

## **USA Swimming Convention Report**

Submitted by Gail Dummer 9/19/2011

**Disability Swimming Committee workshop.** In June the committee presented a webinar titled "Coaching Swimmers with a Disability." The webinar was recorded and is now posted in the disability section of the USA-S web site (<http://www.usaswimming/disability>). Coaches who view the recorded webinar, and who complete a quiz that they may request from ASCA, may earn continuing education credits toward ASCA coach certifications. The webinar content was repeated at convention in live format. The committee invites suggestions for future webinars.

**Disability Swimming Committee business meeting.** Accomplishments during the past year include four new video resources available in the disability section of the USA-S web site - the coach education webinar cited above, two recordings of athletes with disabilities (Erin Popovich and Melanie Benn) telling their stories, and an instructional video on sign language for coaches and swimmers. Work continued on a survey of LSC efforts to include swimmers with a disability. Swimmers with a disability may earn Scholastic All-American status if they satisfy academic requirements and compete in one of three specified meets, namely the USA Paralympic Trials, the 2011 World Deaf Games, or the 2011 Global Games. Projects for the coming year include collaboration with the Officials Committee on starting procedures for swimmers with a disability, and a mid-year workshop to be determined.

**Diversity Committee meeting.** The committee highlighted several ongoing services and activities including coach education, athlete motivation and education, program consultation, water safety days, diversity swim meets, diversity camps, Saving Pools Saves Lives workshop, Make a Splash, LSC diversity committees, USA Swimming Diversity Summit, and community swim team pilot programs. Project Detroit was one of the highlighted community swim team pilot programs. The following description of a recent Project Detroit effort was posted on the USA-S web site.

*Detroit, Michigan - July 9, 2011*

Brennan Pools has been around for decades. This facility located in Detroit, Michigan consists of 3 long course pools. Over the years this swimming relic has hosted the Olympic Trials (1956) and other meets. In early July, Brennan Pools played host to a swim clinic attended by

swimmers from the surrounding area. As an extension of the USA Swimming Project Detroit, The University of Michigan's Men's Swim Team volunteered in an interactive clinic with 52 swimmers from various Detroit area swim teams. Rotating between four stations of stroke instruction for over two hours, the clinic was an example of one way a collegiate team can reach out to a local community and future swimming generations.

The Michigan team showed their character in the manner in which these young men carried themselves, understanding that as a collegiate swimmer you have a responsibility to share your gift of knowledge and the skills sharpened in competitive swimming to future generations. They spoke about goal setting, persistence, and focus. The area age group swimmers learned some great stroke work but also learned that although many members of the Michigan team are current and future Olympians, All Americans and Olympic Trial Qualifies all are students also striving to become future engineers, mathematicians, teachers and coaches.

**U.S. Masters Swimming.** Michigan Masters (a state-wide regional club) won the USMS Club of the Year Award. Ralph Davis won the Ted Haartz Staff Award for his contributions as USMS treasurer (the recipient of this award is selected by the national office staff). Elmer Egelkraut from the Battle Creek Masters workout group was one of the recipients of the Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award.

**Other meetings.** I also attended preliminary meetings of the Rules Committee, all meetings of the Central Zone, and all meetings of the USA-S House of Delegates. Results of those meetings will soon be posted on the USA-S web site. Clubs, coaches, and swimmers are encouraged to check out the new Deck Pass program described on the web site. Deck Pass provides an easy way to recognize accomplishments of all members of the swimming community.