

## 2006 AAU CONVENTION REPORT

by Doris J. Smith

I was pleased to represent the Middle Atlantic District for the 20<sup>th</sup> time at the AAU National Convention. This convention was the most relaxing in many years since I was not obligated to serve as the hospitality hostess for our district.

On Wednesday, October 25 I attended the awards breakfast. This event was a combination of the Life Members and Awards Luncheon. As I am a life member, I was glad to see there were reserved tables for those members. It was nice to be recognized by the Southern AAU District for the contribution we gave to them last year.

At 11:30 a.m. I attended the Hospitality Committee Meeting chaired by Peg Adams. It was good to see Mary Greene at this meeting after a nine year absence. She and her late husband Jim chaired this committee for many years. They provided hospitality at many Olympic Games and World Championships. The committee members expressed their displeasure of the menu items that had been selected for the room and the renaming of the function to the AAU Welcome and Information Center. Many of the committee members did not recognize this name and thus were not available on Tuesday, October 24 between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. It was voted for the name to be the AAU Welcome and Hospitality Room and the location is to be posted at registration. Upon request additional food items and beverages were brought into the room. Following the meeting I worked in the Hospitality Room from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On Thursday, October 26 I attended the Compliance Workshop. Every presentation of the panel gave us information useful for running a district. I was fortunate enough to win \$50.00 for finding a mistake in the convention booklet.

At 2:30 p.m. I attended the Surfing Committee chaired by Rusty Buchanan who was re-elected to that position. Surfing American became the surfing body of the United States. The AAU ran their first national championship on October 20-22 at Cocoa Beach, FL. They are trying to start wave pool competition. Also, there is desire for an East coast and West coast national championships due to travel. Hopefully these competitions will be conducted in January. There is a pro tour in Orlando hosted by [www.16streets.com](http://www.16streets.com). They are attempting to get skin board started. They did not discuss what this is. All minutes and surfing information is on their website at [www.aausurfing.com](http://www.aausurfing.com).

I next attended the combined meetings of the Field Hockey, Table Tennis and Weightlifting Committees. Each of these sports has its own NGB. For the past six years there has been field hockey competition in the AAU Junior Olympic Games with an average of 128 players each year. In 2006 there were 482 field hockey registrations nationally. I was surprised to see that the Middle Atlantic led the way with 119 registrants. Kathleen Campbell is the National chair. They discussed the advantages of AAU insurance. A video was shown highlighting the 2006 events.

Weightlifting has events at the Junior Olympic Games only. Doors are open at the district level. Paul Campbell is in charge of youth sports.

I attended the Wrestling Committee Meetings in the evening. I was glad to see that Emily Carpenter has been voted into the AAU Wrestling Hall of Fame. She was a pairing master for many years at the Middle Atlantic District and National levels. In addition, she also served as the secretary of the National Wrestling Committee.

I wish to mention that teams from the Middle Atlantic District were the National Champions at the Disney Duals in June and the Junior Olympics in August. This is the third consecutive year a Middle Atlantic team has won the Disney Duals and the second year for the Junior Olympics. Dave Boger and Norm Palovcsik, both from the Middle Atlantic District, will serve on the National Executives Committee for wrestling.

I attended the Congress Meeting on Friday, October 27. I was glad to see a full delegation from the Middle Atlantic in attendance compared to only two at the 2004 Convention in Stamford, Ct. I realize that the Congress is required, but it is of little use. It lasted only two hours which included a keynote speech by Elisa Au.

I was glad to attend the 2006 Convention and am looking forward to the 2007 meetings which is not as long a trip and is earlier in October.