

AWSA Membership Meeting
August 13, 2009
West Palm Beach, Florida

- 1) **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 8:22pm by President Gene Davis.
- 2) **AWSA Board Members Present** – President Gene Davis (S), Leon Larson (S), Jeff Clark (S), Jeff Surdej (EVP - MW), Dean Chappell (MW), T Caldwell (SC), Tad Scharf (W), Bob Mayhew (SC), Doug Robbins (COB - E), Connie Morris (W), Don Bucher (MW), Barry Young (EVP - W), Jim Grew (S - Past President), Ron Ives (SC)
- 3) **Treasurer's Report (Carey Zimlich/Tom Danford)** - Jim Grew commented on the funds AWSA has at this time and that cuts had to be made and there will be less funds for next year. If you want to see the treasures report it is in the board packet which is posted on the Southern Region website. If you have any questions, email Gene and he will answer them.
- 4) **Past President Report (Jim Grew)** –
 - a. Jim commented on how transparent this organization has become since Steve Locke took over as Executive Director. Every two months the budget is posted online as well as membership status. Steve Locke sends out a weekly report keeping the membership updated on the happenings at USA Water Ski. E-Blasts from HQ staff also go out bi-monthly. Steve Locke answers all emails and phone calls he receives. If you are not satisfied with something at HQ or have concerns about HQ, contact Steve directly and he will make sure it is taken care of.
 - b. Jim thanked everyone that he has worked with for that last 8 years and his goal was to leave the job still wanting to keep it which he accomplished.
 - c. Jim related a story about his flight home from Worlds and talking with a woman with a family of 8 who had no issues with AWSA/USAWS, but just loved the sport of water skiing and knowing people in water skiing as people and not as top ranked officials.
- 5) **Executive Director (Steve Locke)** –
 - a. Steve introduced the staff of USAWS that were present at the meeting, Melanie Hanson, Director of Membership Services, Traci Baylon, Coordinator of Competition Services, and Brandon Wolf, Director of Competition Services. Steve thanked them for their work.
- 6) **Questions/Concerns regarding the 2010 Nationals** –
 - a. There is concern about how the National Anthem is done at Nationals and there is a feeling that it is not doing justice for the people that are serving for our country. One member feels that there is more emphasis put on the

- start of the tournament and the water conditions than on the people/skiers that have served for our country and died for our country. Gene Davis stated that he agreed with the comment and we will work to improve it.
- b. Gene explained that 2010 Nationals will be a seven day event starting on Sunday and going through Saturday. The EVPs will have the choice of either having their officials work the entire 7 days or spit the week and work half the week. The Executive Board is working with Waters Edge about the logistics of the officials. Officials will have the choice of staying on site or at a hotel.
 - c. It was explained that Waters Edge has a 2 year contract with the first right of refusal after the first year, by either Waters Edge or USAWS.
 - d. Concerns were express about the order of events for 2010 Nationals – the Western Region has long regionals and there are times when a skier will ski their first event early in the week and the other events at the end of the week. Waters Edge/HQ/Chief Judge will try to schedule the events of each division close to each other, within 2-3 days.
 - e. Towboat for B2/G2 Jump – Concern was expressed regarding the use of high horsepower boats at regionals & nationals for B2&G2 jump events. Gene will send to towboat committee for discussion / action.

7) General Questions to the Board –

- a. Recommendation from the Western Region – The Western Region recommends that the Safety Committee direct HQ to issue an email blast addressed to the parents of all junior skiers informing them of safety concerns that can be mitigated by the use of protective headgear while slalom skiing. The email message should include: Recently several slalom skiing accidents resulted in head injuries to Western Region junior skiers. The slow speed and resultant larger wake was considered to be a contributing factor to the accidents. The risk of these head injuries could have been reduced by the use of a helmet that has been designed specifically for high speed water entry. Headgear of this type is manufactured by Gath Sports, an Australian manufacturer and distributed in the US by Murray Sports. Several of our junior skiers have begun using these helmets with no adverse effect.

We are not looking for a change in the rules, just to inform the public about the potential risks and what can be done to prevent the injuries.

- 8) Motion to Adjourn –** Dean Chappell motioned to adjourn at 8:41 pm, seconded by Tom Mecham. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Knafla, AWSA Secretary