

SMS Officer's Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting held December 5, 2010 after Dixie Zone Allstate Sugar Bowl and SMS SCM Championship swim meet at UNO.

Present: Nan Fontenot, chair. and Webmaster, Janice Roth, UNO Pool Meet Director, Rob Cambias, treasurer, Doug Holmes, secretary, Vicki Buccino, Top Ten chair., Doug Kopp, Registrar, Ellen Hall, Christine Frederic, Crawfish Aquatic coach and swimmer.

Not present: Fay Lachney, sanctions/competition chair., Ann Walton, Newsletter Editor.

Nan opened meeting about 2 PM. Doug Holmes led a critique of the Dixie Zone meet. Board expressed their appreciation for Janice Roth being such an effective and helpful meet director, John Roth for his expert handling of the invitations, entries, e-mails, and results, Rob Cambias for measuring the pool and getting his company Allstate to sponsor our meet and provide high point and team trophies and the cost of the catered lunch, Nan for overall organization, beanies, announcements, getting her brother Terry Jaynes for the devotional on Sunday, and the rest of the board for coming early to greet and all the swimmers for participating and helping to time. Consensus of board and comments that this was a fine meet. The caterer's food was very good and worth the \$7.50 charge per person, but not enough meat. In the future there should be more and it should be served by the caterer. More tables and chairs would be helpful. Rob Cambias reported that cost of meet was minimal. He is going to compare Dixie Zone meet costs with the LCM meet last August when the party was at GNO TRI club and present comparison figures at the annual membership meeting. More swimmers stayed for this lunch because it was held at the pool after Saturday's events.

The total number of swimmers (69) was disappointing being only 51 from SMS (just one from Ms) and 18 from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, NC and SC. We hoped for 200 and would have been satisfied with 100 which attended the last Dixie Zone Meet at Tulane in Dec. 2007. The minimum number for a SMS Championship meets in the 1980s was about 100 even with only 300 members in SMS. There were 45 males and 24 females who swam 396 individual events. Of the 69 swimmers who paid, 18 came from out-of-state and 51 from eight of the 14 SMS workout groups (three teams La. and three teams from Ms had no entries), five swimmers were no shows, three swam only the mile on Friday, and 18 swam only one day either Saturday or Sunday and only paid \$25(only thirty swimmers were there for both weekend days of the meet), five were late entries, and ten guests paid an extra \$5 for the lunch.

Swimmers liked being able to swim relays as a member of the SMS team, because it allowed everyone who wanted to be in a relay to swim. If registered SMS, they could be in a relay even if only one or two came from their workout group as was the case for all but one SMS workout group. It also increased chance of SMS relay members getting in the Top Ten of USMS and/or Dixie Zone for SCM in 2010 and even setting SMS and Dixie Zone records. At least two SMS relay records were set.

The N.O. music, Stars Spangle Banner, prayer, and award presentations added a lot to the meet. Sport massages or selling swim wear at the meet was not warranted due to low number of entries. Having certified officials paid by SMS upgraded the meet. The motel was OK but hampered by road construction. We did not have discount coupons for events and restaurants as planned. Not having

age group timers at this meet meant that spouses, officers, or those not swimming an event had to time which required the starter to ask for more timers often which slowed the meet down slightly. This was the first meet that was sponsored by the SMS Board instead of a local masters team and it worked well enough that the board agreed to organize the SMS LCM Championship Swim Meet on June 3, 4 & 5. These dates should allow Seniors to swim in the Senior Olympic SCY Games in Houston the third week in June, and master swimmers to swim at USMS LCM Championships at Auburn in August when we had our SMS LCM meet last year.

The board discussed extensively how to increase participation in our championship meets because some would say that it is hardly worth the board's time and effort to put on a big Dixie Zone Sugar Bowl meet if only 48 (8% of 593) Southern Masters Swimmers are going to swim in the meet. Those who attended had a great time and many said they plan to come back. Why do coaches get swimmers to pay dues and practice if they are not going to take advantage of SMS meets? Only two coaches were on deck: Nan, our SMS chairperson and a Florida coach. In the past the SMS board offered a discount to first time master competitors, but did not advertise and therefore got no response. In an effort to get our SMS coaches involved in recruiting swimmers we propose to make a motion at the annual SMS meeting at SCY Championships in B. R. on March 18-20 that SMS will pay the head master coach who attends a SMS, Dixie Zone, or USMS Championship Meet \$5 for each swimmer from their workout group who pays full meet price and swims in the meet, and an extra \$5 if this is their first master competition.

Another suggestion was to mail copies of our SMS Newsletter to all 600 members about six weeks before our SCY Championship meet in March with a meet invitation. Ann Walton could add the article Chris Frederic plans to write on this meet and results on the Pentathlon. This could be considered a trial to see if a hardcopy of the newsletter and invitation improves turnout the SCY meet. It should be discussed along with other ideas to improve meet participation at the annual SMS meeting after the SCY meet.

Workout groups would benefit by hosting stroke clinics or developmental meets like the Spooktacular meet in Mandeville to encourage local swimmers to swim, workout at your pool, and join SMS/USMS. Ellen Hall says she will look into purchasing USMS brochures and holder that officers and workout group reps can place in swim facilities on counters that allow such advertisement. She will e-mail us the cost details and ask us how many brochure holders we know we can set out. Perhaps Doug Kopp could send Ellen and all the officers the names and e-mail addresses of 14 club reps.

Doug Kopp, registrar, reported a new record of 593 swimmers registered with USMS in 2010 on eleven Louisiana and three Mississippi teams (17 other teams have dropped out over last ten years). He is in contact with USMS staff and is doing a conscientious job to improve and simplify our registration and to communicate with coaches, reps, and swimmers.

The board nominated Christine Frederic as vice chairman, Ann Walton as Editor, and Ellen Hall as N.O. member-at-large to be elected at the annual meeting for

the board. We are looking for the right person to nominate as board member-at-large from Ms. Any other nominations, motions, or agenda items to be considered should be sent to me and/or Nan Fonentot. All officers present agreed to serve another year if elected, however there will be an opportunity for members to nominate from the floor with the permission of the person they plan to nominate. Anyone willing to serve on the board should contact Nan. Nan will check with Faye to see if she will serve again next year.

Respectively submitted,
Doug Holmes, SMS Secretary