

## MEETING OF THE LAKE ERIE SWIMMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, March 18th

[Zoom Meeting](#)

**Mission:** *To enrich the lives of our athletes through the sport of swimming by providing safe and inclusive programming in a culture that encourages competitive excellence and personal growth.*

**Vision:** *Lake Erie Swimming - inspiring the pursuit of excellence in swimming and in life. Branding words: Lead; Engage; Succeed; Inspire*

### AGENDA

**CALL TO ORDER: 7:31 PM by Vince Colwell**

**ROLL CALL / MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jelani Watkins, Vince Colwell, Pam Cook, Sarah Tobin, Anna Fialko, Avery Crabtree, Branden Burns, George Libecco, Kim Long, Sarah Ondrejka, EJ McIlDuff, Ronae Hughes

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:**

**[FORMER MEETING MINUTES](#):** Motioned by Branden Burns; Seconded by EJ McIlDuff; **PASSED Unanimously**

**ADDITION(S) TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

- NONE

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Motioned by Branden Burns; Seconded by EJ McIlDuff; **PASSED Unanimously**

#### I. Announcements:

- A. Kristin MacPhail has stepped down from the board, leaving a vacancy for Admin VC role.
- B. USA Swimming Updates
  - 1. There is an updated DEI Format for DEI Chairs.
  - 2. LSC Coach Reps have a scheduled call for 4/16 at 1 pm.
  - 3. A new Swimposium format is coming out soon (Swimposium 2.0).
  - 4. Reminder: September Business Meeting 9/26-29
- C. Central
  - 1. Para Swim meet registration is open.
  - 2. The Central Zone is looking for bids for 2026 14 & Under Champs.
  - 3. There is an upcoming coach webinar forthcoming to review the online education system.

#### II. Action Items:

- A. [Former Award Winners](#)
- B. Forkapa Award
  - 1. Description: Awarded in February for someone who has continued to volunteer in the sport after their swimmers have finished swimming/graduated.
  - 2. Initially, discussion led to recommendation for follow up via email; no one was nominated. When we returned to this topic, Vince nominated Dan Lisy due to his work with the Razorsharks. Sarah seconded. No discussion. **PASSED Unanimously.**
- C. Board Award

1. Description: Awarded in February by the Board for any above and beyond work that deserves to be recognized
  - a) EJ Noted efforts of Athletes for Big Fish/Little Fish. This led to a nomination for the Big Fish/Little Fish Camp Organizers. This was motioned by Vince and seconded by Branden. No discussion.  
**PASSED Unanimously.**
- D. USAS Outstanding Service Award
  1. Vince confirmed that the previous award winners from USAS have the form to submit for this award.
- E. Other Award reminders/process clarification:
  1. Coaches of the year, Athletes award, Coach merit awards, LESI Virtual All-Star members
    - a) EJ will send out surveys for coach of the year awards.
    - b) George sent an explanation of the athletes award and began that explanation.
    - c) Kristin sent an email out to teams for the coach merit awards.
    - d) Virtual All-Stars is reported by Pam after April 10th.
- F. Long Course Champs Meet Director Appointment
  1. We are still waiting on our Champs committee chair, and Vince emailed Jen about this prior to the meeting. According to Vince, Carl will likely be the meet director, and Vince will confirm this after the meeting.
- G. Attorney Representation for Merger Discussions
  1. Vince shared that the lawyer representing the OSI side of the merger may be able to work with us, and many were not in favor. Discussion included other routes we may take and contacts we can reach out to. Ronae shared that she may have a Merger and Acquisitions Lawyer.

### III. Discussion Items:

- A. Board/Committee Vacancies & Campaigning Efforts Update
  1. Zone Coordinator and Coaches
    - a) Ronae has volunteered to serve as Coordinator and has connected with a few individuals who will work with her on a committee. She mentioned possible hotel and timing challenges, and Ronae will work to get a room block. Kim noted that if this is a team travel hotel, the hotel will need to take a check.
    - b) Jacob from BBA is on standby, willing to coach if there is no team travel.
  2. Age Group Chair
    - a) Lori May is interested and would like to connect after HOD.
  3. Open Water Chair
    - a) No updates.
  4. Legislation Chair
    - a) No updates.
  5. 5 senior athletes with terms up in April (4 Replacements Needed)
    - a) Elections will be held per usual. George will facilitate as senior rep. The merger does not affect this process.
- B. Athlete Award Scholarship Update ([Shared Report - 2/23](#)) - George Libecco (discussed earlier)
- C. Athlete Summit (during Olympic Trials 6/20-23)
  1. Registration is open from April 1 through May 3.

2. This is in INDY, budgeted up to 4 athletes and 1 chaperone. We pay for the flight to and from the Summit, but no other trip aspects are covered. We need to identify these individuals.
  3. George expressed interest, and he will see if other athletes are interested.
- D. LESI/OSI Merger Update
1. A draft was presented for a Championship format. After discussion, a follow-up draft will come out in the next meeting.
  2. LESI BOD Concerns to date:
    - a) Pam shared a timing concern. Vince shared that if a proposal for a merger is not submitted by 30 days before, we would need a 90% vote or may opt to hold a special HOD at a later date.
    - b) Pam shared financial concerns and would like additional information on the financial combining process. Kim shared that this process is not known by LESI and OSI treasurers to date and does not believe we are not in a place where we could do this effectively (especially without an attorney). The concerns from former OSI deficits seem to be from 2018, but the merging process is not clear. (Financials can remain separate post merge discussion, and time is variable for this process.)
    - c) Branden shared concerns about ways to check LESI members constituting a minority for a while. Vince shared that initially, the board would be doubled, so representation would exist.
    - d) Jelani requested updates on champs formats
- E. Spring HOD Meeting - Additions
1. Jelani needs to send out the notice before 3/28. The time will be TBD, and Sarah will confirm the awards timeline.
  2. Officials meet on 3/21.

#### IV. Reports

- A. Athlete Reps – Natalie Brindley, Alaina Pizarro, George Libecco
  1. George has been working with Zach regarding the structure for athletes. More reminders to the Athletes Committee to participate in future discussions.
- B. Coach Reps – Anna Fialko, E.J. McIllduff
  1. Email updates have been going out to coaches. He has always worked with Nate to find a positive way for teams to engage during Trials. Commerce reps are coming to discuss further in the coming
- C. Admin Vice-Chair – N/A
  1. No report.
- D. Senior – Cindy Dial
  1. No report.
- E. Age Group – N/A
  1. No report.
- F. Technical Planning – Sarah Tobin
  1. SC Bids packets went out today and were posted online. This is due April 15th, and meet will run accordingly (not impacted by merger discussions).
- G. Treasurer – Kim Long
  1. Kim is still working on the 990, and this should be completed soon.
  2. Diane submitted a request to cancel the cards, per last month's discussion.
  3. [Balance Sheet As of Feb. 29 Report](#)

4. [Jan-Feb 2024 Profit and Loss Report](#)
- H. Operational Risk - Branden Burns
  1. No report.
- I. Secretary – Jelani Watkins
  1. No report. As a reminder, please send a message prior to meetings to let us know if you have to miss a meeting.
- J. Membership/Registration/Permanent Office – Pam Cook
  1. Note about Top 10
  2. [Registration Update](#)
- K. Safe Sport Coordinator – Sarah Ondrejka
  1. No report.
- L. DEI – Ronae Hughes
  1. No report.

**V. Old Business:**

- A. Possibility of halting certification/admission of new teams to Lake Erie until conclusion of merger conversations.
  1. Pam is still looking into this. This discussion will be tabled until more information is known.
- B. Ohio Olympic Trials Suite Task Force
  1. Vince will reach out to everyone this week. We have received an invoice for 98 seats.
- C. Fall House of Delegates Bid
  1. Vince will send this to Pam to send out soon. The dates of September 29, October 5, and October 6, 2024 were discussed.

**VI. New Business:**

- A. Clarification: Quorum is the majority of voting members (filled positions).

**VII. Next Meeting: April 15th at 6:00pm IN-PERSON (Tentatively Garfield Library)**

**VIII. ADJOURNED: Motioned by Branden Burns; Seconded by EJ McIlDuff; PASSED Unanimously**