

# N - I - S - C - A

By: *David H. Robertson*

**NISCA must try for excellence.** Here is my guide on how to reach that goal:

**The President** - This person must see that committee chairs are strong and doing their job properly. The President must know when a chairperson is beginning to drag and even falter, and be alert to know when a change must be made. NISCA is not a five day activity at the convention followed by no activity for the remaining weeks of the year. The success of our committees is of prime importance.

The president must work at being president 52 weeks of the year. By working closely with each chairperson, the president gains a good opinion of what items to bring to the membership at the convention.

The President is our standard bearer, our leader. He or she must work hard to carry out the "Mission of NISCA" as it relates to the everyday efforts of the membership. We are a great National Association. We must at times stand firm, and at times, we must make a public stand on a position.

We must develop a professional relationship first with our own school administration and then with the National Federation, the 50 State High School Associations, the NCAA, United States Swimming, The American Red Cross and ASCA. Our United States High Schools constitute a very large base of swimming pools, all under the direction of several thousand coaches who lead community aquatic programs from everything from learn to swim to competitive swimming. Many high school swimming pools are used also by United States Swimming.

**The Journal Editor** - The Journal is the most important thing we do. It alone represents NISCA in every member's home. We have about 2000 members. Possibly twice that number read the Journal during the year if you count people at home and team members at school. The editor must publicize NISCA projects and philosophy. The editor has certain items that must appear at certain times. For instance the NISCA convention information must go out in the September issue with follow ups in later issues. The All America results must be published as early in the summer as possible. And of course, every member and many swimmers also look forward to the swimming and training articles.

**The Treasurer/Membership Chair** - The Treasurer has a 52 week job of collecting monies, safely caring for the money, and seeing that the monies are spent wisely. All members of NISCA should consider themselves members of the Membership committee. The future of NISCA depends on a gradual growth of active coaches.

**The All America Committees** - NISCA has seven AA related committees. This is a huge job and it takes almost an entire year of effort. It is exciting how many high school boys and girls are recognized and honored each year. This is one of our oldest activities and even outdates NISCA by many years.

**The Professional Awards Committee** - One of the finest things done by NISCA each year is to recognize and honor the high school coaches who have served their community, their state and nation. The Outstanding Service Award, the NISCA Hall Of Fame Award, and the Collegiate-Scholastic Swimming Trophy can only be earned once. Many feel that the Thursday evening award banquet is the most prestigious event in a coaches career, as the recipient is honored by the vote of the entire NISCA membership.

In addition to these awards there are many other awards given to NISCA members for their professional leadership.

**The Rules Committee** - For years the leaders of swimming have gathered together to discuss swimming and diving rules. Every coach in the membership has the opportunity to submit an idea for consideration. The best minds gathered together have the ability to recognize what will make for the best possible program. NISCA has always looked at rules, as what is best for swimming and diving in the nation. Many times local prejudices have to reconsider in favor of the national program. Since 1973 many of the NISCA members who have learned the give and take of the NISCA rules meetings have gone on to be members of the National Federation Swimming and Diving rules committee and Water Polo Committee.

**The Convention Committee** - We showcase NISCA at our convention. It is important for all coaches who have gained stature in their league and state to attend the convention. NISCA officially began in 1934, but since 1920 the leaders of high school swimming have gathered at the Men's NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships. NISCA has had a very good professional relationship with the NCAA from the very beginning. It was at the suggestion of the NCAA coaches that the high school coaches started committees for rules and for honoring All American athletes. Our convention is very important to the high school world of swimming. The convention Chairman has the responsibility to select the NISCA convention location, secure rates, plan for all meeting rooms, arrange for breakfasts and several dinners, provide the members with name tags and anything else they might need. At times the chairman is working on three years of conventions at one time. This is a 52 week job with a great deal of communication needed.

**The Marketing Chairperson** - For the past thirty years there have been five different people chairing this important committee. The work is done behind the scenes on a direct one on one with businesses that ultimately become sponsors of NISCA programs. Our present chair is a very professional worker and has had outstanding success. The marketing program is one of our most important.

**Professional Growth Committees** - Relatively new on the letterhead are the Coaches Education Committee, Member Services Committee and Technical Committee. NISCA is developing aids to assist it's membership. Each year there are so many new things to be learned by those who become coaches, but with the aid of clinics at the National NISCA Convention and articles published in the Journal and information posted on the NISCA Web Site, NISCA coaches have a great chance to improve themselves educationally.

**National Records - Archives - Constitution - NISCA Columnist - Power Point Coordinator and the eight NISCA Zone Directors round out the leadership of NISCA.** All these and more. NISCA is committees. NISCA provides national leadership. NISCA serves boys and girls. NISCA is the coaches who direct the programs for the kids.

A closing thought: New coaches are welcome at our annual national convention. Come. Attend meetings. Each day watch the NCAA Men's Championship Swimming and Diving. Talk with coaches from all over the country. Enjoy NISCA fellowship. Discover on what committee you would feel most comfortable. Be patient and look

forward to progressing up the ladder of this great national association. This is the best way to grow in stature in the profession of coaching swimming.

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40 years a NISCA coach, now Retired

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