

# USAS Convention report

Laurie and Clint Benton

Laurie as the Chair of the Credentials and Elections Committee, she must go to the convention early to make sure that her registration desk is set up and ready to receive the first Swimming members to arrive at the convention.

After the arriving she must determine where her desk will be set up and then retrieve all of the material that she had previously packed and shipped to be able to do her job at the convention. In addition to doing the set-up she also co-ordinates with the USAS staff because USA Swimming consists of more than 60% of the attendees at the convention. During her off time before her registration desk opens Laurie volunteers helping the USAF registration team and working with the USA Swimming Staff and the USA Swimming Board Chairman regarding his at large votes.

During the registration period Laurie oversees the registration of voting members, collecting swimmer of the year ballots, and works with all the LSC chairs about changes to their voting members. In addition, she must keep a list of all USA Swimming At Large voting members to work with the Board Chairman about changes to his assigned votes.

Clint helps Laurie with the original set up then helps the USAS Convention staff in stuffing bags preparing handouts. Once the Board has arrived he then interacts with the Board members regarding the pending legislation. Clint is a member of the USA Swimming Governance Committee. The most important legislation was the complete reorganization of the USA Swimming Board of Directors from a Management Board to a Governance board. There ended up being a lot of discussion about this legislation. While at the start it was believed that all the Board members were for it, it turned out that several of the current past Presidents did not want to give up their position on the Board and opposed the change. In the end, the legislation passed with more than the 2/3rds needed.

Other legislation was for a new membership class called flex which would allow someone to join USA Swimming for \$20.00 per year but would only be able to compete in two meets per year. This passed with the provision that the LSC can decide on their own if they want to provide the membership to their members. Presently there is no way to determine if a swimmer has competed in only two meets.

Another new membership was for a Junior Coach, someone who is under 18 years of age can be a coach on deck, under the direct (in view) supervision of a Senior Coach. The Junior Coach must complete all the requirements of a coach except for the background check. Once the coach turns 18 they must get a background check within 30 days.

It was my experience that Pacific Swimming was well represented at convention this year and efforts were made to keep the members informed and active in all the decisions that needed to be made. I was especially impressed with our athlete rep's who did a great job.

