

# Convention Report 2008

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As a member of the Credentials and Elections committee, most of my Convention time was spent issuing credentials and collecting and/or counting votes. My observations from that view:

### 1. Credentials:

- The majority of LSCs did not submit up-to-date delegate lists. While it is primarily the smaller LSCs who fail in this respect, at this Convention, there were several of the largest LSCs that had difficulty with this requirement.
- A number of At-Large delegates also had LSC votes. This reduced the number of discretionary presidential votes available.
- A significant number of At-Large delegates failed to collect their credentials. In particular, a number of them were members of OIOC who left before the House of Delegates.
- The athletes did an excellent job of trying to ensure that as many athletes as possible had votes.

### 2. Voting:

- About 3% of the eligible voting delegates had not picked up their credentials prior to the morning we issued ballots, which made it a two-step process for them, tying up one or two committee members.
- Some people didn't listen. There were quite a few spoiled ballots.
- Fewer ballots were cast than the number of eligible delegates. Either people didn't pick up their ballots by the time the gavel came down, or they had already left.
- There were several instances in which someone wanted to pick up ballots for someone else who had left, saying they had the person's proxy (not permitted under USA-S bylaws).
- The ballot scanner saved an incredible amount of time, and rejected any ballot that had stray marks (that the person feeding the scanner hadn't already spotted).
- One or more committee members reviewed any ballot that was rejected to determine if the voter's intent was clear. As I recall, there was only one ballot that was not clear, and thus not counted. No election was close enough to have one vote make a difference.

In addition, I attended the Board of Directors luncheon, portions of the Safety Education workshop (which turned out to have the same content as the seminar I attended in Minnesota last year), the Zone meetings and portions of the House of Delegates.