



# Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

American Samoa  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
FSM, State of Chuuk  
FSM, State of Kosrae  
FSM, State of Pohnpei  
FSM, State of Yap  
Island of Guam  
Republic of Kiribati  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Republic of Nauru  
Republic of Palau  
State of Hawaii

## A RESOLUTION

### Resolution No. 53-BOD-15

**“Expressing the Strong Support of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for the nomination of a Son of Micronesia, Mr. Benjamin Schulte of Guam, and encouraging APIL Delegates to support this young swimmer by participating in the on-line campaign to select him as Man of the Year for WOWSA, the World Open Water Swimming Association.”**

1       **WHEREAS**, Open Water Swimming is organized swimming that takes place in  
2 outdoor bodies of water such as oceans, lakes, seas, rivers, canals and reservoirs, and the  
3 distance of each event varies from 1 kilometer to 80 kilometers, with typical major  
4 competitive distances usually of 5 kilometers, 10 kilometers and 25 kilometers; and

5       **WHEREAS**, in 1986, Open Water Swimming was once again added to the  
6 international competition calendar, and an Open Water event was staged in 1991 at the  
7 *Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA)* World Championships, the sport rising to  
8 greater significance after the International Olympic Committee (**IOC**) listed a 10 kilometer  
9 race in 2005 as one of the events for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games; and

10       **WHEREAS**, the World Open Water Swimming Association (**WOWSA**) annually  
11 sponsors awards in four (4) categories: Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Performance of  
12 the Year, which are given to honor the athletes who “best embody the spirit of open water  
13 swimming, possess the sense of adventure, tenacity, and perseverance that open water  
14 swimmers are known for, and have most positively influenced the world of open water  
15 swimming,” and the fourth award; Offering of the Year, identifying “products and services  
16 that (1) best support and assist open water swimmers achieve their goals, (2) are innovative,  
17 unique and beneficial to open water swimmers, race directors, coaches or administrators, and

(3) have made the most positive impact on the world of open water swimming during the calendar year;” and

**WHEREAS**, for 2012, 16-year-old Mr. Benjamin Schulte, a swimmer from the island of Guam, is one of the nominees for the prestigious Man of the Year award, with winners of the **WOWSA** awards being selected by the number of on-line votes received by the nominees, and each vote for Mr. Schulte will be a vote for a Son of Micronesia; and

**WHEREAS**, Benjamin’s award nomination reads in part, “He was a boy among men ... but the 16-year-old teenager from Guam proved grace under pressure (competing) at the 2012 London Olympic Games against men double his age ... swimming alone in front of 30,000 spectators lining the banks of the Serpentine ... (giving) it his all, swimming faster than expected and showing his potential for the next few Olympics. For his grit at never giving anything less than 100%, for his future upside demonstrated on the world’s biggest stage, for his maturity and pride in embodying the Olympic ideal, young Benjamin Schulte is a worthy nominee for the 2012 WOWSA Open Water Swimming Man of the Year award;” and

**WHEREAS**, voting is open through December 31st, results will be announced on January 1st, 2013, and the link to cast a vote for Benjamin Schulte is:

<http://www.worldopenwaterswimmingassociation.com/2012-wowsa-man-of-the-year-nominees/>; now; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 53<sup>rd</sup> Board of Directors Meeting, State of Pohnpei, FSM, December 5-6, 2012, that the Board of Directors, on behalf of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, hereby extend its strong support for encouraging full participation by Pacific Island countries and territories in the on-line voting for the Son of Micronesia, Benjamin Schulte, for the prestigious World Open Water Swimming Association Man of the Year award; and

1           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that APIL encourages the Council of Micronesia  
2 Chief Executives (CMCE) to adopt a similar support resolution; and

3           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL  
4 Secretary shall attest, to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall be transmitted  
5 to the Honorable Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Director-General, Secretariat of the Pacific  
6 Community; the Honorable Edward B. Calvo, Governor Guam; the Honorable Judith T.  
7 WonPat, Ed.D, Speaker of the 31st Guam Legislature; and to the Presiding Legislative  
8 Officers and Chief Executives of each of the APIL member jurisdictions.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2012.**



**JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED. D.  
PRESIDENT**



**CHANG B. WILLIAM  
SECRETARY**

