

## MEETING OF THE LAKE ERIE SWIMMING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7:30 pm, Monday, April 15

[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: 7:33 pm**

**ROLL CALL / MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vince Colwell, Cindy Dial, Jelani Watkins, Kim Long, Chuck Kunsman, Anna Fialko, Branden Burns, Mia Nagle (guest), Sarah Ondrejka, Pam Cook, Sarah Tobin, George Libecco, Alaina Pizarro, Avery Crabtree, Sofia Jimenez

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS:**

- Vince shared a conflict of interest for the community service award. Sarah will lead this

**[FORMER MEETING MINUTES](#)**

**ADDITION(S) TO AGENDA:**

- NONE

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion by Branden. Second by Cindy. **APPROVED** by the BOD.

#### I. Announcements:

##### A. USA Swimming Updates

1. Reminder: September Business Meeting 9/26-29
2. New Zone and DEI Chair.
3. 2026 Zones still need bids.
4. 2 Task Forces are being formed.
5. 4/16 at 1pm is the coaches rep meeting.
6. Multiple meetings for national legislation are taking place.
7. Reminder: SafeSport programs will have a \$100 reduction in annual fees with our incentive program.

#### II. Action Items:

##### A. Long Course Champs Meet Director Appointment

1. Branden motioned that Carl Shallenberger direct our LC Champs. Sarah seconded. Discussion. **APPROVED by the BOD.**

##### B. [Community Service Award](#)

1. Branden motioned to have FAST and LSSC be co-winners of this award. Sarah seconded. **APPROVED by the BOD. (1 opposed)**

##### C. [Legislation Review](#)

1. P-1: Jelani motioned that the board recommend it. Branden seconded. Discussion. After discussion and significant athlete sharing of narratives, Jelani pulled his motion. No motion for a recommendation was provided.

#### III. Discussion Items:

##### A. [USAS September Annual Meeting/Workshop Request: Nagle](#)

1. Discussion

- a) Mia shared that attending will be a valuable asset for her and the USAS national committee. She also does weekly meetings with Zach Toothman to support the LESI with merger conversations.
- b) Branden recommended that Mia attend under her new LSC with Rice. (Mia switched from FAST to Rice, not due to personal choice, but she will not swim in an LESI meet this year.)
- c) Vince shared that LESI has funding for 8 people, and we have not sent more than 6.
- d) Jelani motioned to provide funds from LESI to support Mia's travel. Sofia seconded. Discussion. **APPROVED by the BOD. (1 opposed; 1 abstained)**

(1) Cited resources in discussion: Assignment of Zone Workshop section from the Board Manual and the Finance Manual)

B. Board/Committee Vacancies & Campaigning Efforts Update

- 1. Zone Coordinator and Coaches
  - a) Coordinator- Ronae Hughes
  - b) Coaches waiting until HOD
- 2. Age Group Chair
- 3. Open Water Chair
- 4. Legislation Chair
- 5. Added: Admin Vice Chair
- 6. 5 senior athletes with terms up in April (4 Replacements Needed)
  - a) 3 apps in for junior reps
  - b) 3 apps in for for the AEC

C. Athlete Summit

- 1. Registration is open. George shared that he, Avery, and Sofia are attending, which seems like a good number based on our budget. A chaperone is necessary. Registration closes the first week of May.

D. LESI/OSI Merger Update

- 1. Attorney Representation for Merger Discussions
  - a) OSI has an attorney who is not legally allowed to represent both organizations.
  - b) Bill Stewart is willing to represent LESI Pro Bono. (Contract)
    - (1) Branden motioned for Vince to sign on the BOD's behalf. Sarah seconded. **APPROVED by the BOD.**
  - c) Vince clarified, if we combine, debts and assets combine, CPAs would need to exchange information, we would need to go through a transition period, we need to talk with USAS about liability insurance, we need to file a new corporation for with the state, we need to get a tax-exempt status, etc.

E. Spring HOD Meeting - Additions

F. Post February and March Minutes to LESI Website

- 1. Already completed

#### IV. Reports

A. Athlete Reps – Natalie Brindley, Alaina Pizarro, George Libecco

- 1. George is meeting on the 18th with the senior athlete award committee to select a recipient. He is preparing with Alaina for elections. We have also outlined a potential new mission/vision and started working on a logo.

B. Coach Reps – Anna Fialko, E.J. McIllduff

1. [4/15 Report](#)
- C. Admin Vice-Chair – N/A
- D. Senior – Cindy Dial
  1. No report.
- E. Age Group – N/A
- F. Technical Planning – Sarah Tobin
  1. Sarah began accepting bids for SC meets. A schedule will be sent to Jelani by the end of week.
- G. Treasurer – Kim Long
  1. [Balance Sheet Jan to Mar 2024](#)
  2. [P&L Jan to Mar 2024](#)
  3. Elaine Miller recipients checks are in the mail. She is still waiting on a finished 990.
- H. Operational Risk - Branden Burns
  1. No report.
- I. Secretary – Jelani Watkins
  1. No report.
- J. Membership/Registration/Permanent Office – Pam Cook
  1. [Registration Update](#)
- K. Safe Sport Coordinator – Sarah Ondrejka
  1. Some club contacts are not updated, but there is some interest in help to get certified that has been voiced to Sarah in response to the message she sent today.
- 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 shared that USAS shared that this is not up to the LESI BOD. No further discussion is necessary.
- B. Ohio Olympic Trials Suite Task Force
  1. We have many spaces to fill.
- C. Fall House of Delegates Bid
  1. Date TBD. Potentially 9/29 later in the day, 10/12, or 10/13

**VI. New Business:**

- A. None

**VII. Next Meeting: May 20th at 7:30pm via [ZOOM](#)**

**VIII. ADJOURNED: 8:42 pm**