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10 October 2009



**FROM:** Official's Chair, South Texas Swimming, Inc. (STSI)

**TO:** House of Delegates  
South Texas Swimming, Inc.  
Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas

**SUBJECT:** Report of the Official's Committee Chair

- I. As of this date there are 110 active, properly registered and certified officials in STSI.
  - A. Four are in TRAINEE status. The certification of one of those will expire within the next 15 days, two in late January and the fourth in March. It is likely there will be one or two other losses by the end of this year.
  - B. There are some 15 others in some sort of "limbo" status: Current members of USA Swimming, but not certified in any capacity in STSI, in retired status, but wish to remain on the roster, etc. 80% will most likely not renew their USA Swimming membership for 2010, but will necessarily remain on the inactive roster until the end of 2010.
  - C. Several clinics are being held throughout the LSC at this time and a gain of up to six TRAINEES can be expected in the next few weeks.
  - D. Fewer than 15% of those currently certified have so far renewed their USA Swimming Membership for 2010.
  - E. There are six Life Member active officials. The newest is Annette DuVall.
- II. As of this date, in 2009 there has been a loss of nine officials from the LSC due to retirement, loss of interest or transfer to another LSC.
  - A. There have been a total of 13 new officials brought on board since last October (2008), hence a net gain of four.
- III. The Officials Committee is financially solvent.
  - A. There continue to be significant costs associated with postage and the acquisition of name tags. These expenditures are, for the most part, unavoidable.
- IV. The STSI Official's Policies and Procedures were revised in February 2009 and approved with unanimous support of the Committee and the Executive Board.
  - A. In addition to a number of housekeeping revisions, it also significantly lengthens and improves the Training Phase for new STSI officials as well as clarifying several existing Policies and Procedures and strengthening the requirements for progression to Starter and Referee.
  - B. The Official's USA Swimming Registration Reimbursement legislation approved by this body last October was implemented on January first, 2009. Only 12% of eligible officials choose to participate.
    1. This would seem to repudiate the notion that "paying" officials is an important element in recruitment and retention. That legislation is effective for two more years when a "Sunset Clause" becomes effective unless overridden by this body.
- V. The STSI Official's Home Page continues to be somewhat underutilized as a mode of communication.

VI. Remaining problems:

- A. Recruitment of new officials continues to go well, but actually getting them trained and upgraded to Stroke and Turn Judges remains problematic as does long-term retention. This is a Nationwide problem and by no means unique to South Texas.
- B. New officials registering with USA Swimming continue to not realize that they must also register and be certified as Trainees in STSI, nor are they becoming conversant with the current Policies and Procedures.
- C. USA Swimming is conducting an Official's Workshop in San Antonio as we speak. South Texas is well represented, but it was difficult to find individuals interested in or willing to attend, which I find this a bit disturbing.

Respectfully submitted, 10 October 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. B. Graham', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Colonel R. B. Graham, USAF, Retired  
Official's Chair  
South Texas Swimming, Inc.