

The EC forum was called to order by President Jim Miller at 3:22 PM. Other EC members in attendance were Doug Church, Sally Dillon, and Scott Rabalais. Members of the audience were Tracy Grilli, Mark Murphy, Bill Volckening, David Grilli (all of New England LMSC), Lisa Watson (Georgia), Sandi Rousseau (Oregon), Jim Matysek (Niagra), Barry Fasbender (Pacific), and Carolyn Boak (Texas).

1. CORE OBJECTIVES: Jim, Scott and Sally summarized the process taken to develop the Core Objectives that have been discussed within the BOD in recent months. The EC analyzed the information resulting from the various block committees and exit surveys during the last convention. At the January planning retreat the EC settled on three key elements that it felt represented the common objectives: Educate the membership, Service the membership, and Build the membership. These objectives are intended to be tools to help us achieve the USMS "mission". They are intended to provide a clear sense of direction for all aspects of masters swimming from the local level to the top of our administration and including our communication tools, SWIM Magazine and the web site.

The Core Objectives provide a simple summary and focus for the previously approved Strategic Plan. It was noted that with regards to our public relations efforts, the Core Objectives define what we do while public relations define what we are. Scott noted that it is relatively easy to measure our accountability to the Core Objectives as all three aspects can be measured in one way or another.

Three attempts to involve the BOD in a discussion of the proposed objectives have yielded minimal response but the EC hopes to gain full support from the BOD prior to convention so that the Core Objectives can be implemented at this year's convention. It is also hoped that within 2-3 years the objectives will become second nature to the leaders of USMS (on the local and national level).

Some discussion centered on how we might involve the greater HOD in the approval process. It was agreed that the BOD should provide leadership when called upon and that the objectives are a direct response to the ideas from last year's convention generated by the HOD. It was also agreed that we want to have the HOD informed beyond what they might read in their convention packets. To that end, Tracy will send the Core Objectives information to all of last year's delegates for their input before we ask the BOD to vote.

2. FINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BID - USA 2006: Jim reviewed the process that USMS is undertaking to consider a USA bid for the World Championships in 2006. A special International Committee task force has held conference calls and will meet again after this meeting concludes. The committee is in the process of identifying locations that might be successful. The bid would actually be awarded to USAS and Jim will be attending a USAS meeting in Chicago next week. The governing bodies for Diving, Synchro, and Water Polo must be active participants and they have responded favorably to the proposal. FINA has specific requirements of the host and they are defined on the contract. Some issues are unclear but it is known that a \$25,000 deposit is required upon application. The source of the funds has yet to be determined; it could come from the facility selected to host the event or be split by the four governing bodies.

A document is being prepared that summarizes the host's responsibilities and it will be distributed in the near future. The vision for the event is that it will be a "festival" of aquatic events and the committee is working on a schedule that will interlace the different competitions so they can be watched and enjoyed by all.

It is expected that there will be some paid staff and that an office will need to be set up. All of the disciplines will need to work together and many committees of USMS will be involved. It was emphasized that the fees are set by FINA and that the contract is clear on what the host country/organization must pay.

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sally Ann Dillon
USMS Secretary.