III. Specific LMSC Problems. Tom Bliss said his LMSC needs a newsletter editor. We all discussed electronic vs paper newsletters and Debbie said that the Dixie Zone newsletter is posted on the website. Dick Brewer then sends a notice out to the zone. It is then the responsibility of the clubs' representative to distribute them.

Nan asked if any LMSCs pay their registrar. Jerry Clark said NCMS does pay its registrar \$500 per year. No other LMSCs pay their registrars.

Bill Cleveland mentioned a meet to be held in New Orleans this summer with further information to be distributed. He also mentioned that Southern uses the USMS website to distribute information to its swimmers. He subsequently sent an email to the LMSC chairs on Monday explaining how to do this.

Debbie brought up LMSC protocol with regard to any LMSC problems. If an LMSC can't resolve a problem, it's transferred to the Zone for handling and if the Zone can't resolve it, the problem is sent to the USMS VP for Local Operations who in turn passes the problem to Rob if an hearing panel needs to be established to resolve the problem. Jerry Clark said all this is outlined in the LMSC Handbook under Grievances; that handbook can be seen on usms.org by clicking on the Administration tab, then scrolling to LMSC Handbook. It is a good idea to cut and paste the Grievance section into your LMSC by-laws so that if a problem comes up, the procedure for handling it is already in place.

Rob Copeland asked that if any registrars are having problems with the online entry system as it's being put in place, to contact him so he can apprise the vendor about them.

IV. Adjournment. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn.

Jerry Clark, acting secretary for this conference call.