

**89th Annual NISCA National Conference,
March 23-26, 2022 Atlanta GA
NISCA Meeting Minutes**

**NISCA Meeting #1
3/24/22, 7:45am**

Tim Sirois called the NISCA meeting to order at 7:45am.

Minutes from the meeting last March are posted on the website. Arvel McElroy motions to accept the minutes as posted, Peter Hugo seconds. Motion passes

State of NISCA report presented by Tim Sirois: NISCA is in good shape. We have added some new coaches to the Letterhead and we are excited about the work that they are doing for the organization. Kyle Bedalov has taken over as archives and records. We still have one Zone Director role open for Zone 3. Kyle Bedalov and Kevin Pierce have started a NISCA podcast. Dana Abbott has made improvements to the journal. Dana and Arvel have been working on the international coaches membership and education process. Tom Hudson will be taking over as Professional Awards chair. Arvel brought in Duraflex as a sponsor for AA Diving, and is working on sponsorship for AA Swim. NISCA's relationship with ASCA has strengthened with Jennifer Lamont taking over as ASCA CEO. We are on sound financial footing. AA Applications are up from where they were the last couple of years. The international program is currently struggling to get off the ground, despite Arvel and Dana's best effort. Conference attendance is low, we are looking at ways to improve that. Tim is inspired by everyone who volunteers their time for this organization and the sport.

Membership: Tim Sirois presenting for Annette Thies. We are currently over 1000, which is better than last year.

Hour of Power: Tim Sirois presenting for Cindy Dell. 7 states took part in the hour of power this year. Swim teams, basketball and water polo teams were all involved.

Audit committee - Arvel McElroy. Income taxes for 2021 have been filed. Financial statement was completed on Feb 2 2022. NISCA is in good shape financially. The audit committee feels that Tom is doing a great job.

Treasurer - Tom Wojlawowicz. Balances for the past 3 years: 2020 \$250,814, 2021 \$284,299, 2022 \$300,000 currently before conference fees have been paid. Not having an in person conference for the last 2 years helped our bottom line. Tom will not be running for treasurer next year, but will stay on to help with the transition. Note about the banquet food selection. Dave Barney asks how old Tom is.

Marketing/Outreach - Arvel McElroy. Businesses have been having issues with finances throughout COVID, hoping that will ease up soon. NISCA has a new partnership with SwimSmart and Karl Hammuch

who will be providing Journal articles and a book for sale through the NISCA store. Arvel went to ASCA, not many vendors in the vendor hall. We are looking for an AA Water Polo Sponsor. Also looking for Academic All America sponsors in corporate America. Outreach - 2 clinics were scheduled this past fall but due to COVID they had to cancel. He is trying to reschedule for this fall. Arvel spent COVID writing curriculum for certification for international coaches. He is currently working on getting copyright for the courses.

International Membership/Constitution/ Journal - Dana Abbott. He hopes members have been receiving their Journals and like the new content/format. He would like to get more member content in the journal. Trying to keep the journal limited to 44 pages, which includes a 4 page GoSwim pull out. The Constitution has been edited. 2 minor amendment proposals will be presented tomorrow. The International program has also been impacted by COVID in China. It has been slow getting started, but it will be big once it takes off. The program will be open to any international school that will follow the NFHS structure for their meets.

Power Points - Matt Stewart. Last year was not as busy due to the pandemic. 197 participated, down from 300+. Up to this point, he is starting to see more entries coming in. 40-50 currently, but that will increase significantly in May. He is going to try to email all the coaches earlier to remind them to submit. Matt feels like we need to find a way to streamline the process for people to submit entries. The spreadsheet helps, but they are still having issues and the process needs to be more uniform. Might be worth working with SwimCloud to create entries.

Archives/National Records - Kyle Bedalov. Kyle wishes Mark Onstott a happy birthday. He took over from Mike Schuelke. They went to Ft. Lauderdale June of last year to ISHOF. Did a lot of cleanup of the archives. Last year there were 11 new records, this year there are 15 new national records currently, all from Meter pools. The process of submitting records is still manual.

Rules - Pete Hugo. Peter thanks Sandy Searcy from the NFHS for being here today. There were not a lot of new rule proposals this year. The NFHS has already met and voted. Those will come out later this spring. Peter would like to discuss new rules proposals that can be put forward in the future. The Survey Monkey had almost 1000 people respond to the rules proposal survey.

Professional Awards - Tom Hudson. Just became the professional awards chair yesterday. The committee came to consensus on professional awards. OSA Jessica Robie (IL), Erick Craven (CO), Ken Disher (ND), Eric Bartleson (WA), Meg Kaplan (NY), Darrin Millar (MI). Collegiate Scholastic Award goes to Pete Foley(MA) and Brent Rutemiller (AZ). Hall of Fame Award goes to Kirk Price (CO). Lifetime membership awarded to Phil Emery (ME). DHR had only one coach apply last year. We will work on getting more coaches to apply.

Diving - Don Mason. The diving Committee met to discuss rules. They are going to try to work with the NFHS to compile all the different championship formats. This will allow states to see the different ways

to run a championship meet. They are looking for ways to get more divers into the sport. AA Diving judging will be June 8-12. Remind parents and coaches to get apps in.

Water Polo - Tim Sirois presenting for Sean Wimer. Sean is new to the position this year. He will be meeting with his zone directors in the next couple weeks. We are very excited about Sean and the work he is doing.

Zone Directors - Mark Jedow. Had the zone directors meeting yesterday. Phil, Jim, Ian, Mark J in attendance. Discussed improvements in communications. State directors need to provide info for state championship coaches so that the president can send out newsletters. Phil is going to be stepping down as Zone 1 Director. We have found a replacement. We are still searching for a Zone 3 director, and have some leads that we are following up with. Zone directors are using Smore to improve communications.

Coaches Education/ NISCA Store - Gregg Anderson. The Education Committee met yesterday. Clinics that were canceled will be rescheduled. Arvel developed 11 courses for the international coaches and officials. Dana needs articles for the journal. Kyle and Kevin are doing the podcast, which is excellent. The NISCA Store is in his basement. Sold only 24 All America Journals. People have the opportunity to buy the Eddie Reese book from the store. We have sold 55, and have 45 left. We have sold 8 packets of NISCA Certificates. 2 states use the NISCA top 16 certificates (WI and MI), and it would be great to be able to get more states to use them. There has not been much activity in the store online.

AA Chairs - Mark Onstott. Had the AA chair meeting yesterday. Tim Sirois, Don Mason, Marnie Shirley, Kyle Bedalov, Mark Jedow, Sean Wimer, Dick Farnsworth, and Eve Julian were in attendance. The committee discussed issues with applications and how the online process is working. The AA Chairs do incredible work all through the year, especially in March. They have been having issues with NJ sending in only hand written times for one of their state site results. We are working through issues with email volumes. Diving is transitioning away from DVDs this year, working on a more streamlined way to upload videos. There will be a Combined Team category for Scholar Team this year. Application volumes are up to pre-COVID levels. Looking forward to working with Sean Wimer.

Webmaster Report - Eve Julian. Kept the website up to date, posted on social media 3x a week.

The website had 48,000 users in the last year. The most popular pages were AA Swim, AA Dive, AA Academic, AA Time Standards and the Awards landing page. Average of 415 active users per day, with big spikes in late July to August and late March to April. Visitors are 46% Female and 56% Male, 61% fall into the 18-34 age range.

Social Media - NISCA Facebook page - 829 followers. NISCA HS Coaches Exchange group - 2095 members. Twitter - 869 Followers. Instagram - 606 followers.

Always looking for more content to put on the website and social media. Make sure you are part of the Facebook group NISCA High School Swim Coaches Exchange, we get lots of great questions there.

Tim opens the floor for nominations for secretary. Arvel McElroy nominates Eve Julian, Don Mason seconds.

Ian Kobes motions to close nominations, Dave Barney seconds.

Motion to adjourn by Mark Onstott, Ian Kobes seconds. Meeting is adjourned at 8:45am.

NISCA Meeting #2 & 3 3/25/22, 7:30am

Tim Sirois opens meeting number 2.

No unfinished committee business

No 2nd ratifications for amendments.

Eve Julian nomination speech for secretary. Eve promises to continue to do the job she has been doing for the last 12 years.

Tim Sirois describes the WiddyUp fundraiser. WiddyUp gets 5%, NISCA gets 5%, ISCA gets 10%, and the team gets 80%. We are in talks with WiddyUp, and will likely work with them after 12/31/22 so that we can give our member teams more of the proceeds. WiddyUp fundraiser works by having the athletes do 2 videos - an "ask" or pitch video and a follow up video. They upload both videos to their WiddyUp profile and send the link to the pitch video out to family, friends and social media. Anyone who donates will automatically be sent a copy of the second video. The second video can be almost anything from a talent to something funny. Eve Julian's team participated this year and doubled donations from previous years.

Motion made to adjourn meeting #2 by Mark Jedow, seconded by Peter Hugo

Meeting #3

Tim Sirois calls meeting number 3 to order

No old business

Election for Secretary. Eve Julian is elected 17 - 0 by written ballot.

Proposals for new business

Tom Wojslawowicz: Numbers at Conference are at an all time low. Hotel pricing is determined by the numbers you bring in. The number of people registered to participate this year is 21. Banquet attendance will be 52. Lots of reasons - pandemic, lack of ability of coaches to come to the meeting in March. We have tried moving to women's meet as well as the men's, but the numbers continue to diminish. Schools are no longer paying the way, teachers can't get time off. At one time the meet was an attraction, and coaches were officials at the meet. That is no longer the case. Tom thinks that it's time to consider changing the location and dates that we have the meeting. Would like it to be toward the end of June, and have it at a location that would be attractive. ISHOF in Ft. Lauderdale would be a great place to do it. Could conduct the meetings over the weekend. We need to induce more coaches to come to the Conference to keep the organization running. We are committed to going to Knoxville, TN for next year. The following year is in Indianapolis in 2024. 2025 is in Federal Way. Both times we have been there were less than ideal. Finding a hotel is hard and there is nothing within 40 minutes of the pool.

Pete suggests that we put together a survey for the membership to find out what would work.

Don Mason would like to see us research possibilities for moving the clinic.

There is also a possibility of joining with the ASCA clinic. Being after Labor Day might not be the opportune time for high school coaches to come. Tom is leaning towards a time when school is out.

Show of hands - how many would be open to it? 12 in favor.

Tamara - Many coaches join because they have an All American. Invite coaches who have their first All America to the conference to get the recognition. Pete Hugo thinks that is a great idea. It would help for the schools to know that they're receiving an award.

For future Conference locations, Knoxville has been voted on. Indianapolis has not.

Dave Barney supports Tom's proposals. It does seem radical but it may be an important change away from current tradition. We have made changes before and they turned out fine. Dave thinks it's time to start thinking about the Hall of Fame in 2025.

It would be a move away from being tied to NCAA's, but it would allow for more coaches education.

Peter Hugo. If we were to make a change from the swimming, we may need to rethink what we want to do with our conference in terms of coaches education to get coaches here.

Don Mason - our business meeting does not draw a lot of coaches.

Dave Barney - maybe we should resurrect the National Meet.

Arvel - The NCAA has radically changed the schedule over the years. It is difficult to schedule business meetings around the NCAA schedule plus travel time. It becomes impossible for us to put in as many talks and clinics that we'd like to. The new complex at the Hall of Fame should be an attraction. Having a scheduled clinic in a vacation destination with a more flexible schedule would make the conference better.

Mark Onstott - agrees with Arvel. The Executive Board has looked at running a National Meet multiple times, as well as Conferences with 1 or 2 clinics and up to 7 speakers. The number of speakers doesn't seem to have an impact. The pandemic has had a major impact, but we were on a downward trend for many years. 2025 is the year to try something new. Going to Federal Way will either kill the Conference or some of us. In favor of looking at options.

Marnie - that time in June is around the time that the National High School Coaches Conference has their conference. Could we tie those together as well?

Tamara - a survey sent to NISCA members about why they missed conference this year. There is an assumption that they don't want to/can't miss school, that may be false. Let's find out why.

Arvel - California is one of our largest states in terms of swimmers, and they are in season now and maybe can't come.

Peter thinks a survey would be a good idea.

Tim proposes that we vote on going to the men's meet in Indy in 2024. 18 for, 0 opposed. Motion passes

Tom reminds us that next year (2023) will be the 90th meeting of NISCA. They organized at that first meeting so 2024 is the organization's 90th year.

Tim presents Diane Hicks-Hughes with the outgoing president's gavel (term ended 2021).

Tim appreciates all the work the organization has been doing to move high school swimming forward. The challenge is to be supportive of all the initiatives that the organization is working on. Supporting Dana Abbott by finding articles for the journal. Support for Arvel McElroy with the outreach clinics and helping find speakers. Bring someone along next time, talk up the Conference and get people to come. Take care of yourself during the season. We look out for the swimmers and divers, keep yourself healthy and safe as well.

Motion to adjourn made by Mark Onstott, Mark Jedow seconds.

Meeting adjourned.