



## **TSA Board of Directors Meeting**

**October 15, 2013  
Minutes**

### **Call to Order**

President Cathy Traugot called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM at University Club. All officers were present.

### **Attendance**

Sixty-six member teams were present. Member teams not attending were: Bentwinds, Clubworx, Greystone, Hasentree, Kildaire Farms, Kitts Creek, Life Time Fitness, North Hills, North Raleigh, Planter's Walk, Regency Park, Seven Oaks, TCC, Wellington Park and Wendell. Two exhibition teams, Renaissance Park and Wood Creek, were also present.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the May Board meeting were approved by acclamation.

### **Presentation of Pool Professionals Scholarships**

David Harvey, founder and president of Pool Professionals, addressed the Board to congratulate the winners of the \$1,000 scholarships his company so generously makes available to TSA swimmers. This year's winners were Alice Emm of Carlyle & Chatsworth and Bryan Maass of Shepherd's Vineyard. Alice's father also spoke to the audience. The procedural details for the 2014 scholarship program are not yet complete but information will be sent out by email in the future and the overall schedule is expected to be similar to what it was in 2013 (applications due by July 1; winners announced at TSA Championship Meet). Cathy thanked Mr. Harvey and Pool Professionals on behalf of all of TSA.

### **Leagues and Scheduling Committee Report**

Co-chairman Mike Stringfellow presented the preliminary 2014 rankings proposal that the committee developed at its September meeting. There was a late-breaking revision to the South League rankings that was not captured in the original meeting agenda but was included in a supplement. Mike fielded questions from the audience and explained the rationale behind some of the specific rankings. A motion to table a final decision on rankings until the January Board meeting was made and passed by acclamation. Mike asked Reps to send all questions, concerns and objections to the committee's email address by the end of October.

### **Championship Meet Committee Report**

Co-chairman Todd Blandford presented a summary of the 2013 Championship Meet. Overall athlete participation increased almost nine percent, from 1616 swimmers last year to 1755 this year. However, the number of participating teams was flat at 63. The new method of distributing teams to days did not result in any marked imbalance of swimming skills between the two days, as Todd noted that 21 of the new meet records were set on Saturday and 24 on Sunday.

In the "things that went right" category, Todd called out the following items:

- Very positive feedback from survey respondents stating that the meet went well.
- Excellent adherence to meet schedule (sessions generally finished a bit early).
- Sufficient coverage of volunteer positions by the TAC Titans and by TSA teams.
- Moving the post-meet awards ceremony into the hospitality lounge, for a more intimate and less acoustically-challenged environment.
- The indispensable contribution of committee co-chairman (and TAC official) J.P. Lefever in preparing for and running the meet.

- The profitability of the meet, which earned \$3952.31 for TSA this year, up from \$182 last year.

In the “things that could be improved” category, Todd identified the following goals:

- Increased team participation, ideally to 100 percent. Todd noted that most of the survey respondents from teams which did not attend the meet indicated that their team had previously attended an invitational meet (such as Cary City) and did not wish to participate in a second large meet.
- Better balance of swimmer numbers between the two days. This is always a challenge because teams are assigned to days well before we have any idea of how many swimmers from each club are going to compete. As with last year, we ended up with more swimmers in the Saturday sessions than in the Sunday ones.
- Better team camaraderie, perhaps via a spirit award.
- Improved food options. After a disappointing experience with a few food trucks last year, we had only the TAC café this year. We would like a better balance next year.

Members of the audience also voiced concern about:

- Year-round teams renting practice time in one of the other pools during the meet.
- Insufficient policing of access to the deck by people without deck passes during crowded morning sessions.
- Insufficient enforcement of the policy limiting the first few rows in the spectator gallery to short-term occupancy only, with spectators rotating in and out to watch their children swim.

Reps with additional suggestions about the operation of the meet are encouraged to contact Todd or J.P. with their ideas.

### **2014 Meet Calendar**

Cathy presented the Board with various options for the dual meet calendar and for the Championship Meet weekend. A motion to conduct the dual meets on the six consecutive Tuesdays beginning on June 17 and ending on July 22, with the Championship Meet held on the weekend of July 26-27, passed by a margin of 38 to 19 votes.

### **Grievance Committee Report**

Cathy, in her capacity as chairperson of the Grievance Committee, reviewed the committee’s July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting recommendations arising from Weatherstone’s conduct grievance against Walden Creek’s head coach. She focused on three areas recognized by the committee as opportunities for improving the mechanics of how meets are run and how disputes can be prevented. First, Cathy will form a new ad hoc committee to review how timing (both electronic and manual) is done during meets and to compile a “timing best practices” reference document. Second, more attention will be devoted to the topic of weather delays (and the rules governing delays and make-ups) when new TSA Reps are trained during the Meet Management clinic. Teams are encouraged to take note of those rules when constructing their schedules of social events before the season, so that obvious problems such as scheduling a team event on a standard meet makeup day can be avoided. Finally, the Coaches’ Clinics will make it a point of emphasis next year to remind coaches that their own TSA Rep is the only meet official to which they should direct complaints or questions about official matters. The Clinics committee will also ensure that coaches sign the “Code of Conduct” found at the end of the TSA rulebook.

### **Website Discussion**

Cathy briefed the Board on the history of the TSA website. She then turned the floor over to Technology Committee chairman Mark Carter. Mark echoed Cathy’s point that nothing commercially available offers comparable functionality to the customized features that the current site has implemented for TSA over the years. The cost of developing something similar from scratch would be substantial, so TSA is interested in exploring options for purchasing the source code from our current webmaster to give us greater assurance of the site’s long-term future availability. Once we

have access to the source code, we would still need to find a site hosting provider and maintain the site and the code. Mark and Cathy will continue discussions with the webmaster.

### **Other Discussion**

Cathy recognized the following clubs for excellent sportsmanship, as reported in the post-season survey by their meet opponents: Abbington, Apex, Brighton Forest, Brookstone, Cary, Cary Park, Crabtree, Dutchman Downs, Eagle Ridge, Garner, Greystone, Hasentree, Hawthorne, Highcroft, JCC, Lake Park, Lakemont, Lochmere, Meredith Townes, Northbrook, Oxxford Hunt, Quail Hollow, Scottish Hills, Seven Oaks, Silverton, Summerfield North, The Reserve, Walden Creek and Wellsley.

### **Election of President and Secretary**

Cathy turned the gavel over to Vice President Todd Blandford to conduct elections. There were no additional nominations from the floor. President Cathy Traugot was nominated for another term and was re-elected by acclamation. Secretary Bob Goudreau was nominated for another term and was re-elected by acclamation.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Goudreau  
Secretary