

## **2011 USA Synchro Competitive Operations Vice President's Report Toby Smith**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve USA Synchro. 2011 has been a challenging year, but it has been wonderful to see the outstanding commitment and volunteerism of our membership at all of our national meets this year, each of which I have attended as technical chair.

I'll highlight a few accomplishments rather than detail all activities:

- Meet Operations
  - Implement new scoring including new developing and implementing new technology, training and gaining acceptance from personnel
  - Stabilize and Improve sound, now reliable and high quality
  - Help hosts and USA Synchro maintain business viability of meets in challenging economic times
  - Build meets into larger events. At every meet, we've included other event aspects such as movie screenings, educational seminars, collegiate seminars, etc.
- In chairing the Audit committee, we have moved to having a clean independent audit and suggested corrective actions to improve USOC audit findings from previous years.
- In chairing a working group to respond to USOC governance suggestions, we achieved difficult compromises in organizational structure needed to maintain funding.
- Forming an athlete safety task force that has driven awareness and education especially on concussion injuries
- I'm also proud of achievements of the many committees in my leadership including:
  - Collegiate building a strategic plan for growth with great participation by this constituent group in implementation. Thanks to Collegiate Chair Rebecca Story.
  - Athlete Programs developing competitive structure improvements and programs that show promise to build our base. Thanks to original Chair Myrna Hagedorn and new Chair John Ortiz.
  - Rules and Figures taking a good measured approach in non-legislative years to make needed changes without excess action. Thanks to Chairs Joanna Scoons and Betsy Caza.
  - Scoring finding ways to implement difficult new methodology without budget. Thanks to Chair Sue Johnson, and new program Task Force leader Laurette Longmire.
  - Sites continuing to find outstanding meet hosts and locations. Thanks to Chair Ted Roche.
  - Championship management organizing meets to run smoothly on time, and adapting on the fly when needed (eg when we lost a day of the event to storms at US Juniors). Thanks to original Chair Patty Flanagan and new Chairs Betsy and Pete McGeoch.
  - Masters continuing to grow their participation, demonstrating how great Synchro is as a lifelong sport. Thanks to Chair Beth Borland.

Each of these Chairs, and their committees work diligently on behalf of the membership of USA Synchro. Please take the opportunity to thank them at convention.

We also owe tremendous thanks the meet hosts for their outstanding efforts on behalf of USA Synchro

- Masters: John Beckwith and Laurette Longmire from Southern California Association
- Collegiates: Jill Wright from Canisius College
- Juniors: Betsy Caza from University of Florida and Adam Ashton from Central Florida Sports
- Nationals: Christine Thompson from The Ohio State University
- eSynchro Age Groups: Svea Dangel from Pacific Northwest Association and Mike Dunwiddie from King County Aquatic Center
- Opens: Lianne Cameron-Vrielink from Hawaii Synchro

Looking forward, we need to better leverage events to foster growth, linking them to development of our grassroots, as well as to advance our standing internationally and to foster our elite development. We must, and will, do this in a cost effective manner, recognizing the realities of USA Synchro. In this manner, we link Competitive Operations to overall goals of growth of our base, financial strength, and elite development.