

REPORT FROM AREA REPRESENTATIVE ANNUAL CONFERENCE/ FORUM

13/6/09

Note. A full copy of the minutes will be sent by NSW Swimming to all Clubs, or available on the NSW Website.

Minutes from the previous Annual Forum were read and confirmed. The Annual Report was also accepted as was the Financial Report.

President read his report in which he mentioned that despite promotions, Development Officers etc. the membership remains static with no growth.

Financial report. There was a good financial return, thanks mainly to the income from the Speedo shop. Negotiations are under way to expand the shop and it is also expected to go online in the near future.

The auditors were re-appointed, however they will now be charging current market rates and this was needed to be addressed in the budget for the coming year.

Election of Officers. There was an even more disappointing return of votes for the postal voting of Directors. Out of 284 voting papers sent out only 73 were returned. There was mention of the fact that many Clubs were in recess at this time and it was difficult to get both the Secretary and President to sign the return in the short space of time given after receipt of the papers and the closing date. This is to be addressed and hopefully an online method of voting may be able to be put in place for next year. The following members were elected. President Peter Lozan unopposed. Directors, Bill Ford, Graham Towle and Walter Hitchell O.A.M

Notices of Motion.

A Constitutional Change was passed to have "first past the post" voting instead of preferential voting for Board elections.

Presentation of Service awards. Awards were made to Dennis Browning, Jan Treddenick, Lynette Crossley, Margaret Kniha and Peter Hall.

Meeting closed 11.06AM.

State Forum.

1. **Presentation on the 09-10 budget.** Increase on fees again mainly due to Australian Swimming increases over a three year period.
2. **Presentation on revised swimming NSW Development pathway.** These will come into effect from 2010. There will be no Regional Development camp from the Regional Meets. This money will be returned to the Areas as increased payments for conducting squads. There will be a set criteria for each squad. Payment will increase to \$1050 per Squad with 5 or more swimmers. "A squad" will be conducted in Regional areas by Swimming NSW. (Our squad to New Zealand will probably not be allowed to go from next year as it does not fall into the A squad criteria as set by NSW.)
3. **Presentation on Swimming NSW Competition Structure.** As from April 2010 there will be a set structure for competitive Meets. All programs for qualifying Meets will need to include certain events. Area Championships to be based on NSW State Age events. Will have to have certain time standards, or in case of Area Championships, have qualifying times for all events. To be run in two age groups. 9-12yrs and 13-18yrs. age groups. These may be conducted separately or combined as per our Meets. A time limit of 4 hours may apply to some meets. Apart from Non-Qualifying meets which will need Area approval, all other meets and their programs will have to be approved by Swimming NSW. **(I believe that a Committee will have to be formed from Clubs holding meets to standardise programs for all Club and Area run meets so that they will conform to the new standards and this will have to be done before the end of this coming season.)**
4. **Presentation on membership renewals and Fees.** As from the beginning of the new renewal year, all transactions are to be done online. There will be no manual

registrations accepted by the office. Areas will be able to have their fees collected by Swimming NSW and returned to the Areas.

5. **There were two presentations by representatives from recently amalgamated areas.** One spoke at length about how they were having their meetings using Skype phones and Messenger documents. They have had no face to face meetings.
6. The other was from the city area where they now have 3,000 competitors in an area which only takes about 1 1/2 hrs travelling time from top to bottom. This is a logistical nightmare to try and hold meets such as Speedo, Championships etc. The only pool possible to use would be SOPAC. They have no idea how this amalgamation will succeed.

The meeting was then closed by the President.

Sunday Technical Forum.

A large crowd was in attendance for the Sunday Forum. Presentations were given on :- **Officials Protocols** covering what and what not to do when on pool deck.

Presentation the Assessment process and how to progress to a higher level of qualification.

Presentation on changes to Open Water Swimming in particular where events can be called off because of safety issues for officials (weather changes etc.)

Presentation on Volunteers. Guest Speaker, Lynne Dalton from The Centre for Volunteering, spoke to the Forum about retaining, motivating and rewarding volunteers. Ms Dalton also went into depth about the rights and responsibilities of volunteer as well as managing volunteers within an organisation such as a Club.

Ms Dalton presented some interesting statistics for Volunteers from the Volunteering Australia Inaugural National Survey of Volunteering Issues:

- **One in three Australians volunteer**
- **6.3 million Australian adults volunteer**
- **700,000 not-for-profit organisations in Australia**
- **Volunteers contribute 836 million hours annually, which has an economic value of more than \$12.5 billion annually**
- **97% rate volunteer recruitment as an issue of importance to their organisation but.....**
- **23% only have implemented the National Standards for Involving Volunteers in Not for Profit Organisations**

Other Statistics revealed by Ms Dalton from the survey related to what volunteers would like:

- **81% would personally appreciate having their volunteer work recognised in the form of opportunities to develop their skills**
- **79% identified flexible working hours as important**
- **42% do not have a clear job description**
- **28% aware of confusion, uncertainty or conflict between volunteers and paid staff**

Ms Dalton suggested providing support for volunteers through:

- Recruitment
- Training
- Policies & procedures
- Inclusion
- Supervision
- Performance Management
- Recognition
- Resources – training, education etc

This was followed by the Technical Official's Lunch and awards presentations.

Robert Guyer

9/07/2009