

Membership:



It's Up to US!

United States Masters Swimming
2008 Convention
Atlanta, Georgia
September 23-28th



WORKSHOPS

LMSC Workshops

Thursday September 25th, 7:15-8:45 pm

Risk Management & Insurance – Marietta

Effective Leadership – University

Club Models – Piedmont

End to End Event Management – Vining

LMSC Roundtables

Saturday, September 27th, 10:30-11:45 am

Registrars Roundtable – Roswell

Sanctions and Records – Lenox

Coaches Roundtable – Vining

Chairmen's Roundtable – Piedmont

Want to Know More About Postal Swims? - University

ORIENTATIONS

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Wednesday, September 24th, 5:15 – 6:15 pm

Fairlie

NEW DELEGATE

Thursday, September 25th, 7:30-8:15 am

Lenox

LUNCH WITH NEW DELEGATES

Details will be available at the New Delegate Orientation

Thursday 11:45 – 12:30

INTERNATIONAL MASTERS SWIMMING HALL OF FAME (IMSHOF)

Induction Ceremony

Friday, September 26th, 6:45-8:00 pm

International Ballroom

Cost is \$50 per person, RSVP by Sept 14th

Invitation enclosed

ATLANTA LINK (SHUTTLE) – DISCOUNT

Reservations made using the below Atlanta Link portal will include a special discount for the United States Aquatic Sports

<http://theatlantalink.hudsonltd.net/res?USERIDENTRY=USA&LOGON=GO>

HERTZ - DISCOUNT

We also have a car discount rate with Hertz. Our meeting number for them is: CV#02RH0005

PRESENTATIONS

SPORTS MEDICINE

Friday, September 26th 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Centennial I

Details will be available at the certification table

COACHES

Friday, September 26th, 10:30-12:00 pm

Piedmont

Want to learn more about coach and club development from the on-deck experts? Our panel of experienced coaches from successful programs around the country will address a number of frequently-asked questions on these topics and more at Friday morning's Coaches Presentation. Don't miss it!

USAS WEBSITE

For more information on the USAS Convention

www.usaquaticsports.org

ARE YOU BRINGING A LAP TOP?

There will be external power supply in the HOD but we will not know the amount of "convenient" outlets. Please bring an extension cord to make sure you can "plug in".

MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM

Meet the candidates running for the open USMS
At Large Director Positions

Thursday, September 25th, 5:45-6:45 pm

Centennial I

SHIPPING PACKAGES?

If you are organized and can have packages shipped in advance (no charge), please send to:

Rob Copeland

100 Grouse Point, Fayetteville, GA 30215

President AT usms DOT org

678-817-1602

All packages must arrive no later than Monday, September 22nd. Please contact Rob with "when and what" will be arriving.

SWIM WORKOUTS

Buses will leave the Hyatt at 5:00am to make the Masters workout at the Dynamo Swim Club starting at 5:30am.

Buses will leave Dynamo Swim Club at 7:00am heading back to the Hyatt.

Dynamo has a 50 meter pool with (22) 25yard lanes when set up in short course configuration

There is a 10 lane 25 yard competition pool and a 6 lane (warm) 25 yard teaching pool.

More details will be available at the certification table.



United States Masters Swimming

CHECK-IN AND CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE AT USMS CONVENTION

Each delegate must complete the two-step process outlined below. You must have a “certified ID” to vote as a member of the House of Delegates (HOD) and be eligible to attend HOD meetings!

- 1) **CHECK IN AT THE UNITED STATES AQUATIC SPORTS (USAS) STATION** to pick up your ID - a badge with your name & LMSC on it. You will also receive a convention bag, binder, and miscellaneous souvenirs.

AND

- 2) **CHECK IN AT THE USMS TABLE** to obtain “certification” that you are a USMS delegate. This is the process that verifies a delegate’s eligibility to vote in the House of Delegates (HOD). You will also receive your voting cards and other important convention material and information.

The USMS Certification/Information table will be open as follows:

Wednesday, September 24, from 9:00 am – 5:00pm

Thursday, September 25, from 7:30am - 8:00am

The USMS Certification/Information table will move to outside the HOD meeting room on Friday, September 26th (Centennial I). All subsequent certification by USMS will take place here during HOD meetings, until they recess. (Refer to the meeting schedule in your pre-convention packet and/or binder for time and location). Late arrivals **must** locate Debbie Cavanaugh (Certification Chair) to receive their certification and voting cards.

Please note: If you did not register for convention in advance, you will need to have USMS Meg Smath sign a certification release before you can proceed to Debbie Cavanaugh for the balance of certification material.

New Delegates will receive a special ID identifying them as NEW DELEGATES as well as information regarding the New Delegate Orientation.

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USAS Welcome Reception
Sponsored by Risk Management Services

Wednesday, September 24^h
7-9:00 PM
Exhibit Area

United States Masters Swimming

WEDNESDAY, September 24, 2008

1:45pm - 5:00pm	Board of Directors 1	Hanover AB
3 :45pm - 5:15pm	Convention Staff	Hospitality Room
5:15pm - 6:15pm	Committee Chairs Orientation	Fairlie
7:00pm - 9:00pm	USAS WELCOME RECEPTION	Exhibit Area

THURSDAY, September 25, 2008

7:30am - 8:15am	New Delegate Orientation	Lenox
8:30am - 10:15am	Zone Meetings	
	Breadbasket	Piedmont
	Colonies	Roswell
	Dixie	Vining
	Great Lakes	Greenbrier
	Northwest	Fairlie
	South Central	Edgewood
	Oceana	Harris
	Southwest	Marietta
10:30am - 11:30am	USMS Endowment Fund	Edgewood
	Fitness Education	Centennial I
	History & Archives	Auburn
	Rules 1	Hanover D
	Lunch with New Delegates	
12:45pm - 2:00pm	Communications	Kennesaw
	Coaches	Centennial I
	Registration	Centennial III
	Finance	Fairlie
2:15pm - 3:45pm	Marketing	Roswell
	Sports Medicine	Centennial III
	Recognition & Awards	Courtland
	Championship 1	Centennial I
4:00pm - 5:30pm	Publications Management	Fairlie
	International	Inman
	Records & Tabulations	Courtland
	Open Water & Long Distance 1	Centennial III
5:45pm - 6:45pm	Meet the Candidates Forum	Centennial I
7:00pm - 8:45pm	Workshop – Risk Management and Insurance	Marietta
	Workshop – Effective Leadership	University
	Workshop – Club Models	Piedmont
	Workshop – End to End Event Management	Vining

FRIDAY, September 26, 2008

8:00am - 9:00am	House of Delegates 1	Centennial I
9:15am - 10:00am	Rules Proposals	Centennial I
10:15am - 11:15am	Legislation 1	Centennial I
10:15am - 12:15pm	Finance Committee 2	Fairlie
10:30am - 12:00pm	Coaches Presentation	Piedmont
11:15am - 12:15pm	Officials	Greenbrier
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Sports Medicine Presentations Masters Aquatic Forum	Centennial I Williams
1:45pm - 4:45pm	House of Delegates 2	Centennial I
5:00pm - 5:45pm	Championship Bids	Centennial I
6:45pm - 8:00pm	IMSHOF Induction Ceremony	International Ballroom

SATURDAY, September 27, 2008

8:00am - 8:45am	Zone Committee	Edgewood
8:00am - 10:00am	Finance Committee 3 Rules 2 Open Water & Long Distance 2 Championship 2	Fairlie Hanover B Hanover F Centennial I
10:15am - 11:30am	Registrars Roundtable Sanctions and Records Roundtable Coaches Roundtable Chairmen's Roundtable Want to Know More About Postal Swims?	Roswell Lenox Vining Piedmont University
12:45pm - 5:45pm	House of Delegates 3	Embassy Hall
7:00pm - 10:00 pm	AQUATICS AWARDS BANQUET	Centennial Ballroom

SUNDAY, September 28, 2008

8:00am - 9:00am	USAS Board of Trustees	Hanover AB
9:00am - 10:15am	Convention Wrap-up Session	Hanover E
10:15am - 1:45pm	Board of Directors	Hanover D



USMS Board of Director Reports



USMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

PRESIDENT Rob Copeland

This year's theme for our annual meeting is "Membership: It's Up to Us". This theme was selected to remind us of our continued focus on providing service to our members and our need to engage our leaders and volunteers at all levels along with our staff to continue our rich traditions and to come up with new and creative ideas to serve our members and grow our programs. It's up to us to providing the support, tools, and services to our staff, volunteers, clubs and members. It's up to us to provide the leadership and vision. It's up to us to provide the passion and wisdom. It's up to us to serve our membership.

This past year USMS has had some interesting challenges and successes. First, our executive director, Todd Smith, resigned to take a position back in diving with Duraflex and after an extensive search we hired Rob Butcher as our ED. Second, through a partnership with Club Assistant, we implemented on-line member registration.

On the executive director front, thanks in great part to the excellent work of our search committee, this spring the Board hired Rob Butcher as our second executive director. And while many of the initiatives Todd started for us went on hold during the search, Rob dove right in and has gotten us back on track. In the short time he has been with us Rob has already demonstrated a passion, enthusiasm and vision for Masters Swimming. Rob has been able to meet many of our local and national leaders and I encourage each delegate to find time to meet with Rob in Atlanta.

On-line member registration went live with the beginning of the 2008 registration period and like any new system there was a learning curve that our registrars worked through. We have seen very good member reviews with on-line registration and with the enhancements for 2009, I believe registration through the web will be easier and faster. And speaking of the web; we continue to improve our web site to provide content and access to many historical documents.

Now with these pieces in place and a vision to grow our support (both staff and volunteer), it's time to tackle the work of providing the services in expanded support of our mission to promote fitness and health in adults by offering and supporting Masters swimming programs. This annual meeting is a perfect opportunity for every committee and every member of our House of Delegates to set and commit to achieving realistic goals for 2009, 2010 and beyond to stretch for our mission and objectives. It's up to us to make the dream a reality.

And I would be remiss, if I didn't take a moment to thank all of our hard working staff and volunteers. There would be no Masters Swimming without your passion and commitment to swimming.

And in closing, remember "Membership: It's Up to Us". If you can dream it, you can do it.

USMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Michael Heather

The Community Services division had lots of change this year. Both the coaches and sports medicine committees welcomed new chairmen (Chris Colburn and Jane Moore, respectively) and thanked the former chairs (Mo Chambers and Jody Welborn) for their hard work. Fitness has been enjoying a tremendous growth in the "Go the Distance" program, in which you track your mileage on a chart and watch the mileage grow during the year. It is free to join and there are milestone awards and trinkets available for purchase, if you desire any. Check it out. Sports medicine and science vets and edits the Healthy Swimmer series in the magazine and on line, which has been well received. The answers to questions are answered by actual experts in that field. Coaches is very busy with several projects, both new and existing, and is looking for ways to recruit new coaches to start new or augment existing programs. I have mourned the resignation of our first Executive Director, and happily welcomed our new ED, Rob Butcher. I also participated in the task force for establishing a policy manual, which is now online. I look forward to the coming year as a possible break through for USMS, and with the help and support of the delegates and members, USMS is poised to have a terrific future. Everyone of you reading this should pat yourself on the back, right now. Nothing could have happened without your help and love for the sport.

VICE PRESIDENT OF LOCAL OPERATIONS

Julie Heather

The Local Operations Division committees (Registration, History and Archives, Records and Tabulation, Recognition and Awards, and Zone) have had several very productive conference calls this year. Many of the issues faced cross committee, and the dialog has been very useful in addressing issues.

In addition, the End to End Event Management Task Force has received feedback from these committees to assist in their goal of providing tools for online meet management.

USMS has 53 LMSCs, and they vary widely in the level of support they provide to swimmers. It is important to USMS to develop minimum competency levels for LMSCs, and implement a plan to bring them all up to this level.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. LMSC Task Force was created, then disbanded until USMS is in a position to support an LMSC strategic plan.
2. Club Development Task Force was given to Jeanne Ensign.
3. Assistance and mediation of problems within LMSCs
4. Creation of End to End Event Management Task Force

USMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBER SERVICES

Mark Gill

It has been a busy year in the area of member services. Much has been accomplished, yet there is still much more to do in the coming year. Since my last report, the focus of the Member Services Division has changed dramatically. The Championship, History & Archives and Recognition & Awards Committees have all moved out of this division. In their place, the International, Marketing and Publications Management Committees have been added. Only the Communications Committee has remained in this division consistently.

Last year, I listed several projects that I hoped to see accomplished by this convention. Here is the update on each of those items.

- The Places to Swim listing on our website was identified as one of the most used, yet often out of date features on our website. The Communications Committee has developed a set of recommendations that will allow us to automate much of the way we collect and update this information. The Executive Committee has instructed our Executive Director to develop a plan for implementing them.
- End to End Event Management was a second need identified last year. The project started in the Communication Committee and focused on how to improve the processes that we use regarding our events, sanctioning, results, etc. This project was moved from the Communications Committee into its own task force which resides in the Local Operations Division.
- Email communication to our membership is a third goal indicated in my previous annual report. At this time, we have made some progress on this, but do not yet have a formal plan for how we will provide and manage email communication to our membership. The Communications Committee continues to work on this project.
- A final project was to make online meet registration available for all meets. There are several options that are being evaluated on this front. The President, Vice President of National Operations and Executive Director are now working on this initiative.

As we look towards the final year of our administration, there are several new projects that will be the focus of the Member Services Division.

- The Marketing Committee has been in limbo for much of this year. They are waiting for the results of two task forces to give them guidance and direction. The Branding Task Force is hard at work on revising our image and look. Once that is accomplished, this will give the Marketing Committee specifics to work with regarding the materials that we create and make available to clubs and LMSC's to help promote our sport. The second task force is one that is evaluating what external organizations we want to have relationships with. The marketing committee has membership with a variety of organizations. We need to evaluation which ones make sense for us to partner with and what we hope to accomplish from these partnerships. Once we have the results of these two task forces, the Marketing Committee will be able to set and move forward on its goals.
- The Publications Management Committee is working to develop more online content and move Swimmer to more of a multimedia publication.

It has been an interesting year as Vice President of Member Services. I look forward to reporting back to you on our progress of these projects as we continue to improve Masters swimming.

USMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL OPERATIONS

Leo Letendre

Report will be sent separately

TREASURER

Jeff Moxie

United States Masters Swimming continues to be on very solid financial ground. As of July 31, 2008 we had in excess of \$1.8 million in cash and investments. Our investment returns have shown an overall decline from prior years due to an overall decline in interest rates and the inability to invest in only certificates of deposits due to our extremely restrictive and conservative investment policy. During 2008 rates were in the 3.5% range compared to 5.0% during 2007.

The 2007 Financial Statements are complete and a financial report will be available for delegates at the Convention in Atlanta. The tax returns for 2007 have been filed. We also filed amended tax returns for 2005 and 2006 to correct some minor oversights on the tax returns for those years.

We are working closely with the Executive Director to determine the needs, both short term and long term, for driving the future growth in USMS membership. These needs will include both financial (making an investment in growth for the future) as well as process (budgeting, organization structure, financial policies (specifically, FOG), etc.) changes.

SECRETARY

Meg Smath

Most of what I did this year was much the same as previous years: ordinary secretary stuff. I posted the minutes of all the 2007 convention meetings online, and also wrote and distributed minutes for the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and House of Delegates meetings during convention. Other post-convention duties included compiling evaluations and summarizing the wrap-up session. I also reviewed action items from minutes that required EC or BOD action. I wrote and distributed minutes from all EC and BOD meetings held during the year, including the midyear meetings in Dallas in February. I updated the working calendar for 2008 and was a member of the Branding and Policy task forces. In addition, I served as one of the proofreaders for *USMS SWIMMER* magazine.

As this convention has approached, I have been compiling the official list of delegates, and preparing other convention-related materials.

USMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT **Jim Miller, MD**

The role of the Immediate Past President varies from administration to administration. Following the election of new officers, the role is that of orientation of the new EC to the business under way and the integration of new agendas with those already in progress. The second EC term defines a new role. The Immediate Past President frequently is assigned special projects, which can benefit from a leadership background.

This past year certainly exemplified this role. I chaired the Executive Director Search Task Force which resulted in a pool of 77 candidates. I was very fortunate to have had the expertise of Nadine Day, Raena Latina, Ted Haartz, and Jeff Moxie on the Task Force. Our Professional Search Firm of Anderson & Associates from Charlotte, NC teamed with us, as last time 3 years ago. Doug Anderson, the owner, took on the task himself and was an incredible asset to the process. You will all have an opportunity to meet and work with our new Executive Director, Rob Butcher at this USAS Convention. His passion for our sport is sincere and his background brings new insight and opportunity. You will see for yourself very soon.

My current project is that of Board of Directors training. During the course of interviews a considerable number of the candidates with a background in non-profit corporations recommended that we pursue a Board training process. Doug Anderson independently presented exactly the same recommendation early in the search process. USMS has been fortunate to have a succession of very talented Executive Committees and Boards for decades, which have dedicated countless hours to running the Corporation. As we grow to a fully functional Executive Director with an office and staff, the role of the BOD and EC need to evolve also. Thus, we will be engaging a professional in non-profit Boards to assist us with this evolution. I have been interviewing 3 different firms who have been recommended to me with extensive track records in this process.

Finally, I am serving as the EC liaison to the Club Development Task Force, and the Benefits Task Force (which has recently been transformed into the Benefits and Compensation Task Force). I am also the trustee of the employee Vanguard retirement fund.

LEGAL COUNSEL **Patty Miller**

USMS's legal needs since last year's convention have been relatively straightforward, focusing on the business functions that continue to develop as USMS builds infrastructure to serve its members and grow. In a major step forward, USMS instituted on-line registration. This called for legal input regarding both the relationship with the company that developed the on-line registration process and the registration process itself. On the latter point, a key legal task was providing advice regarding the on-line liability release process.

As in 2007, USMS again went through the process of hiring an Executive Director when our previous Executive Director resigned to accept another position. As you will hear from other

USMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTS

reports, the search process moved quickly and resulted in the successful hiring of Rob Butcher. From a legal perspective, this meant another contract as well as legal counseling regarding benefits and the establishment of the Charlotte office.

Thanks to the assistance the law firm Cooley Godward, which provided *pro bono* legal services, USMS's current trademarks have been registered with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. We dealt with one issue this year regarding a USA Swimming club that sought to use one of our word marks in another language. This resulted in a co-existence agreement with the club for that particular use.

Other than those larger areas, we had the usual matters that call for legal input, including agreements with Corporate Partners, requests to interpret existing agreements such as that with our publishing services provider, questions from LMSCs regarding liability releases, provision of legal counsel to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, and random issues that arise from time to time.

I have requested a larger amount than usual in the 2009 budget for the outside legal fees cost center. This request reflects my belief that USMS, with a new Executive Director and increased staff, will be offering more services and forming new partnerships than ever before, resulting in the need for legal services that are both more time-consuming and more complex than what we have seen in the past. While we have been lucky to receive excellent legal services in particular areas (e.g. trademark, employment) on a *pro bono* basis, I foresee a greater need for the use of outside counsel – and the fees to pay for those services. Going forward, I envision the volunteer role of Legal Counsel as involving in-house counseling on rather routine matters and the management of outside counsel to handle more time-intensive and specialized matters.

SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE AT-LARGE DIRECTOR

Carolyn Boak

Carolyn participated in the mid-year meeting and some of the Board of Directors conference calls. I welcomed Rob Butcher as our new Executive Director and was very pleased that he communicated quickly with all the Board members in order to get a sense of the organization.

I participated monthly in the Club Development Task Force, ably led by Jeanne Ensign and on the Rules Committee calls.

My final participation (and the most time consuming and rewarding) was as a retiring member of the Championship Committee where I served as the Championship Committee Liaison to the very successful Short Course Nationals held in Austin.



USMS National Office Reports



USMS NATIONAL OFFICE REPORTS

Executive Director Rob Butcher

In the interview process, I was asked what process I would use to transition into the Executive Director role. My answer indicated that my first 90-days would be dedicated to relationship development and information gathering. I'm pleased to share, that as I submit this report on August 26, 2008, I'm now at 80-days in the role and believe we've able to accomplish this goal and others. Before we look to our future, allow me a few lines to share with you the highlights on our first 80-days:

- Have met face to face with all the staff and contractors
- Have met face to face with most of the Board and Executive Committee, and those who I've not met individually have spoken with via the phone
- Secured USMS as a sponsor of the 2008 USA Swimming Olympic Trials
 - USMS was title sponsor of Rowdy Gaines AquaZone appearance on July 4th which featured a 16' x 8' USMS banner, and Rowdy wearing a USMS polo
 - USMS was presenting sponsor of the men's 100-meter backstroke
- Been in communication with all USMS sponsors, and some prospective new ones
- Been in introductory communication with potential partners such as USA Swimming, USA Triathlon, ASCAA, the YMCA, and CSCAA
- Filled an approved staff hire with Ashley Gangloff who is focused on proactive marketing and PR initiatives
- Opened a roughly 650-square foot USMS satellite office in Charlotte where myself and Ashley work
- Contributed video and article submissions for a variety of clubs and LMSC newsletters
- With the input and assistance of the Executive Committee, Board, and Finance Committee, drafted a 2009 budget that also provides a Vision and Action Plan with forward looking financial guidance through 2012

With the exception of a few staff members and contractors, USMS since inception has operated as a volunteer run organization. USMS made a decision a few years ago that it was time to hire an Executive Director and begin the transition to an administrative organization. Todd Smith, the initial ED hired made positive progress in the areas of online registration but unfortunately didn't make it a full year term, and subsequently the search began all over again. My interview process was lengthy and measured. The Board was committed to finding an Executive Director who appreciates the USMS values, and could see that the USMS we know today will be broader than the USMS we will know in 10-years.

USMS for years has been preparing for the Vision and Action Plan. We are coming off the most successful Olympics in history and swimming is at the forefront. Interest is at an all time high, and USMS stands in a position to ride and create its own waves. Financially, USMS has built a strategic reserve so we can develop our opportunity. The timing for USMS couldn't be better. I thank you for your dedication. I thank you for your support. I look forward to working with you during this Convention. My instincts tell me we will look back in 10-years and recognize the decisions we make here will have a dramatic positive effect for USMS.

USMS NATIONAL OFFICE REPORTS

Controller Margaret Bayless

On-going routine activities, which include weekly check runs, monthly payroll review, monthly bank reconciliations, monthly financial statement preparations with commentary, various analyses, and quarterly budget spending report distributions continue without exception.

During the period February through May, Clifton Gunderson LLP, USMS' external auditors, reviewed the 2007 financial records, and prepared the financial statements and tax returns. Throughout this process, various write-ups, analyses, and other requested supporting documents were presented to the auditors. The audit report was issued April 1, with no adjusting entries or management letter comments made. The 2007 tax return was completed and filed without extension. The 2007 financial statements will be available for review at convention.

Again in 2007, USMS had a small federal tax liability as a result of the generation of unrelated business income largely attributed to the new SWIMMER magazine contract, which affords USMS the opportunity to earn advertising revenue.

The 2008 budget was completed and published shortly after the 2007 Convention. Final budgets were sent to each cost center head. To date, there have been 3 over-budget requests, all of which were approved.

The preparation of the 2009 budget was coordinated by the Controller, which in the past had been done by the Finance Chair. Personalized, pre-populated (with prior year and 2008 budget data) Excel templates were sent to each individual responsible for a revenue/cost center, hopefully making the process more accurate and streamlined for all. Templates were sent out to committee chairs by May 1, were due back June 1, and a first draft USMS budget document was available by June 30.

The advent of on-line registration has increased the on-going work activity associated with the Controller position. Daily monitoring and tracking of credit card receipts, reviewing of merchant account fees, preparing monthly checks to each LMSC, and general oversight are added tasks associated with on-line registration.

Corporate Partner Liaison Mel Goldstein

This past year the USMS Corporate Partner Program generated \$121,000 in revenue. Today we have 2 Gold Level Partners (TYR and Speedo), 8 Silver Medal Partners (NIKE, FINIS, Kast A Way, Adolph Kiefer, Swim Outlet.com, Bank of America, Total Immersion, and Barracuda), 2 Bronze Level Partners (Endless Pools, and Ultra Swim).

Last year the effort of the Corporate Partner Liaison was to create greater value for our Corporate Partners by including advertising in USMS Swimmer magazine as part of the Corporate Partner agreements. This year was devoted creating value for the USMS Membership. Two value-added Corporate Partners will now offer USMS membership additional value to their membership.

USMS NATIONAL OFFICE REPORTS

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company will offer a 10% discount on Auto and Homeowners Insurance Policies to USMS Members, and Hertz Rent A Car will offer a 10% discount to USMS membership on all rented vehicles.

With the addition of the two new tradeshow displays, we are now able to accommodate more clubs and or LMSC's. This form of promotion at local recreational facilities and YMCA's continues to promote USMS and attract new members.

The Corporate Partner Liaison continued to attend the YMCA Aquatic Conference, National Park & Recreation Association National Aquatic Conference, and the American Swim Coaches Association World Clinic. These conferences and clinics continue to be a great source of exposure for USMS. A proposal to speak at the National Intramural & Sports Association on How to Develop a Masters Program for Students and Faculty is on the agenda for next year.

With the new Executive Director, Rob Butcher now on board, we are now in the process of transitioning the Corporate Partner Program to his pervue; this should be complete by the end of the year.

Database Administrator Esther Lyman

The game has changed, or at least so it appears, but the backbone of the registration function is still our 52 individual registrars and as many treasurers. Drawn from all walks of life as they are, they represent obvious disparities in job experience, knowledge, and available tools.

To Tracy and me these are still our real "customers" and since accounting is still "Job One", we spend a lot of time trying to round out their computer skills and share tricks of the trade. If they think enough of their own skills and resources to even volunteer (with or without compensation) for the job, we owe them to "bring them along" so they become future resources and an important part of our institutional underpinnings. George Simon, our registration chair, has devoted literally countless hours to helping with documenting and understanding the new software, as has Leo Letendre, VP of Membership who headed up the implementation.

The game has changed; so far mostly in terms of implementing the registration and invoicing piece. A lot of work still needs to be done to link all the both upstream and downstream activities/users where the various areas overlap – notably Top Ten submission, verification and achievements' recognition, and working the one-event coverage into the mix without actually mixing them in. To the extent that the OEVTs pass through our books, the information in them can be used to verify/update other information on those swimmers and they represent a source of prospective full members (as are many of them in alternating years). The stumbling block is that most of them are from the long-distance and open water swim area and unless we can steer them to multiple opportunities for competition, they seem to have little impetus to become tied closer to USMS beyond a specific event. Some have registered for that one event some 6-8 consecutive years.

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The game has changed; we have eliminated the reporting and transmittal lag. We are running an average of 6% ahead of each month last year; hopefully that "lead" will hold up until year-end. Most of the business in the 2nd half of the year will be from add-ons (newbies), not renewals or "returnees". As of approx Aug 2 our registrars/treasurers had booked 43,711 members:

												Y2005
Cumulative registrations by actual registration date												42696
Year	End-Nov	End-Dec	End-Jan	End-Feb	End-Mar	End-Apr	End-May	End-Jun	End-Jul	End-Aug	End-Sep	End-Oct
Y2006	5878	15313	25540	29390	32351	34359	36984	39108	40587	41556	42558	43430
Y2007	6571	15593	25729	29938	32803	34674	37209	39539	41159	42229	43301	44135
Y2008	5189	16455	27397	31795	34761	37021	39080	41706	43646			

Percent cumulative based on prior year												
Year	End-Nov	End-Dec	End-Jan	End-Feb	End-Mar	End-Apr	End-May	End-Jun	End-Jul	End-Aug	End-Sep	End-Oct
Y2006	13.8%	35.9%	59.8%	68.8%	75.8%	80.5%	86.6%	91.6%	95.1%	97.3%	99.7%	101.7%
Y2007	15.1%	35.9%	59.2%	68.9%	75.5%	79.8%	85.7%	91.0%	94.8%	97.2%	99.7%	101.6%
Y2008	11.8%	37.3%	62.1%	72.0%	78.8%	83.9%	88.5%	94.5%	98.9%			
<i>Ahead of last year</i>		5.5%	6.5%	6.2%	6.0%	6.8%	5.0%	5.5%	6.0%			

The game has changed, but human nature has not. Instead of errors in handwriting interpretation and the "usual" typos, we now get a new kind... the dropping of a character in mid-word or a run-in of several words, making the post office OCR unable to interpret the address. Catching as many errors as possible is a critical. Any "bouncers" represent not only a fee to the USPS for the returned mail and but also the cost of a replacement magazine if requested.

The game has changed and our new executive director will be planning to change it even more. With much of the routine work in the registration area handled by the online system, we will have more time to analyze our amazing database of members over the organization's lifetime. We have much to contribute to any vendor offering products that help us swim (and dress) better. We also have a lot to contribute to USMS for understanding and expanding our membership, beginning with "where the clubs are".

The following breakdown shows where our members live (or lived) by 2-digit zip code, based on 43,711 registrations thru approx Aug 2 – approximately half live in 2-digit zip codes above 72.

ZIP2	State	% of Memb	ZIP2	State	% of Memb	ZIP2	State	% of Memb
00	PR	0.01%	31	GA	0.19%	68	NE	0.34%
01	MA	1.07%	32	FL	1.31%	69	NE	0.00%
02	MA	1.44%	33	FL	3.23%	70	LA	0.71%
	RI	0.27%	34	FL	0.95%	71	AR	0.01%
03	ME	0.02%	35	AL	0.26%		LA	0.16%
	NH	0.57%	36	AL	0.24%	72	AR	0.18%
04	ME	0.59%	37	TN	0.62%	73	OK	0.08%

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05	VT	0.27%		38	MS	0.08%		74	OK	0.14%
06	CT	0.88%			TN	0.03%		75	TX	0.90%
07	NJ	1.09%		39	MS	0.06%		76	TX	0.42%
08	NJ	0.70%		40	KY	0.98%		77	TX	1.72%
09	AE	0.00%		41	KY	0.06%		78	TX	1.49%
10	NY	2.26%		42	KY	0.12%		79	TX	0.15%
11	NY	1.60%		43	OH	0.52%		80	CO	4.58%
12	CO	0.00%		44	OH	0.98%		81	CO	0.39%
	NY	0.54%		45	OH	0.60%		82	WY	0.18%
13	NY	0.42%		46	IN	1.52%		83	ID	0.29%
14	NY	0.65%		47	IN	0.41%			WY	0.02%
15	PA	0.31%		48	MI	1.04%		84	UT	0.46%
16	PA	0.05%		49	MI	0.46%		85	AZ	1.63%
17	PA	0.12%		50	IA	0.13%		86	AZ	0.08%
18	PA	0.16%		51	IA	0.03%		87	NM	0.59%
19	DE	0.06%		52	IA	0.40%		88	NM	0.06%
	PA	0.94%		53	WI	0.96%		89	NV	0.79%
20	DC	0.79%		54	WI	0.20%		90	CA	2.32%
	MD	1.28%		55	MN	1.41%		91	CA	1.42%
	VA	0.68%		56	MN	0.07%		92	CA	4.13%
21	MD	1.50%		57	SD	0.19%		93	CA	1.77%
22	VA	2.62%		58	ND	0.05%		94	CA	11.91%
23	VA	0.79%		59	MT	0.42%		95	CA	7.66%
24	VA	0.26%		60	IL	2.91%		96	AP	0.00%
	WV	0.04%		61	IL	0.26%			CA	0.17%
25	WV	0.07%		62	IL	0.14%			HI	0.99%
26	WV	0.02%		63	MO	0.62%		97	OR	1.68%
27	NC	1.05%		64	MO	0.15%		98	WA	3.39%
28	NC	0.98%		65	MO	0.09%		99	AK	0.49%
29	SC	0.92%		66	KS	0.34%			WA	0.22%
30	GA	1.41%		67	KS	0.05%		Grand Total		100.00%

The top 10 locations are:

94	CA	11.91%
95	CA	7.66%
80	CO	4.58%
92	CA	4.13%
98	WA	3.39%
33	FL	3.23%
60	IL	2.91%
22	VA	2.62%
90	CA	2.32%
10	NY	2.26%

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Bear in mind, of course, that this is based on the last-known location of the swimmer. At least 10% of our members change address each year, often multiple times. Interestingly, only about 4.5% register with a different LMSC than the year/time before.

National Office Administrator Tracy Grilli

Since the last convention (and now for the past 12 years), I have maintained the responsibilities associated with running the USMS National Office. For those of you who are new and are not familiar, in a nutshell, I answer the phone calls, e-mails, and snail mail in addition to a number of other projects including:

- Registration – monthly reports to the Controller and LMSC's, deposits, member support and address changes
- USMS National Championships – process paper registrations and verification of members
- Publication Orders – rule books, brochures, decals, etc.
- Streamlines... from the National Office - quarterly newsletter
- Top Ten Subscriptions
- Pool and Open Water/Long Distance All American Letters & Certificates
- Pool and Open Water/Long Distance National Record Certificates
- Convention Registration Packet and Information Packet
- Club Rule Books and Certificates

I work hand and hand (figure of speech, we never see each other) with Esther Lyman, our Database Administrator (and the 52 local registrars) with the registration of our members and member clubs. And since last convention I have been very involved with the new on-line registration program (Club Assistant), working closely with George Simon, Leo Letendre, Esther and members of the Club Assistant team in making the process as user friendly as possible for our members and registrars.

Over the past year, I participated in the EC and BOD conference calls and mid-year meeting in Dallas. I am in contact some way/some form with all the members of our Board of Directors, Committee and Ad Hoc Chairs, Liaisons and Special Assignments along with officers from each LMSC.

I am very much enjoying working with our new Executive Director Rob Butcher and Executive Assistant Ashley Gangloff. I am assisting them as best I can in the education of “everything there is to know about USMS.” With the hiring of Rob and Ashley and the creation of the Charlotte Office, we are in the process of assessing and re-organizing duties, which will allow for a more efficient National Office to better service our members.

This is a very exciting time for USMS and I am really looking forward to our future. I look forward to seeing you all in Atlanta!!!

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National Publication Editor Bill Volckening

If you read SWIMMER Magazine, you should have a good idea about what we've been up to this year. It's been another very busy, productive year for SWIMMER Magazine. Since the 2007 convention, we have released five issues of SWIMMER. The sixth issue is in the works and will be released in early September.

During the year, we addressed scheduling issues with our production calendar, and made some improvements with the 2009 calendar including building in more time for proofreading. Following the May/June issue, we were back on schedule thanks to the efforts of the Publications Management Committee, which started actively following the progress of production and business management.

We continued to solicit new ideas and comments from readers and members, reviewed progress, and made decisions for the upcoming year during the Annual Planning meeting in June.

The USMS National Publication Editor, publisher's staff, USMS Vice President of Member Services Mark Gill, Publications Management Committee Chair Heather Hagedorn and Vice Chair Lynn Hazlewood attended the Annual Planning meeting. Materials for the meeting, including the proposed 2009 editorial features calendar, were available for review two weeks prior to the meeting this year. Having more information available prior to the meeting resulted in a highly productive and well-organized meeting.

The Publications Management Committee continued to participate in a significant number of discussions and activities guiding the business management of SWIMMER Magazine. For more behind-the-scenes activities involving the magazine, please refer to the committee report.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted news and story ideas. Please note that deadlines published in Streamlines and elsewhere are for news, calendar listings and department content. Features are planned each year at the Annual Planning meeting in June. If you would like to submit a feature idea, please send a 250-word pitch to me at editor@usms.org.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to another great year!

Webmaster / IT Director Jim Matysek

The usms.org and usmsswimmer.com websites continue to be active places with lots of development going on throughout the year. We have managed to engage several outside contractors in order to help whittle down the long list of projects that have been requested and planned. In addition to the regular operational and maintenance tasks associated with running our web operations, we have focused our development activities on four key areas: 1) Shore up infrastructure, content, and existing services; 2) Member registration services; 3) Website personalization and members-only services; and 4) Support of the end-to-end event management

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initiatives. With a focus on these four key areas, we have a number of active projects under development.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

The major projects that have been undertaken since convention are:

1. Made significant improvements to our infrastructure for our web-based administrative tools, including integrating a new web-based editor with image upload capability into our suite of web-based administrative tools, updating our spam/abuse prevention techniques for our web form submissions, and creating a new generic display ordering tool.
2. We rolled out a new custom USMS Meet Results Database in January to replace the third-party external database we used in the past. Swimmers can view a history of their meet performances or their current in-season ranking in any event in USMS using web displays of this data. We've now loaded the database with several years worth of meet results that we had access to, and have integrated the database with online entry for nationals so that a swimmer entering online has easy access to their past meet times to use for entry times in a national championship.
3. Supported the transition of USMS registration tools from PC-based tools to the new web-based tools from ClubAssistant. Created a real time interface with ClubAssistant's tool set in order to keep our USMS web server copy of the registration data up to date.
4. Created a new administration tool suite for managing the issue content for the usmsswimmer.com website.
5. We've recently integrated an external spam firewall service into our mail processing structure in order to reduce the amount of spam getting through the filters and reduce the work load on our web servers. It has greatly improved our web server performance.
6. I've been working with the Records & Tabulations Committee to provide top ten tools for the LMSC top ten recorders to use, based on the new meet results database. Two LMSC's used these tools to create and submit their SCY reports this year and two others were used to compare submissions generated using the tools to their official submissions created using the existing tool set. We plan to roll these tools out soon to make them available to all LMSC's.
7. Work is in progress to create a replacement tool suite and display area for the online calendar of events. This is part of the end to end event management initiative. The tools will save all meet data in the central database and will allow LMSC sanctions chairs to manage their own list of events and event sanctions.
8. Efforts are also underway to create a member login mechanism on the usms.org site and provide members-only content and services there. Initially USMS members will have access to new blog tools and photo albums in the discussion forums area, as well as

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access to tools for logging their swim workouts, with the ability to submit their monthly results from there to the “Go The Distance”.

9. With the help of Nancy Ridout, Betsy Durrant and Meg Smath, we have started a program to provide a new weekly feature on our usms.org home page. These features have been well received and help to keep our home page vibrant with regular new content.



USMS Committee Reports & Agendas



USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

CHAMPIONSHIP Mark Moore, Chair Jeff Roddin, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Tom Boak, Debbie Cavanaugh, Lisa Dahl, Barry Fasbender, Jill Gellatly, Errol Graham, Jack Grosselle, Michael Moore, Steve Newman, Lori Payne, Barbara Protzman, Sandi Rousseau, C.J. Rushman, Jody Smith, Diane Stowell, Robin Sebnitz and Lisa Watson, Assoc. Member.: Jane A. Moore, Ex-officio: Leo Letendre, Ex-officio: Jim Matysek

Opening paragraph: Our mission is to serve in an advisory capacity to national championship hosts and make recommendations and decisions that enhance the quality of championship meets for all registered USMS members; to actively solicit and receive bid proposals, review bids and make recommendations to the House of Delegates regarding sites for national championship meets; and support marketing opportunities for USMS Corporate Partners.

Championship Meet Liaisons

2008 SCY Nationals in Austin, Texas: May 1-4: Carolyn Boak/Tom Boak, the meet liaisons, worked with the meet host for this meet.

2008 LCM Nationals in Gresham, Oregon: August 14-17: Barry Fasbender, the meet liaison, worked with the meet host for this meet.

2009 SCY Nationals in Austin, Texas: May 1-4: Michael Moore, the meet liaisons, is working with the meet host for this meet.

2009 LCM Nationals in Gresham, Oregon: August 14-17: Barbara Protzman/CJ Rushman, the meet liaison, is working with the meet host for this meet.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

Championship Committee is working closely with the Rules Committee comparing Sections 101, 102, and 108 in our USMS Rule Book to make sure they are compatible with current USA rules. Also Section 104 is being looked at with the Meet Director's Guide and Meet Contract.

2010 SCY and LCM Championship Bids: Jeff Roddin prepared a 'host a national meet' letter that was sent out to major facilities encouraging them to consider bidding in 2010 for either the SCY or LCM Championship. The following groups were mailed bid packages: New York (Long Island), Bismark, ND, Atlanta, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. There is also the possibility of bids from Missouri and Michigan.

1. National Championship Bid Package: The task force continues to look at the current bid package and suggest revisions to this committee.
2. Meet Director's Guide: Tom and Sandi updating on going process – look into posting on the USMS website.
3. USMS Championships Bidding Resources on USMS Web Site
USMS Championships - Bidding Resources (web site page sample)

The Championship Committee developed and maintains guidelines for the use of meet directors. The documents can now be downloaded in PDF format from the USMS web site.

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Introduction Letter

The Introduction Letter will aid meet directors in the bidding process, including planning and organizing their event.

National Championship Application

The National Championship Application needs to be filled out and submitted to the Championship Committee Chair by the first week in August. The selection process takes place at the USAS Convention, typically held in September each year (see <http://www.usms.org/admin/conv/> for a schedule).

Pool Length Certification Form

The pool length certification must be on file with USMS. Please submit a copy with your application.

Budget & Financial Summaries

A sample Budget gives summarizes and will assist how you spend your money and help create guidelines for your spending.

Action items:

1. Approve the NQT's for 2009 Short Course Nationals
Current policy is for 10th place = 10% (Top Ten Times)

Rule Proposals: The Championship Committee has submitted a rule proposal to require that bids for National Championships be turned in 60 days before the annual meeting (was 30 days).

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 2:15-3:45 pm

Centennial I

Saturday, September 27th, 8:00-10:00 pm

Centennial I

1. Review/discuss 2008 SC and LC meets
2. Discuss all rules proposals submitted that affect National Championships.
3. Review awards, logo and plans for the 2009 National Championships.
4. Discussion of new projects and ways of doing things for future National Championships.
5. 2009 NQT's
6. Review recommendation changes for the Championship Bid Packet

CHAMPIONSHIP BIDS

Friday, September 26th, 5:00-5:45 pm

Centennial I

1. Bidders will be given 5 minutes to present their proposals for hosting a National Championship.
2. After each presentation, Championship members will address concerns and ask questions regarding each of the presented bids. The questioning will then be open to the HOD for additional questions.

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3. The Championship Committee will vote to recommend a host of each nationals by secret ballot.
4. The House of Delegates will vote the next day by secret ballot. All bidders will be listed on the ballot.

COACHES

Chris Colburn, Chair

Committee Members: Bob Bruce, Chuck Burr, Lee Carlson, Mo Chambers, Jerry Clark, Jim Clemmons, Bill Cleveland, Amanda Conk, Doug Garcia, John Grzeszczak, Allen Highnote, Emmett Hines, Kris Houchens, Mike Jacobson, Wayne McCauley, Don Mehl, Ed Nessel, Kerry O'Brien, Ed Nessel, Kerry O'Brien, Ahelee Sue Osborn, Dick Pitman, Galen Rinaldi, Rand Vaillancourt, Scott Williams, Robert Zeitner

Opening Paragraph: The Coaches Committee has had another busy year. Much of the new work we have undertaken this year involves aligning our current projects with the Strategic Plan. New work has involved projects designed to attract more coaches, improve the quality of coaches and their coaching, and to provide opportunities for coaches to learn how to grow their programs through their work both on and off the pool deck. We have begun work on a project to re-evaluate and realign the content of the Coaches section of the website to focus on the two distinct areas of coaching swimming and coach resource and development. The committee has provided valuable feedback to the Club Development Task Force on the recruitment, retention, and development of coaches. On-Deck Coaching has continued to benefit our members at Nationals, at Convention, and even at Olympic Trials and FINA Worlds. Online Coaching, always a hit with our members, sees a planned expansion for 2009 will take advantage on an expanded focus on both triathletes and season-specific interests. Our clinic programs have not been well-utilized at the national level this year, and we will undertake plans to redesign the program to reach a greater audience in 2009.

Discussions and projects since the last convention: We have solicited and received feedback on the reorganization of the Coaches section of the USMS website and the Coaching section of the USMS Discussion Forums. We have also begun to explore how to incorporate some of the committee's previous work on coaching resource development into the new structure of the site.

1. We have begun to collect data as part of a dialogue with USAT on the numbers of triathletes in USMS programs, and the options available to triathletes in USMS programs.
2. We have begun discussions on how to restructure the mentor clinic program to better benefit both coaches and members.
3. We had a great showing for On-Deck Coaching in Austin, and received positive feedback about the coaches who provided assistance at Worlds. We anticipate good numbers for On-Deck Coaching both in Portland and in Atlanta.

Action items:

Continue work to restructure the USMS web presence (usms.org/coach) to reflect a dual focus on coaching and coaches.

1. Continue work on the mentor clinic restructuring so the program more effectively benefits coaching and coach development with an eye towards club development and

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membership retention/attraction.

2. Continue to work on improved communication with a larger network of coaches by reaching out to local Coaches chairs, working with them to understand and address their needs, and utilizing them to expand the base of coaches.

COACHES COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA Thursday, September 25th, 12:45-2:00 pm Centennial I

1. Discussion of Rules/Legislation that affect the Committee
2. Close-out/Projects moving to the National Office
 - Underwater Video Camera Rental
 - Video/DVD Rental
3. Ongoing Projects
 - ASCA Clinic organization
 - Coach of the Year
 - Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award
 - On-Deck Coaching
 - International Coaching at Worlds
 - Online Coaching
 - contributions to *USMS SWIMMER*
 - Coaches email communications
 - USAT Partnership
 - Web Page Redesign
 - New/Revised Projects
 - Mentor Clinic Redesign
 - Club Development Task Force support
4. New Business

COMMUNICATIONS Hugh Moore, Chair Kim Crouch, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Bonnie Coleman, Daniel Cox, Susan Ehringer, Michael Moore, Ray Novitske, Pete Palmer, Al Prescott, Carl Saxton, Jeanne Seidler, Doug Garcia, Tracy Grilli, Jim Matysek, Bill Volckening, and Mark Gill (EC Liaison)

Opening paragraph:

The committee includes members with experience in general communication and Information Technology and can be a resource for USMS clubs, LMSCs, and committees. Contact communications AT usms DOT org if your club, LMSC, or committee would like help or if you have questions.

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Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. LMSC Handbook. Pete Palmer, Kim Crouch, and Hugh Moore updated the communications section of LMSC handbook in November.
2. Calendar of Events. Lynn Hazlewood continues to edit the Calendar of Events for the USMS website and Hugh coordinates approval by LMSCs for non-sanctioned events. Jim Matysek is revising the database and Graphical User Interface (GUI). Once the revised Calendar is rolled out, Jeanne Seidler will take over as editor.
3. LMSC Websites. Ray Novitske has led a subcommittee with Kim Couch, Dan Cox, and Jeanne Seidler. They contacted LMSCs that did not have websites and have been instrumental in getting a couple of LMSCs to start sites. Ray is going to provide the “web-in-a-box” for other LMSCs without websites. Web-in-a-box would be the sample website and specific instructions for items like obtaining a domain name
4. Places to Swim. Ray has led a subcommittee with Kim Crouch, Tracy Grilli, and Dan Cox that has made recommendations for revising the methods for collecting and displaying Places to Swim data on the USMS website. At the request of the Communications Committee, Mark Gill will present the Places to Swim recommendations to the Executive Committee.
5. Emails to members. The committee has forwarded a plan for providing bi-monthly email to members to Mark Gill. Mark will present the plan to the Executive Committee and Rob Butcher for implementation
6. Meet Events Database. Our contract with CRG Web Services to host the database was terminated in January with short notice, prompting Jim Matysek to host the database on the USMS website. Jim has restructured the database and written new GUI tools. Jeanne Seidler continues to coordinate uploading results. Her goal is to include results from all sanctioned and recognized meets in the database. For a meet to be recorded, the meet results must be in the format of the Hy-Tek backup, Hy-Tek *.cl2 or an SDIF file format. Several LMSCs voluntarily and spontaneously e-mail their results to the meetresults@usms.org mailbox as meets are run. The majority of results are obtained through individual efforts of following up on a one-by-one basis with e-mails to solicit the LMSCs for specific meets. The database currently includes over 800 meets and 700,000 splashes. The website tools allow individuals to track their times at <http://www.usms.org/comp/meets/resultstrack.php> or track performance by events at <http://www.usms.org/comp/meets/toptimes.php>. Additionally, Jim has incorporated the ability to look up your recent times when entering National Championships. Jim is also working on the ability to use the database as input for the top ten process.
7. The Newsletter of the Year award will be presented at convention. Carl Saxton led the selection committee that included Bonnie Coleman, Pete Palmer, Ray Novitske, Doug Garcia, and Randy Crutchfield. They reviewed nearly 300 hardcopy and online newsletters. Criteria included content, creativity, presentation, range of appeal, and consistency.
8. The June Krauser USMS Communications Award will be presented at convention. Hugh Moore led the selection committee that included Hill Carrow, Raena Latina, Chris McGiffin, and Bill Volckening.
9. Future direction of the committee. The committee has discussed potential future projects, including providing information and tools to LMSCs and clubs to aid webmasters and providing newsletter archives that could be shared by newsletter editors.

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Action items:

Mark Gill will present committee recommendations to the Executive Committee for providing periodic email to members, improving the content of the Places to Swim list on the USMS website, and sharing USMS Committee minutes among all committee chairs and vice chairs.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 12:45-2:00 pm

Kennesaw

1. Introduction
2. Future Direction of the Committee/Potential Projects
 - a. Provide resources for club and LMSC websites
 - b. Newsletter archive
3. Review of USMS Communication Plan
4. Email to Members
5. LMSC Websites
6. Places to Swim
7. Meet Events Database
8. Sanction Data Base/End to End Event Management
9. Calendar of Events
10. Rule Book
11. Awards
12. Tasks for upcoming year

FINANCE

Ralph Davis, Chair
Sarah Welch, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Thomas Boak, David Burgio, Joanie Campbell, Ross Davis, Elyce Dilworth, Phil Dodson, Betsy Durrant, Jeanne Ensign, Paul Griffin, Conrad Johnson, Lucy Johnson, Homer Lane, Fred Nelis, Anna Lea Roof, Ex Officio: Margaret Bayless, Ex Officio: Doug Church, Ex Officio: Jeff Moxie, Leo Letendre (VPNO)

Report and meeting agenda will be sent separately

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 12:45-2:00 pm

Fairlie

Friday, September 26th, 10:15 am-12:15 pm

Fairlie

Saturday, September 27th, 8:00-10:00 am

Fairlie

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FITNESS EDUCATION

Marcia Anziano, Chair

Linda Shoenberger, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Lee Carlson, Terry Sue Gault, Janet Latham, Susan Moucha, Greta Van Meeteren, Rhea Wilkins, Morgan Edwards, Jean Fox, Raena Latina, Donna Schubkegel, Michelle Ward, Theresa Wistrom, Mary Field, Ken Koppenhaver, Tom Mester, Mary Sweat, Joday Welborn.

Year in Review: During this past year, the focus has been on Go The Distance, Check Off Challenge, and monthly articles for the Web.

Linda Shoenberger has very successful in keeping fresh new articles on the web on a monthly basis. She has consistently had a new article for every month, not always achieved in prior years.

Go the Distance has continued to be a very successful program under the guidance of Mary Sweat. As of this report (July 9, 2008) there were 563 participants ranging in age from 20 to 91, largest age groups being 40 – 45, 45 – 49 (both groups have 93 participants), and the age group having swum the greatest distance is 50 – 54. Of significance, we have 283 participants from 2007 GTD (out of 364), 77%, returning for more fun this year.

The Check Off Challenge was hosted in 2008 by the Noblesville Adult Swim Team, NASTI, out of Noblesville Indiana. With the theme of “from the blocks to the wall, swim them all” and under the direction of Raena Latina, the event drew the largest number of participants in it’s history, with close to 500 participants.

A subcommittee was formed early in the year, consisting of Janet Latham, Mary Field, Tom Mester, and Lee Carlson to look at a possible third fitness event to add to the mix. At this point, it was decided to forego a third event in an effort to continue to focus on the two events that we currently support. Instead, we decided to support more group efforts in both the existing events, and will be looking at ways in which we can do this. It is felt that these events cover two very basic concepts for all swimmers, logging distance and trying new and different events in a stress free environment. We know from experience that it takes a long time for these to catch on, and now that they are both being met with more success, we want to focus on their continued growth.

FITNESS EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 10:30-11:30 am

Centennial I

1. Introduction of all members.
2. Wrap-UP of current programs for 2008
 - Check-Off challenge – Raena Latina
 - Go the Distance – Mary Sweat
3. Choose Sponsor for 2009 Check Off Challenge
4. Presentation on Maintenance of Go the Distance – Mary Sweat

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5. Final review of proposal to have USMS provide automated interface for GTD
6. Group Fitness Event – discussion of how to promote the team aspects of GTD and Check Off Challenge
7. Ideas on Web Articles for 2009 – Linda Shoenberger
8. Fitness Award

HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

Barbara Dunbar, Chair

Meegan Wilson, Vice Chair

Committee Members: John Bauman, Marcia Cleveland, Trisha Commons, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Paul Hutinger, Susan Nolte, Jennie (Catherine) Quill, Gail Roper, and Executive Liaison Julie Heather (VPLO)

Opening Paragraph:

The History & Archives (H&A) Committee has worked throughout the year to serve USMS and its members and to accomplish its mission of recording, collecting, archiving, and preserving USMS history and documents. Ongoing projects include locating and archiving documents, performing archive research and swimmer data verification, finding permanent identification (ID) number problems, and collecting, editing, and updating histories and stories of USMS swimmers.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. H&A is in the process of locating 45 old AAU Masters and USMS National Championship Results to convert for posting onto the USMS web site. The search included 1995 Long Course Meters results plus those prior to 1993. The 1995 results were located and scanned into a pdf file and have been uploaded by the webmaster. Ten of the pre-1993 results have been located, scanned, and submitted to the webmaster, but remain to be posted. Nine more results are in the process of being scanned, leaving 25 to be located and scanned for eventual posting.
2. H&A is searching for 30 Open Water/Long Distance/Postal National Championship Results from 1974 through 1991 for eventual posting onto the USMS website. Only one has been found thus far; 29 remain to be found.
3. Writing, editing, adding, and updating stories and oral histories is an ongoing routine that H&A performs during the year along with proofing of links and correcting no-longer valid or erroneous links. By mid year, 17 stories were added and 14 updated. Marcia's new excel stories template is most helpful. Once tools are provided, photos will be added and deceased swimmers will be noted. USMS members are encouraged to help H&A by writing and submitting stories, particularly of older swimmers who need to be interviewed while they are still alive.
4. The work to meticulously convert data from old 1986-1993 registration books into electronic format as well as any pre-1986 registration data continues to be performed by John Bauman. The pre-1994 registration data completed by John has been transmitted to USMS Database Administrator Esther Lyman. H&A continues to search for pre-1986 LMSC registration files to use for reconstruction and authentication of national registration files. To date, only a few LMSC annual or mid-year registration lists prior to 1986 have been obtained. More are needed.

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5. The permanent swimmer IDs are a critical part of maintaining accuracy and enabling access to USMS history, archives, and swimmer's achievements. On the USMS web site, swimmers are linked to top ten times, stories, awards, All American lists, swimmer information pages, etc., via their unique IDs. Permanent ID problems continue to be noted and include swimmers with duplicate, missing, incorrect, changed, or reassigned IDs in the USMS on-line database. These problems have resulted in swimmers "disappearing" or being incorrectly identified in top ten times lists, stories, awards, All American lists, swimmer information pages, etc. Changes, omissions, errors, and duplications in IDs cause big problems. The H&A Committee continues to identify permanent ID problems and discrepancies on the top ten lists, swimmer information pages, and in All American listings and to seek corrections. Requested corrections remain to be done. More timely web support is needed.
6. Twelve (12) story subjects, whose IDs were reassigned to other swimmers, "disappeared" from the swimmer story list as noted two years ago and have yet to reappear. The story subject's name does not appear on the story list and is replaced by the name of the swimmer who received subject's reassigned ID. H&A does not have the ability to fix this problem which requires updating of the USMS on-line database. Incorrect IDs result in invalid links within existing stories and cannot be fixed until the reassigned IDs are added to the on-line database.
7. Committee members continue to help identify and locate IDs for USMS members who have held national records or were honored as All American or All Star so that a massive data file created and maintained by Ginger Pierson for Records and Tabulation eventually can be converted and uploaded to the USMS web site.
8. Documents and lists of USMS historically significant people, events, etc. are being compiled and preserved in electronic format for archiving and for use by USMS entities, committees, and members.
9. Archive research tasks have been performed during the year.
10. There have been several discussions regarding overdue H&A Web Projects "in the pipeline" since 12/31/02.

HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA **Thursday, September 25th, 10:30-11:30 am** **Auburn**

1. Call History & Archive Meeting to Order Sept. 25, 2008, Thursday 10:45 – 11:45 AM
2. Roll Call - Barbara Dunbar, Meegan Wilson, John Bauman, Marcia Cleveland, Trisha Commons, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Paul Hutinger, Susan Nolte, Jennie (Catherine) Quill, Gail Roper, and Executive Liaison Julie Heather (VPLO)
3. Introduce and welcome new delegates.
4. Accept Minutes from Sept. 27, 2007 meeting.
5. Old Business: A review of tasks and projects from Sept. 2007 – Sept. 2008 can be found in the Annual Report.
6. Discuss policy issues
7. Discuss general committee focus for coming year.

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8. Discuss web projects. Determine timeline and priority of existing, uncompleted H&A Web Projects. Discuss need for better web support and more control over the content of H&A web pages.
9. Discuss a) missing or incorrect permanent IDs, b) incorrect links to Top Ten IDs, All American & All Star listings, stories, awards, and swimmer information, and c) possible solutions. Discuss procedures for timely correction/ update of swimmer IDs and links by the webmaster/web assistants.
10. Solicit, write, edit, and add swimmer stories and histories; add photos when tools are available; proof and update.
11. Locate old LMSC registration files to be used to reconstruct and verify the pre-1985 national registration files.
12. Request ideas for *USMS SWIMMER* “Splashback” historical section.
13. Locate the following 25 National Championship results, convert, & submit for uploading to USMS web site:
 - 1971 SCY Masters Nationals hosted by ASCA (sanctioned by AAU);
 - 1975 SCY, 1975 LCM, 1976 SCY, & 1976 LCM, 1977 SCY, 1977 LCM, 1978 SCY, 1978 LCM, 1979 SCY, 1979 LCM, 1980 SCY, 1980 LCM, & 1981 LCM US Masters National AAU Championships; and
 - 1982 SCY, 1982 LCM, 1983 SCY, 1983 LCM, 1984 LCM, 1985 SCY, 1985 LCM, 1986 LCM, 1987 LCM, 1988 LCM, & 1989 LCM USMS National Championships.
14. Locate the following 30 Open Water/Long Distance/Postal National Championship results:
 - 1974 AAU National Open Water (OW) Championships – Masters events: men 2-mile cable & women 1.5 mile cable, July 24-25, 1974, in Lake Placid, NY;
 - 1979 AAU National Open Water Championship – Masters 10 mile (marathon event), July 22, 1979, Seal Beach, CA (Huntington Beach to Seal Beach, CA);
 - 1980 AAU National Long Distance Championships – 2-mile event (¼ mi closed course straightaway cable), August 3, 1980, Lake Clare, Huntington, IN;
 - 1981 1/4-mile Straightaway (2-mile cable event), Huntington, IN; 1981 Open Water 3 miles - Seal Beach, CA; and 1981 Marathon (? 10 miles - ? Seal Beach, CA);
 - 1982 1/4-mile Straightaway (2-mile cable event), July 1982, Huntington, IN; 1982 One Mile Open Water (new event), December 1982, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 1982 Open Water 3 miles, July 1982, Seal Beach, CA;
 - 1982 Marathon 10 miles, July 1982, Seal Beach, CA;
 - 1983 1/4-mile Straightaway (2 mile cable event) July 16-17, 1983, Lake Clare, Huntington, IN, part of the 26th Annual Glen Hummer event hosted by Huntington YMCA, Huntington, IN;
 - 1983 USS/USMS National Long Distance Champs (3 mi open water) – July 17, 1983, Seal Beach, CA;
 - 1983 USS/USMS National LD Champs (Marathon Type, 10 miles) – July 17, 1983, Seal Beach, CA;
 - 1984 1/4-mile Straightaway (2 mi. cable), ?? where & when; 1984 Open Water (1.5-3 miles) ?? distance, ? 3 mile, July 15, 1984, Seal Beach, CA; 1984 Open Water (3.5-5 miles) ?? when & where; 1984 Team (approx. 6000 yd), ? cancelled, no bid; 1984 Marathon Type (>6 miles), ?? 10 miles – ?? July 15, 1984, 10 mile, Seal Beach, CA;

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1985 One Mile, Atsion Lake, New Jersey (Mid-Atlantic Masters?); 1985 Open Water (3.5-5 miles), 3.5 miles - Seal Beach, CA; 1985 Marathon Type (>6 miles), 10 miles - Seal Beach, CA; 1985 Team (approximately 6000 yards), University of Alabama (no evidence that it took place)
1986 One Mile, "Glen Hummer" in Indiana; 1986 1/4-mile Straightaway (2 mi. cable), "Glen Hummer," in Indiana;

1986 Open Water (1.5-3.0 miles), 3 miles - Seal Beach, CA; 1986 Marathon Type (>6 miles), 10 miles - Seal Beach, CA; 1986 Team (approximately 6000 yards), Midwestern Masters (see convention minutes 1985)

1987 One Mile, Bolsa Chica State Beach, CA;

1989 Open Water (>6 miles), 10 miles - Seal Beach, CA;

1991 Open Water (3.5-5.0 miles), 5 miles - San Pedro, CA;

15. Archives research tasks and other new business
16. Action Items
17. Announcements
18. Adjournment

INTERNATIONAL

Anthony Thompson, Chair

Wayne McCauley, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Peggy Buchannan, Hill Carrow, Laura Colette, Laszlo Eger, Mel Goldstein, Bill Grohe, June Krauser, Myriam Pero, Ex Officio: Jim Miller, MD, , Ex Officio: Nancy Ridout, Mark Gill (VPMS)

In 2008, the USMS International Committee met several times via telephone conference to work on the following projects:

- Updating the International Contacts on USMS Website Project
- Promoting International Events to USMS.
- Gathering information on International events (pool, postal and open water) to be posted on USMS website
- Draft policy for content to be posted on USMS website for International meets.
- Pamphlet on International Travel for USMS members
- Recommend 2 International NGB Guest to attend USMS Convention.
- Draft an international swimming article for FINA Magazine.
- Assist international swimmers at USMS LC Nationals.

In addition, we hosted a guest to one of our committee meetings, Jessica Seaton, USMS Liaison to IGLA to get a report on issues leading to the IGLA Championships which were held in Washington DC area as a USMS sanctioned meet.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 4:00-5:30 pm

Inman

1. Brief Introduction of committee and ex-officio members, as well as any international guest to USAS/USMS Convention.
2. Volunteer to take notes at meeting.
3. Brief Review of International Committee activities since 2007 USAS Convention
4. Updates on Tasks underway for the USMS International Committee:
 - a. Recommend 2 International NGB Guests to attend USMS Convention.
 - b. Draft policy for content to be posted on USMS website for International meets.
 - c. Updating the International Contacts on USMS Website Project
 - d. Gathering information on International events (pool, postal and open water) to be posted on USMS website
 - e. Promoting International Events to USMS.
 - f. Draft an international swimming article for FINA Magazine.
 - g. Assist international swimmers at USMS LC Nationals.
 - h. Pamphlet on International Travel for USMS members
5. Old Business – FINA World Record & Top Ten set at events sanctioned by USMS
6. New Business – FINA World Congress and joint work with USMS Rules to recommend FINA Rule changes

LEGISLATION

Sean Fitzgerald, Chair

Jennifer Parks , Vice Chair

Committee Members: Joan Alexander, Marcia Anziano, Daniel Cox, Barbara Delanois, Marilyn Fink, Marty Hendrick, Mary Hull, Arni Litt, Jane Masters, Chris McGriffin, Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Steve Peterson, Dick Pitman, Erin Sullivan, Meegan Wilson, Kathy Casey ex-officio, Susan Ehringer ex-officio, Leo Letendre ex-officio.

Opening paragraph:

2008 is an “off-year” for Legislation Amendments. Any 2008 legislation emergency amendment proposals considered by the House of Delegates can be found in another section of this handbook and on the USMS website. We anticipate a few emergency amendments to be proposed by standing committees at the Convention.

The primary focus of the Legislation committee is to review and recommend proposed amendments for the “dry rules” of USMS. We are also responsible for ensuring that our members understand our code. Understanding the legislation ensures that the business conducted is compliant with USMS regulations and bylaws.

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Discussions and projects since the last convention:

Since 2008 is an off year for Legislation, we have turned our attention to the LMSC Handbook. We have started to verify that the information in the Handbook matches the rulebook. We have had a couple instances this year where the Rulebook had one determination while the Handbook had a different interpretation. Our goal is to update the following sections and make sure they match the Rulebook.

- A. Registration
- B. Sanctions
- C. FOG – Financial Operating Guidelines
- D. Convention

Action items: The nature of the Legislation Committee does not lend itself to “Actionable” items outside of the convention. Emergency amendments will be handled at the 2008 Convention while other items will wait for the 2009 Convention.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA **Friday, September 26th, 10:15-11:15 am** **Centennial I**

1. Roll Call and Assignments
2. Introductory Comments
3. Proposed Legislative Amendments
 - a. Review of amendment criteria and voting procedures
 - b. Consideration and recommendation of proposed emergency amendments
4. LMSC Handbook updates
 - c. Registration
 - d. Sanctions
 - e. FOG
 - f. Convention

MARKETING **Chris McGiffin, Chair** **Tom Boyd, Vice Chair**

Committee Members: Andrea Block, Randy Crutchfield, Nadine Day, Christine Dos Santos, Doug Garcia (Ex Officio), Mark Gill (EC), Mel Goldstein (Ex Officio), Bill Grohe, Vicki Hill, Nancy Kirkpatrick-Reno, Laura Davis, Chris Lundie, Danielle Newton, Dave Oplinger, Lori Payne, Gerry Rodrigues, Dick Thomas, Stacey Van Horn.

Opening statement:

The primary focus of the Marketing Committee for this year was directed toward researching and refining the message and content USMS should use to target the external marketing segments

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identified by the 2006 USMS Member Survey reports. The objective is to develop specific marketing materials/programs that will inform potential members about USMS and promote the benefits and value of the USMS member experience. Once created, this targeted literature will serve to promote the organization and grow its membership. Significant progress was achieved by discussing and documenting the perceived needs of the target segments and the gaps that exist with currently available marketing collateral.

In addition to the efforts to develop new marketing tools, the committee reviewed its role or potential roles with some of the ongoing USMS taskforce initiatives: Club Development, Branding, and Corporate Partnership. The committee considered ways that it might be able to augment these initiatives, and in some cases, committee members are playing significant roles in the taskforce activity.

Finally, the committee decided to seek a way to collaborate with the LMSCs in order to enhance local efforts to promote USMS and grow membership. The goal of the committee is to form a partnership with LMSCs to share relevant ideas and expertise when presented with various marketing opportunities. The committee feels strongly that this relationship has the potential to benefit both local and national marketing strategies, and improve the overall effectiveness of the efforts to promote USMS and grow its membership.

We look forward to a) completing the new marketing collateral once the branding project concludes; b) where necessary, playing an active role in future Club Development and Corporate Partnership programs; and, c) working closely with the LMSCs to evolve and refine the USMS-LMSC marketing partnership program.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. No changes to the USMS Planner construction. Content changes may be considered, but no formal changes have been proposed.
2. Segment team research is expected to continue with more focus expected once the branding project concludes.
3. The committee will continue to be engaged with companion task forces, specifically Branding, Club Development, and Corporate Partnerships when applicable.
4. The Club in a Box program is also dependent on the results from Branding. The box materials will require attention, with an emphasis on professionally designed literature and tools to assist club development efforts.
5. The budget for Association Memberships has been consolidated. There will be a review of all external USMS affiliations by a Board of Directors appointed task force. The task force is expected to examine relationships with outside organizations and provide Marketing with strategic direction as to which associations we will partner with in 2009.
6. Efforts to assist with local LMSC marketing opportunities will proceed. The exchange of ideas and experience between USMS local and national marketing teams will continue to be pursued as a means to produce membership growth results.

Action items:

1. Plan for the completion of targeted segment literature
2. Plan for completion of Club In A Box
3. USMS-LMSC Marketing Partnership plans
4. Build the cases to budget for external affiliations/memberships
5. Assist task force initiatives when necessary.

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MARKETING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA Thursday, September 25th, 2:15-3:45 pm Roswell

1. Call to order
2. Review of 2008
3. Reports: TBD
4. Discussion of action items for 2008.
5. Old business
6. New business
7. Adjournment

OFFICIALS

Charles Cockrell, Chair
Ed Saltzman, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Pat Baker, Dave Diehl, Judy Gillies, Ted Haartz, Jan Kavadas, Paula Kelley, Mike Lemke, Charlie Kohknen, Leo Letendre (VP-National Operations), Fred Pigott, Paula Smith, Jim Sheehan (Ex-officio, USA-Swimming Officials Chair).

Opening paragraph:

The Officials Committee continued efforts to train and educate officials to strengthen officiating at USMS Championships and at the local level. We continued the practice of holding pre-meet and post-meet conference calls with Meet Referees and developed guidelines for officials briefings at National Championships. The committee is also maintaining a database of championship officials dating back to 2000, which should be a resource for Meet Directors in recruiting officials. We also revised the qualifications, roles, and responsibilities of the Meet Referee and Administrative Referee.

At the local level, we developed a draft of LMSC Minimum Officiating Standards, which will be finalized at the USMS Convention. The minimum officiating standards are designed to develop some consistent guidelines for LMSCs to use and deal with duties of the LMSC Officials Chair, Education of Meet Referees, and briefings for deck officials. The minimum standards were reviewed at a series of LMSC Workshops held via conference call throughout the year. 36 of the 52 LMSCs attended a workshop in 2008. The workshops will be held on an annual basis to improve communication with LMSCs and continue efforts towards consistency of officiating within USMS. Each LMSC has also been asked to submit an annual report on issues related to officiating within their LMSC and these will be compiled and presented at convention as a means of measuring our progress towards the objectives of our charter.

The committee is also working on a number of resources for LMSCs to use in officials training. These include presentations on officiating, rule books for all LMSC Officials Chairs, and training videos. A revised draft of USMS certification standards will be considered at convention. The new certification standards will provide an option for LMSCs to train and

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certify additional officials to supplement the pool of available officials from partner organizations.

Two officials committee members, Fred Pigott and Judy Gillies, served as deck officials at the FINA World Championships in Perth, Australia. Fred submitted a detailed report which will be used to improve our officiating practices at National Championships and to educate USMS swimmers on FINA rules interpretations and operations of FINA Championships.

Action items:

1. Finalize LMSC Minimum Officiating Standards
2. Finalize USMS Certification Standards

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Friday, September 26th, 11:15-12:15 pm

Greenbrier

1. Reports from 2008 USMS Championships and assignment of 2009 Liaisons.
2. LMSC Minimum Officiating Standards
3. Revised USMS Certification Standards
4. LMSC Training Resource Packages
5. Report from FINA World Championships and selection of FINA Officials.
6. Committee Organization and 2009 Projects

OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE

Marcia Cleveland, Chair

Ann Svenson, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Marcia Benjamin, Bob Bruce, Christie Ciraulo, Susan Ehringer (Ex-officio), Suzanne Heim-Bowen, Bruce Hopson, Susan Kirk, Leo Letendre (Ex-officio), Donn Livoni, Randy Nutt, Jennie Quill, Janet Renner, Dick Sidner, Tom Spence, Laura Winslow, Jill Wright, Robert Zeitner

Opening paragraph:

The Open Water/Long Distance Committee is an active committee year-round. We oversee a total of 11 annual USMS National Championships, with well-over 3000 USMS members participating. Frequent email correspondence is circulated among the committee members, and all are asked to be frequently involved. We have had 2 conference calls, in Nov 07 and Feb 08; much of our discussions are done electronically. The VP of National Operations, Leo Letendre, is helpful in keeping us up to date about what other committees are doing and being aware of our activity. Our committee has active ties with several other USMS committees: Rules, History & Archives, Officials, Championship, Fitness, & Legislation. Vice Chair Ann Svenson has taken a very active role in the committee's business and has become the Chair of the Postal Events due to the overwhelming work load generated by this committee. Ann's help, along with other

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committee notables Susan Kirk and Jennie Quill, have advanced the OW/LDC to yet another higher level to the benefit of all USMS members. Simply put, there is much more administrative, theoretical, planning, and PR work to do by our committee than one volunteer chair can possibly do. Because our committee has limited time to cover an extensive agenda at Convention, our subcommittee reports are included here within and will not be discussed during our Convention meetings. The goal of “growing open water” sparked several lively email discussions and conference call discussions. The most controversial of these inspired the cover article in the *May/June USMS Swimmer* and is sure to create some hot debates at convention: Whether or not to allow wetsuits at national championship swims. And there is the huge issue of the new tech-suits approved by FINA and their place in OW swims. Read on for these and many, many other items of discussion. If you have questions/comments on any of the items mentioned below, please contact either the Chair or Vice Chair of the OW/LDC.

Summary of Discussions, Projects, and New Ideas since the last convention:

1. USMS 25K National OW Championship Event

After 3 years of meticulous planning, the first USMS 25K National OW Championship is set to happen this month! USMS members had asked if putting together such an event was plausible and OW/LDC member Dick Sidner is making it happen. USA-S has dropped this distance from its schedule and USMS has picked it up, offering the solo distance and a relay opportunity (5 swimmers x 5K each). 45 soloists and 130 relay swimmers are registered. Dick is the poster child for excellence in conducting a USMS event. The venue we needed to consider for (potentially) a 10-hour race must be non-tidal and secure of boat traffic, not an easy combination to come by in the summertime. Dick selected Morse Reservoir in Noblesville, IN as a GPS-measured 5K loop course within home owners association. He has returned the \$1000 forwarded to him by USMS in Sept 2007 to use as seed money. Furthermore, with the superb help of his USMS team, NASTI, the NASTIs acquired a \$4000 grant from the local county simply by submitting a grant application. Dick secured all safety personnel (fire, police, EMTs, watercraft) for the full day, at no charge. He screened entry applications, issued regular updates to all competitors, coordinated housing and kayak arrangements, social functions, and local sponsors for this event, all while keeping his day job as an organ transplant researcher. It is a challenge to accurately express what a superb job Dick and his army of volunteers have done to create this inaugural event for USMS. Thank you Dick and all you NASTI friends!

Since this is such a daunting event to conduct, from both sides of the water, we plan to offer this event every 3 years in order to allow both our athletes and host facilities to properly prepare.

2. Standardized Forms

Susan Kirk and Ann Svenson continued to streamline the standardized forms. To date, USMS now has standardized forms for postal and open water events: entry forms, results, All-American standings, national record reporting and event evaluations. All forms were expanded to include space to capture USMS numbers and dates of birth to aid History & Archives in the future and the national office in mailing congratulations letters from the President to All Americans and certificates to record-breakers, All Stars and Postal Series participants. Postal relay entry forms were taken off page one and posted on the website to allow for this added information to be gathered. Split sheets were updated and posted on the website.

3. OHP Report

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Mel Goldstein and Indy SwimFit hosted the One Hour Postal using a new computer program that the OW/LD Committee hopes to be able to make available to all postal event hosts. More importantly, by being able to access the USMS National Database (NDB), results were compiled in an accurate, efficient manner. Thanks to the One Hour Postal event entry form running in Nov/Dec 2007 *USMS Swimmer*, the 2008 event drew 2215 individual participants and 192 relays. Mike Schaffer, 42, Ventura County Masters led all men swimmers with 5710 yds, and Susan Preston, 45, Stanford Masters, led the women with 5550 yds.

4. Use of NDB

USMS has given a few select members access to the National Data Base in order to make confirmation of event data more streamline and precise. Also, to keep up with our growing USMS History & Archives files, the expectations of NC results have increased to include USMS numbers and DOBs. In the long run, this is an excellent opportunity for USMS to keep better historical records but in the meantime we recognize the growing pains, especially for the event directors and are assisting them in any way we can.

5. Postal Series Participation

A. Participation in the USMS Postal Series more than doubled in 2007 with 57 swimmers putting together the full series of 5 events. All received patches they can proudly display.

B. USMS and Swim Across America are exploring an idea to include SAA support and contributions into our Postal Series, benefitting both organizations. This is a win-win situation but still in the developmental stage.

6. Postal Workshop offered at Convention

Because of the interest of the Postal events, we have designed a workshop at the 2008 Convention for interested USMS delegates. It will be held after our committee meeting on Saturday Sept 27. Check the final schedule for time and place. Mel Goldstein, 2008 OHP Event Director, and Ann Svenson, Chair of the Postal events, will present.

7. Our Committee Name

You trying saying it fast: Open Water and Long Distance Committee. A bit cumbersome on the tongue, huh? And what the heck does Long Distance cover? (How would Dara Torres qualify this?)

We have two avenues of renaming thoughts here:

- A. Open Water Committee (OWC)
- B. Open Water & Postal Committee (OW&PC).

Option A involves our committee being responsible for just Open Water events.

Option B involves our committee appointing 2 chairs: one for OW and one for Postal, with corresponding Vice Chair for each. The two chairs would have alternating terms, one following 2 years after the first. Since our committee expenses are minimal, we do not anticipate the additional coverage at Convention to be a financial burden to USMS.

8. Oh Where Oh Where do the Postal Events Go?

At the 2007 Convention, our committee was approached by the EC in hopes that the Postal branch of our group would be able to be taken under the guidance of the Championship Committee. We accepted this division with open arms (fins?) and immediately set the wheels in motion to make this happen. Much to our dismay, this transition did not occur in any sense aside from the creation of a "Postal Task Force", an entity which has yet to materialize and the need for its existence confounds this Chair. Around the turn of the year, in jumps the Fitness Committee Chair to express interest in taking over this high participation branch of USMS NCs. Not to her judgment lapse whatsoever, she was unaware of the volume of work involved, the

depth of knowledge necessary, and the history and competitive nature of these events. After some educational discussion, it was decided between the two chairs of the committees involved that Fitness, under its current definition, is not the correct place for the Postal events. The OW/LDC remains hopeful that the Championship Committee and EC will realize that the place where these Postal events would best serve our USMS membership is under the guidance of the (Pool) Championship Committee. An alternative solution, as previously proposed in this report, is to expand the role of the OW/LDC to include 2 chairs: one for OW and one for Postals.

9. Historical Progression of Postal Records Project

From Bob Bruce: In the fall of 2007, I volunteered to compile the list of the record progressions for the 5 & 10-km and the 3000 & 6000-yard Postal Championship events, with the ultimate intention of posting them on the USMS website in the Long Distance section. After consultation with Marcia on content and presentation details, I completed the drafts of this project in an Excel worksheet (in a form that easily converts to PDF format for posting) and submitted it in February 2008. These drafts included the individual and relay record progressions for these four postal events, as well as a checklist of issues which need to be resolved when I obtain specified additional information. I will continue to pursue these issues and the annual additions to this project. As I noted in the submission, this project highlighted beyond any doubt our need for standardized result forms.

I also volunteered for the record progression project for the 1 & 2-mile cable swims and to help with the entry of the One-Hour Swim record progression project into the desired format.

10. Historical Progression of Bids

Robert Zeitner has performed a historical task similar to that of Bob Bruce, for the LD bids, locales, and evaluations, noting declined bids so we may keep the full picture in mind when considering the annual bid process.

11. With Age comes Wisdom

We are actively seeking out a committee member who is most knowledgeable in the more senior age groups. Sometimes due to the youth and impulsiveness of many of us young committee members (read: 70 and younger), inadvertent slips are made, creating undue stress on those who need it the least. A seasoned member on our committee would be a major asset to any ongoing and/or future historical projects.

12. All Stars

2007 Long Distance All Star certificates were sent out by the national office and sponsor awards were mailed to the winners by new sponsor Finis. Each swimmer was sent an embroidered polo shirt. Thanks to Mel Goldstein for finding a sponsor.

13. All-Americans: Web Whereabouts

All American lists are posted at www.usms.org/comp/aa/indaa. In a perfect world, they will be separated into Individual and Relay listings; we're patiently waiting for such perfection.

14. LD Relay Record Holder Certificates

Tracy Grilli and the national office were extremely helped in issuing certificates to Long Distance Relay Recordholders as of 2007. Ideally, this committee would like to generate such certificates for all past LD record setters throughout each event. Using the historical work of Bob Bruce and others, we will be able to turn this into an eventual reality. Right now, however we're moving at 10K pace, not 50 free on this project so stay tuned.

15. Top Tab Menu Real Estate on USMS.org

The Open Water Committee, along with a substantial number of USMS members, believes that open water swimming can be the key to substantial growth of USMS. Every poll and survey in

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the sport of swimming supports this. With that in mind we feel that a larger open water presence on the home page of the USMS website is critical. Having asked for this presence for a number of years to no avail we feel that USMS need to put this as a priority and move on this as soon as possible. Randy Nutt is still working to obtain this top tab as it will be a superb MARKETING opportunity for USMS!

16. Web Updates

The online manuals, web information, and other materials are forever in need of watch dogging and updating. We appreciate most input from our USMS brethren so keep those informative correspondences coming.

17. Location, Location, Location

The OW/LDC is working with Mark Moore and the Championship committee to incorporate OW NC bids with SCY and LCM pool championships. May 2009 will be our first recent attempt at accomplishing this possibility. The last time it was done was in Minnesota in August 1993. As a result, our committee will have its event selection on Saturday at Convention, after the Pool championship sites have been selected on Friday.

18. Awards

This year the committee will authorize medals and championship patches bids and purchases for 2009 and 2010. The committee will authorize bids and purchases for the postal patch, because of the substantial jump in participants (in 2006, there were 25 and 2007, there were 57). This bid and purchase will likely be for 5 years, to take advantage of quantity price breaks. Five bid offers will be sent out this Fall for medals and for championship patches, and for postal patches, with a decision to be made by early January 2009, with shipment by mid- February 2009.

19. Championship Modifications

We have made some modifications in the due dates of our championship packet. Certain events, such as the smaller postals, will benefit from more timely due dates.

20. LMSC Involvement for OW and Postal Events

Contacting LMSC LD chairs to get them more involved in promoting races and increasing participation, including sanctioning of more OW events. A big question our committee often gets is, "Is it possible to work with local LMSCs to help educate folks at the grassroots level about what to do to conduct an OW event", especially, "What is the process to sanction and post an OW event, both locally and nationally?" And "Why can't our OW event be recognized like a pool event?" This "local education" is a beautiful suggestion. When our organization bridges from an all-volunteer operation to a professional one, we will be better able to realize such ideas.

21. Local OW/LD Records

We are working with developing the idea of getting LMSCs to maintain records for OW (cable only) and Postal events. By doing this, LMSCs are able to hand out more accolades (real or imaginary) to their members and hopefully enhance participation in their program. Everyone loves to see their name in print and on the record board so if the 50 free isn't your particular reality, maybe the Postal 10K is.

22. Local Postal Competition in your very own zip code

Some LMSCs and Zones have also promoted competition in the postal events, as is being done by the highly popular Fitness event, **Go the Distance**. This is a beautiful suggestion. When our organization bridges from an all-volunteer operation to a professional one, we will be better able to fulfill such ideas.

23. Evaluators at 2008 OW Events

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Our committee asked a few USMS veteran OW swimmers (who are not committee members) to assess certain events this year. Their assessments of these events were superb, prompt, and allowed USMS to have experienced eyes and ears when we were unable to have a physical presence. This practice will be continued in the future.

24. OW NC Event Issues:

- We are working closely with event directors to ensure that their questions are answered early on, so their races will be run in a safe smooth manner.
- Active.com solicited all 2008 OW national championship race directors. We need to work with them to ensure that they gather all necessary information that race directors need: correct and valid USMS numbers. Getting swimmers to mail in a copy of their USMS card has not been easy and even if swimmers show their card at event check-in, there is no guarantee that that information matches what was on the entry. Therefore...
- We have assigned one committee member who has access to the national database to help directors get missing information.
- We are developing a race director's evaluation form to help us better determine how we can help them host a successful race. It has been pointed out that our requirements make hosting a national championship more difficult, and we need to improve this aspect.

25. Swishing the Water around the Entire Tank, way beyond our little corner

Our committee continues to work with other knowledgeable organizations, groups, and individuals within the world of open water swimming. Connections come up all the time, especially through Randy Nutt and Marcia Cleveland, but also from members such as Janet Renner who lives in Hawaii and keeps us informed as to the doings of those (magnificent) waters. We do our utmost best to initiate and reciprocate communication because in our corner of the ocean, one fin washes the other.

26. Biting the Hand that Feeds Us

Our committee has heard (third-hand) that One-Event Registrations are being phased out due to the work it creates for local registrars. This is of concern to OW/LDC because in many large races, a large percentage of the total participants are OEVTs. We would like to explore other USMS registration options available for our OEVTs if this OEVT possibility is no longer available.

27. Rule Proposals for 2009

Pertinent sections of the Rule Book were assigned to different members of the committee to review and to propose possible rule changes. Because of the new Techo-Suits (Should we call them "Smart Suits?") and the possibility of including wetsuit competitors in our national championships, the proposed rules from our committee creates a massive list.

28. New Techo-Suits

A big issue starting in February 2008 for USMS has been those darn new techno-miracle suits. Kathy Casey, Chair of Rules, and yours truly spent a whole lot of time this spring hashing over what suits have FINA approval. Such approval always has a ripple effect over USA-S and USMS and this time the situation was no different. Our list of approved suits (Is it a Bathing Suit or a Wetsuit?) has changed many times over the past few months but we are now able to send both our pool and OW event directors updated lists so that they may correctly advise their event participants. This process, akin to *CSI Bathing Suit*, has been high-paced, fascinating, and educational; fortunately no dead bodies were discovered. This issue is an ever-evolving one and will always be part of our USMS equation. When we two chairs were asked to test one of the approved suits, this chair advised the all-male design team of the specific suit manufacturer that

they need to consider adding more fabric to the front of their women's suit as not all athletes sport a 32A bust line or less.

29. Do Real Swimmers Swim Naked?

Upon leaving Convention in 2007, our committee was charged with the task of growing participation in Open Water swimming (OWS). We have embraced this task wholeheartedly but because USMS is still a volunteer organization (and has not yet gone professional), we are bounded by certain parameters. To this end, our committee decided to allow wetsuit participants in our national championships (NCs) to have full competitive status within their category. This is a big step for USMS because we are allowing the standards of another great adult athletic organization, USA Triathlon, to play into our organization, one in which our purist participants wear only "standard" bathing suits in their events, (suits that are made of porous fabric, covering the body from the shoulders to the top of the legs, leaving the limbs exposed.) The rules we have proposed at this Convention are carefully worded with the nuances necessary to allow this wetsuit participation to occur, and the boundaries that need to be upheld for our non-wetsuit participants. The Chair of this committee has been interviewed in several arenas, taking much expected heat over this matter, without any relief in sight. Endearing terms such as "elitist" and the like have been used to describe our committee's stance. In light of the receipt of this willingness to accept wetsuit participants in our NCs, our Chair wonders if we should propose allowing motorized bicycles for the second leg of our sister sport. The OW/LDC is willing to take this risk of including swimmers wearing wet suits and sees the benefit of increased participation to more USMS members, expanding our safety precautions, and hoping to alleviate more cases of hypothermia, all as solid reasons to propose allowing wetsuit participants to be included in OW NCs.

Drawing upon some sage advice from Karen Burton Reeder, an ISHOF member, multiple-year FINA world-ranked OW swimmer, and one-time USMS OW/LDC member, this fellow purists brings some wise words to the table to consider. Please view her website US Open Water Swimming Connection Admin@usopenwaterswimming.org

How did the wet suit trend get started anyways?

Triathlon is the answer, of course. Wet suit use is prevalent in this sport. This wasn't always the case, as initially only the pros had wet suits. Due to the variable conditions and temperature fluctuations of open water, organizers and athletes started to get worried to the point that triathlon race directors across the country began to embrace the use of wet suits. They didn't want water temperature deciding the outcome of the competition or causing problems for their event. After all, the triathlon is more than just a swim. As more and more people began using wet suits, triathletes noticed their swims were significantly faster. It was easy to see that wet suits improved buoyancy and when swimmers had them on, they were faster. This eventually forced almost everyone competing in triathlons to purchase a wet suit because those without them were losing time to those who chose to use this competitive advantage.

Another reason triathlon organizers embraced the wet suit is because it lowered the bar for people who were not good swimmers; they would now consider competing in a triathlon because wet suits float them on top of the water. Thus wet suit use greatly increased participation and allowed triathlon organizers to have events where water temperatures are colder. Their rule now states that wet suits can be worn at temperatures 78 degrees and below. 78 degrees in open water is rather warm, so clearly it is not just about water temperature anymore, but helping unskilled swimmers feel more comfortable participating. USA Triathlon also had to develop

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special rules about where and how deep the water temperature needed to be taken because organizers were trying "find" a cold temperature so that the wet suits could be allowed.

Should open water swimming embrace this trend of everyone wearing a wet suit in an attempt to increase participation? Open water swimming and triathlon are completely different sports and USMS is faced with the decision, Should we align our rules with USA Triathlon for our Open Water Events? In open water only the swim itself is being contested. Water temperature, warm or cold is a part of that contest. A wet suit is a flotation aid which increases a swimmer's speed and makes it easier to swim in cold water. Historically open water has been about adapting to the conditions, waves, currents AND cold. I believe the current USMS rule stated below is a good one.

USMS 303.6.3—Wet suits may be allowed at the discretion of the meet director. Wet suits generally provide a competitive advantage. If awards are given to wet suit competitors they shall be awarded separately from those for non-wet suit competitors. Any published results or records must clearly indicate which swimmers wore wet suits.

This rule allows for events like the Pennock Island Challenge in Ketchikan, Alaska to allow wet suits for their event because the water temperature is usually 58 -- 61 degrees, very difficult for most open water swimmers, though a handful of athletes compete in just a swim suit. At the same time, a swim in 72 degree water, does not have to allow wet suits since it is fairly mild temperature which most swimmers can adapt to easily with some training. Why not encourage new open water swimmers to go without their wet suit in warmer temperatures? Encourage Event Directors to offer a special door prize available only to athletes participating in their first open water swim, or their first event without a wet suit.

The most famous and visible open water events, the Olympics and the English Channel, do not allow wet suits because their governing organizations realize that one aspect of open water swimming is adapting to and overcoming the conditions. National Open Water Championships should be a premier event for our sport contesting all aspects, including water temperature. Let's encourage people to embrace all the challenges of open water swimming.

30. Membership in the OW/LDC

If you are interested in being a part of an active committee that moves and shakes please consider the OWLDC. All members have a say but are expected to contribute at a high level. The current chair is energetic, involved, and knowledgeable but is also simply a volunteer to this organization. It's always a wild, unpredictable ride with waves and currents pushing us in all different directions.

Action items & Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

1. Prepare 2010 Bids for selection at Convention
2. Continue to monitor the on-going national championships: 5-10K Postal, 3-6000 Yard Postal, the 5K OW in Bend, OR, and the 2.4 m. OW in Madison, WI.
3. Wrap up national championships that have occurred to date.
4. Proof 2009 OW/LDC National Championship entries.
5. Study our USMS Rule Books inside and out.
6. Make sure our OWC gift t-shirts are clean and packed for Convention.
7. Watch the Olympics on TV, especially the Open Water 10K on 081908 and 082008; replace batteries in remote before 080808.

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OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 4:00-5:30 pm

Centennial III

Saturday, September 27th, 8:00-10:00 am

Hanover F

1st meeting

1. Attendance
2. Approval of amended Minutes from Sept. 2007 meeting and written reports included in 2008 Annual Report.
3. Remarks by the Chair and Vice Chair
4. Assignment of evaluators for 2009 events.
5. Reports:

Dick Sidner: Open Water 25K Event

- Using the whole playing field of the community

All Other Reports are contained within the Annual Report and will not be discussed here.

6. Review of 2010 championship bids.
7. Discussion of Rules For Submission to HOD (as time permits).

Old business:

8. Those new high tech suits! Where can they be worn? FINA, USA-Sw, & USMS Rulings
9. Continued Ideas for growing the Postal Series Events – Tie-in with SAA?
10. Continuing to work with Officiating at OW Events - Examples of OW “legal” swimming. What constitutes an infraction?

New business:

11. The future of the OWLDC committee as a cohesive unit:
 - Committee Name needs to be clearer and shorter
 - The need for two Chairs for this one Committee
 - Necessary restructuring involved
12. Future options: Merge with Championship or Fitness?
13. Travel Expenses for USMS Evaluators
14. On-line entries and the race day precautions necessary for liability coverage
15. Other items?

2nd meeting

1. Attendance
2. Remarks by the Chair and Vice Chair
3. Selection of 2010 championship bids.
4. Continued discussion of Rules For Submission to HOD.
5. Finish up any business held over from the first meeting.
6. Committee “Team Photo”
7. Motion to adjourn until 2009

PUBLICATIONS MANAGEMENT

Heather Hagadorn, Chair

Lynn Hazlewood, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Christine dos Santos, Jeanne Ensign, Allen Highnote, Raena Latina, Ray Novitske, Ex officio: Mark Gill, Ex officio: Jim Matysek, Ex officio: Meg Smath, Ex officio: Bill Volckening

Opening Paragraph:

The Publications Management Committee manages all USMS publishing activities and sets publishing policy. The Committee develops and maintains or promotes the development and maintenance of publications that a) support USMS's values and operating principles, b) provide benefits and information services for all USMS members, c) provide viable marketing tools, where appropriate, d) provide an income source for USMS, where possible and e) employ the most current industry standards for design, style, editorial content and usability, where appropriate. The committee establishes working relationships with and supports the volunteer and professional staff developing USMS publications, including the publishers of the USMS national publication, web operations personnel, committees that publish information for USMS and National Office personnel.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. The Publications Management Committee began monthly meetings in January, 2008. We generally meet the first Monday of every month.
2. The committee keeps in touch and keeps all members informed through monthly meetings. Minutes are taken and are shared with all committee members.
3. A mission, objectives and goals document was updated and used for guiding our direction throughout the year.
4. USMS SWIMMER Management: Management of USMS SWIMMER magazine is accomplished by the professionals engaged by USMS – Bill Volckening (USMS Editor) and Douglas Murphy Communications (DMC). The committee executes oversight of the editorial process via reports from Bill Volckening at the monthly meetings.
 - In June, Mark Gill, Heather Hagadorn, Lynn Hazlewood and Bill Volckening participated in an annual planning meeting with DMC executives in Richmond, VA. At that meeting, we finalized the editorial content of the 2009 magazines, and also determined methods to facilitate timely production of the magazine itself.
 - The committee has assumed the responsibility of taking over the contract management to closer manage budget and align communications with the USMS EC.
 - The committee has also recently taken on the responsibility of communicating specific due dates to LMSCs who rely on the magazine for the delivery of their newsletters.
 - A new email address was established for all committee questions related to the magazine: usmsswimmer@usms.org
5. Web Content Update Management: Ray Novitske is responsible for seeing that web content is kept current and timely. The Webmaster and the rest of the committee are kept informed and offer input into the process during monthly meetings.
 - The committee is exploring methods to enhance web content with the quality of magazine articles. The first regularly scheduled magazine quality article is planned to begin

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appearing around the September/October timeframe, and will appear in the SWIMMER portion of the USMS site, at www.usmsswimmer.com

- The committee recognizes the need to make more information available in electronic means, and we are planning several changes in 2009.
6. USMS Survey – to ensure we are meeting the needs of our membership, the committee is planning to conduct a new survey, to include questions related to SWIMMER and the Web.

PUBLICATIONS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 4:00-5:30 pm

Fairlie

1. Mag/Web Survey – planning, key points to target (Christine, Allen)
2. Web Content Management – proposal for 2008/2009 (Ray)
3. Magazine – 2009 schedule, 2009 overview (Bill)
4. Magazine – House Ads (Allen)
5. Publications Management Policies – Review and Update (Group)

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

Sally Dillon, Chair

Hill Carrow, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Marianne Bradley, Hill Carrow, Kelly Crandell, Sally Dillon, Dan Gruender, Edie Gruender, Margie Hutinger, Graham Johnston, Walt Reid, Joan Smith, Richard Smith, Bill Tingley, Julie Heather (VP Liaison)

Recently, Sally Dillon has assumed the chairmanship of the Recognition & Awards Committee due to my excessive travel and constant physical relocation for my profession. Contact information will need to be updated for award submissions as the year comes to an end. We have also welcomed a very deserving new Ransom Arthur inductee, Barry Fasbender. Many nominations have come in regarding the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award. The Club of the Year nomination form has undergone a drastic change. The USMS Nominee for ISHOF had been submitted for this year, and the R&A Committee has representation on the IMSHOF selection committee. Newly recognized people are constantly being added to the website, as well as previous recipients' information is updated.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. The committee updated the Awards web site, and will continue to update the awards site.
2. Walt Reid made contact with Bob Dunkel of the IMSHOF to find out how/who to nominate for various categories. This year's nominee was Jim McConica for induction into the IMSHOF as an honorary contributor.
3. Sally Dillon headed the subcommittee for developing an effective Club of the Year nomination form, with assistance from Marianne Bradley and Margie Hutinger.
4. Nominations for the Club of the Year are being collected.

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5. The committee conducted the nomination process for the Ransom J. Arthur Award and selected the winner. This year's outstanding recipient was Barry Fasbender.
6. A subcommittee consisting of Rob Copeland, Hill Carrow, and Sally Dillon will review nominations for the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award and present the awards to the winners at convention.

Action items:

1. Barry Fasbender was selected as the 2008 Ransom J. Arthur Award winner and was presented the award at the 2008 USMS Short Course Yard Nationals held in Austin, Texas.
2. Jim McConica selected as the USMS candidate for the Contributor Category in IMSHOF.
3. Revised the Club of the Year Award application form.
4. Nominations have been solicited for the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award. The winners will be announced at convention.
5. Nominations have been solicited for the Club of the Year Award. The winner will be announced at convention.

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 2:15-3:45 pm

Courtland

1. Introductions
2. Ransom Arthur pin presentation
3. Budget review
4. ISHOF & IMSHOF report
5. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award report
6. Club of the Year Award report
7. Other business

RECORDS AND TABULATIONS COMMITTEE

Ed Tsuzuki, Chair

Mary Sweat, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Will Amos, Vicki Buccino, Cav Cavanaugh, Barbara Dunbar, Laszlo Eger, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Julie Heather, Bruce Hopson, Ginger Pierson, Walt Reid, Jeanne Seidler, Chris Stevenson, Joy Stover, Mary Sweat, Ed Tsuzuki, Karen Tucker, Mary Beth Windrath

Opening Paragraph:

The Records and Tabulation Committee continues in its primary role of tabulating and verifying the top ten competitive swims, by USMS registered swimmers, in all courses. The committee also continues to track and maintain pool All-Americans and USMS national records. The committee is very closely aligned with the End-to-end Event Management Task Force, which will provide complete process oversight of USMS events (meets) from sanction/recognition to

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publication of meet results (and therefore, inclusion of all official times and identification of records). To this end, the work of the committee is currently working with Jim Matysek, IT Director, on the development of web-based tools intended to:

- Simplify and automate (as much as possible) the work of the top ten recorder
- Improve the accuracy and completeness of the tabulation
- Provide enhanced visibility of the process and results to the USMS swimmer
- Expand the inclusion to all USMS swims

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. Two formal positions have been established on the committee:
 - a. National Swims Administrator – Mary Beth Windrath continues to tabulate and publish the national top ten swims for all courses. Mary Sweat assists Mary Beth in this effort. Ed Tsuzuki manages the top ten data on www.usms.org.
 - b. USMS Records Administrator – Walt Reid continues to manage the entire records application and maintenance processes
2. Committee roles and responsibilities have been documented.
3. All top ten tabulations for 2007-2008 completed and published (hard copy and on the web) on time. NQT data provided to Championship Committee.
4. The 2007 All-Americans/All-Stars tabulation has been prepared and provided to the National Office and Swimmer magazine. Relay All-Americans have been tabulated and distributed to committee, LMSCs and clubs. Ginger Pierson continues to handle Relay All-American patch and certificate requests.
5. World and USMS records have been processed and managed by Walt Reid, as required.
6. An online “Records and Tabulation Knowledge Center” has been created with links to relevant procedures, forms, documents, and Committee information. It can be found at <http://www.njmasters.org/RecordsandTabDB/recordstabdb.html> and it is available for anyone to access it.
7. Key projects:
 - a. Top Ten Submission deadlines – Created tracking and follow-up process to ensure 100% on-time file submissions
 - b. Pool length data base – Walt Reid is maintaining a data base of pools that have been measured, which is available through the Knowledge Center
 - c. Top Ten archives – Working with Jim Matysek to get the Top Ten swims from 1972 through 2003 identified (swimmer IDs) and published on line
 - d. Records chronology – Working with Jim Matysek to provide chronology of USMS records, building off of the records data base that Ginger Pierson has been maintaining
 - e. End-to-end event management – Working with the end-to-end event management task force to test and validate web-based meet results tools to provide automation to the publication of all meet results and the creation of the LMSC top ten files to support the national top ten tabulation. Sub-committee established to spearhead this effort (Ed, Mary Beth, Mary, and Jim Matysek)

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

RECORDS AND TABULATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA Thursday, September 25th, 4:00-5:30 pm Courtland

1. Introductions and agenda review
2. “End-to-end event management” discussion of integration of top ten process
 - a. Review of on-line tool development to date
 - b. Review of test case and exception handling scenarios
 - c. Prioritization of additional on-line tool requirements
 - d. Change management plan for LMSC Top Ten Recorders
3. Other projects status reviews (as time permits)
 - a. Knowledge center voice-of-customer
 - b. Top ten submission deadlines
 - c. Pool length data base
 - d. Top Ten archives
 - e. Records chronology

REGISTRATION George Simon, Chair Arni Litt, Vice Chair

Committee Members: William Bearden, Paige Buehler, Susan Ehringer, Chris Powers, Nancy Ridout, Anna Lea Roof, Marilyn Fink, Nancy Ridout, Jeff Roddin, Donna Schubkegel, Jeff Roddin, Associate Member Greg Webber Ex-officio members: Tracy Grilli, Esther Lyman, Julie Heather, and Leo Letendre

Opening paragraph:

The Registration Committee shall develop effective policies and procedures for registering members. Committee members shall assist LMSC registrars and communicate current policies and procedures. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and one member from each zone, and one member-at-large.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. On Line Registration – Registrar and Swimmer Interface implemented, registrar interface operational early November, swimmer interface operational late January
2. User guide for registrar’s use available via website
3. Committee recommended conversion to full membership from One Event Registrations be accepted throughout year instead of just a 30 day window
4. Committee recommended that for 2009 it not be mandatory for registrars to mail a registration card to each swimmer who registers online, to allow them to request a mailed copy in addition to an electronic copy
5. Progress on a rolling membership has been slow, would need to have a task force between many different committees

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Action items:

1. Need to get a registration test system operational in order to test discounted and late year 2008 year registrations and 2009 new and renewal registrations. The process for these registrations must be tested and verified prior to September 1st cut over date – committee members to test once available test system in place.
2. Need to get list of corrections for current registration application to vendor when test system is in place. The corrections and suggested usability enhancements will be tested by committee members.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 12:45-2:00 pm

Centennial III

1. Policy for additional logins for personnel other than registrars.
2. One Event Registration process defined since not implemented via online application.
3. Define club official's direct input of swimmer registrations requirements. This is being done in an ad-hoc method and tracking of waiver statement signatures is not available.
4. Enhance and assign duties for developing educational information for our registrars.
5. Policy on reuse of club abbreviations.
6. Find or make a new policy on position of workout group information on USMS card.
7. Action on any changes made by other committees that affect registration policies.
8. Status of Online Registration.
9. E-mail renewal process
10. On-Line club registration

RULES

Kathrine Casey, Chair

Lianne Crittenden, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Carolyn Boak, Peggy Buchanan, Kathrine Casey, Lianne Crittenden, David Diehl, Sally Ann Dillon, Barry Fasbender, Judy Gilles, Laura Kessler, Cathy Kohn, June Krauser, Cody Rasmussen, Sandi Rousseau, Jessica Seaton, Frank (Skip) Thompson, William Tingley, Kris Wingenroth; Charlie Cockrell (Ex-officio), Susan Ehringer (Ex-officio), Sean Fitzgerald (Ex-officio), Leo Letendre (Ex-officio), Bruce Stratton (Ex-officio)

Opening paragraph:

This is a rules year, so proposed changes to the Glossary and Part 1 are being considered by the Committee for recommendation to the House of Delegates at Convention. Proposed changes recommended by the Committee require a majority vote of the House of Delegates to pass. Proposed changes not recommended by the Committee require a two-thirds vote to pass. The Committee will also make recommendations to the delegates on amendments approved by USA Swimming. There are twelve USA-S proposed amendments that could impact USMS rules.

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Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. Proofread the rule book for 2008 publication.
2. Updated the Differences documents for Appendix B in the 2008 rule book.
3. Updated the Convention section of the LMSC Handbook.
4. Answered all questions about rules including the following:
 - A. Timing; automatic timing, three semiautomatic buttons, or three watches are required for USMS and FINA records.
 - B. Wrist watches; a wrist watch itself is not a pacing device, unless the referee determines that an athlete is using the wrist watch as a pacing device.
 - C. New swim suits; USMS follows FINA approvals and rejections of new swimwear (see action below).
 - D. Backstroke turn; a swimmer can turn past vertical and, in a continuous motion, grab the wall before pushing off with the feet while on the back (do an open turn), 101.4.3.
 - E. Breaststroke kick; breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed as long as it is not followed by a downward butterfly/dolphin kick (except for the butterfly/dolphin kick that is allowed after the start and each turn, 101.2.3).
5. Published a “Rules Corner” column that addresses the most frequently asked questions about rules in *Streamlines*, posted them on the USMS Discussion Forum, and sent them to USMS SWIMMER magazine and the Coaches Committee.
6. Discussed distribution dates of rule book and effective date of new rules.
7. Conferred with FINA Masters Technical Committee and Head Referee for the FINA World Masters Championships in Perth to determine that rule interpretations would be as expected for USMS swimmers.
8. Reviewed and compared sections of Articles 101, 102, 103, and 108 with the corresponding sections of the USA-S rule book upon which those USMS rules are based, reviewed the remaining sections of Part 1 and the Glossary, compared Article 104 to the Meet Director’s Guide and the Meet Contract (for national championship meets), and submitted index additions and errors to the Rule Book Coordinator. The following committees were included in the review work: Officials, Article 103; Championship, Article 104; and Records and Tabulation, Article 105.
9. Assigned Rules Liaisons to National Championship meets, LMSCs, and Zones to assist with rules questions and rules interpretations on site at meets.
10. Clarified that splits from National Championship meets may automatically be considered as official times if so desired by the meet host and only if:
 - A. The technology is available to: search all legitimate splits, except those from individual backstroke events and DQs, for national records and produce those split times from the national championship meet in top ten format separate from that produced from the official results.
 - B. The officials agree to watch all relays for second swimmers starting in the water.
 - C. A written request for all splits for all swimmers except for individual backstroke events is submitted.Note that backstroke splits will be generated from individual events only if the swimmer has submitted an individual written request for such a split so officials can verify that there is a legal finish at the initial distance requested.

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11. Continued collaboration with USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee: USA Swimming and USMS insurance companies are working on an agreement regarding combined meets (dual sanction). The chair attended the USA Swimming Rules & Regulations Committee meeting in May.
12. Submitted corrections of the USMS rules included in the “Our Kids Initiative” comparison of rules of all swimming governing bodies.
13. Assisted LMSCs and committees with proposed rule changes.

Action items:

The Committee approved the following policy regarding new swim suits: FINA approval or rejection of new swimwear will be accepted by USMS.

RULES COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA **Thursday, September 25th, 10:30-11:30 am** **Hanover D**

Meeting #1

1. Consider proposed amendments to the rules and make recommendations to the House of Delegates.
2. Present the 2009 budget and report 2008 expenditures.
3. Review policy for disability cases.
4. Report on proposed dual sanction agreement.
5. Review proposed tasks for 2009.
 - A. Proofread rule book for publication
 - B. Update Differences documents and LMSC Handbook, Convention section
 - C. Review legislation
 - D. Review FINA rules
 - E. Situations manual or data base of frequently asked rules questions and/or common rules problems
 - F. History of proposed rule changes

Friday, September 26th, 9:15-10:00 am **Centennial I**

Meeting #2

1. Consideration of proposed rule changes for recommendation to the House of Delegates including input from delegates (meeting is unopposed by other meetings).

Saturday, September 27th, 8:00-10:00 am **Hanover B**

Meeting #3

1. Further consideration of proposed rule changes for recommendation to the House of Delegates.
2. Tasks for 2009.

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

Meeting #4, Saturday, September 29th, time to be announced during the House of Delegates meeting

1. Consider USA Swimming amendments as approved by the USA-S House of Delegates and make recommendations to the USMS House of Delegates.

SPORTS MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

Jane Moore, Chair

Jessica Seaton, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Jean Fox, Suzi Green, Michael Heather, Jane Katz, Laura Kessler, Jim Miller, MD, Ed Nessel, Joel Stager, Jody Welborn

Opening paragraph:

The committee has worked to educate members and the public on topics of sports medicine and science and to stimulate and encourage research related to Masters swimming.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. Health Network: Jane Moore obtained the database of volunteers for the Health Network from Jody Welborn. The network was used effectively to answer questions from swimmers for the Healthy Swimmer section of USMS Swimmer magazine. Short articles were also submitted to be posted in the magazine area of the web site. The committee will work to expand and continue work of the network.
2. Sports Medicine Lectures: Laura Kessler arranged sports medicine lectures for Long Course Nationals and for the 2008 Convention. The committee will continue to arrange lectures for national events.
3. Stimulate Research: The committee continues its efforts to increase awareness of the availability of grants for scientific research related to Masters swimming. Jessica Seaton contacted the American College of Sports Medicine about publicizing grants.
4. Grant applications submitted to the endowment fund were reviewed by the committee.

Action items:

1. A budget item will be submitted to cover travel expenses and honoraria for speakers who lecture at national events. Travel expenses will be covered only if the speaker would not otherwise attend the event.

SPORTS MEDICINE AND SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 2:15-3:45 pm

Centennial III

1. Introductions
2. Health Network & USMS Swimmer
3. Sports Medicine Lecture series
4. Research issues

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- a. Stimulation of research
- b. Grant applications
- 5. Pertinent rules proposals
- 6. Goals for 2008-2009
- 7. Other business

ZONE

Julie Heather, Chair

Committee Members: Anthony Thompson, Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Debbie Cavanaugh, Mike Lemke, Jane Moore, Leianne Crittenden, Jill Gellatly, Mary Hull

Opening paragraph:

Elections for USMS At-large Director positions are proceeding as planned. Six of eight current directors have elected to run again for a second term. Nominations have been received for both open director positions.

We continue to have problems with LMSCs not turning in annual meeting minutes and financial reports. There are also several LMSCs that have not cashed checks sent by USMS for the LMSC share of online registrations. The Zone Representatives are continuing to work with these LMSCs on compliance.

We provided financial support for convention expenses last year for several delegates from traditionally under-represented LMSCs. We will continue this project.

We will continue our very popular workshop series, with one evening focusing on LSMC growth and support, and the Saturday morning workshops focusing on position related tasks (e.g., registration, chairmen, top ten, etc.).

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

The Zone Committee has submitted two legislation proposals, and many housekeeping changes that need to be made to Appendix D

Action items:

- 1. Update the State of the LMSCs report
- 2. Run elections for USMS At-large Director positions
- 3. Ensure that LSMCs have completed required annual minute and financial report submissions
- 4. Ensure that the LMSC registrar and treasurer are not the same person
- 5. Ensure that LMSC funds are no commingled with club funds
- 6. Election Operating Guidelines: separate policy from procedures

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

ZONE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA **Saturday, September 27th, 8:00-8:45 am** **Edgewood**

1. Call to order, take roll, introductions
2. Approval of minutes of last conference call
3. Convention grants report
4. Elections
 - a. Status of current year elections
 - b. Executive Committee elections for 2009
 - c. Discuss if any changes are needed to EOG
5. Zone Committee Legislation proposals
 - a. Club registration
 - b. Appendix D oversight
 - c. Appendix D housekeeping
6. Discussion of legislation proposals that impact the zone committee
7. Decide on work plan for coming year
 - a. LMSC support
 - b. Election Operating Guidelines
 - c. Other
8. New Business
 - a. LMSC minimum competency, where do we want to go with this?
 - b. Other
9. Schedule next conference call
10. Adjournment

BREADBASKET ZONE

Anthony Thompson, Zone Representative

All the Breadbasket LMSC successfully began enrolling new members on-line in 2008. South Dakota may have seen a surge of membership due to the new on-line system, but it may also be due to other factors like workout groups that require insurance.

Colorado hosted Zone Championship on 28-30-March-2008 in Denver. In addition, COMSA hold 9 sanctioned events including a LCM event and an open water event.

Nebraska hosted USMS swimmers for workouts during the Olympic Trails in Omaha.

Ozark had new club form, so St Louis Area Masters (SLAM) is joined by the new club of Clayton-Shaw Park (CSP) Masters. Ozark and its clubs hosted 6 events in 2007-8 season, including their open water event in Potosi and LCM meet in Carbondale IL.

Missouri Valley (MOVY) moved website from previous host to USMS. The newly named MOVY Masters hosted 5 sanctioned events, including the popular all-relay meet.

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Iowa hosted at least 3 sanctioned event. The flooding in Iowa damped the swim season.

Minnesota hosted 7 sanction events including 2 open water swims.

South and North Dakota has little activity in 2007-8 season.

BREADBASKET ZONE MEETING AGENDA **Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am** **Piedmont**

1. Introductions of Delegates and Volunteer to Take Minutes
2. Nominations for USMS BOD "At Large" Breadbasket
3. Nominations for Breadbasket Zone Rep to USMS Zone Cmte
4. Report from USMS BOD "At Large" Breadbasket
5. Report from Breadbasket Zone Rep to USMS Zone Cmte
6. Breadbasket Zone Championship Report 2008

COSMA

7. Breadbasket Zone Championship Planning toward 2009
Missouri Valley
8. Old Business
9. New Business

COLONIES ZONE **Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Zone Representative**

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. 2007 SCM Zone Championship held December 7-9, 2007, hosted by Rutgers University
2. 2008 SCY Zone Championship held April 11-13, 2008, hosted by George Mason University Patriot Masters
3. Zone meeting held April 12, 2008
4. Bid solicitation for 2009 Zone Championship Meets (all 3 courses); bids due 8/31/08
5. Solicitation for nominations from all LMSCs for Colonies Dot Award (nominations due 8/15/08)

Action items:

1. Committee to review nominations for Colonies Dot Award
2. 2009 Zone Championship bid collection and distribution for review
3. Development of vice-chair position description

COLONIES ZONE MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am
Roswell

1. Introductions
2. BOD nominations/approval
3. Approval of April 2008 meeting minutes
4. Presentation of 2008 Zone Dot Award
5. 2009 Zone Championship bids
6. New business
7. Adjourn

DIXIE ZONE
Debbie Cavanaugh, Zone Representative

Opening paragraph:

The Dixie Zone would like to extend a warm welcome to our new USMS Executive Director.

In the competition pool, our Zone meets have been getting great reviews. Kudos to Clearwater and Greenville.

Zone records, National Records & World records have been broken this past year. Congratulations to all. Open Water & fitness events seem to be catching on. The Florida and Florida Gold Coast LMSC's had the first LMSC Challenge in open water with Florida Gold Coast LMSC winning. Thanks to Dick Brewer for organizing this event.

Since convention, the LMSC chairs have had a conference call where the discussion was how to promote our Zone meets, following protocol at the local level, newsletters hard copy vs electronic, and do you pay your registrar and if so how much? The minutes from this call can be found on the DZ web site.

This is an At-Large Director election year. Jerry Clark is our current director and is running again.

As always a big THANK YOU!!! Without the commitment from our clubs, coaches, LMSC's & volunteers none of this would be possible. Special Thanks to Ed Saltzman our record keeper, Dick Brewer our web master, Andy Dyer our zone top ten, & Barb Protzman our newsletter editor. Tremendous job by all of you!!!

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DIXIE ZONE MEETING AGENDA **Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am** **Vining**

1. Introductions
2. Financial Report
3. Election
4. Newsletter
5. Top Ten Times
6. Records
7. Virtual Championship
8. Zone Meets
9. Top Ten Patches
10. 2008 Calendar of Zone Meets
11. New Business
12. Discussion of "Hot" Convention Topics
13. Adjourn

GREAT LAKES ZONE **Mike Lemke, Zone Representative**

LMSC NEWS

Michigan

- 1 our registration was back up over 600 (07 it was 524)
- 2 we did our first on line registration for our State Meet 60+% did on line
- 3 Ralph Davis was elected to be Mi next president
- 4 We will award at least one \$1000 scholarship for the fall semester from our college education fund
- 5 the meet schedule (long course, short course meters, yards) expanded to 13 swim meets + our State meet + nationals- invitationals
- 6 with membership up we have recorded additional "swim groups" in areas not previously participating in masters swimming.

Lake Erie news

We are very proud to announce that our LMSC has expanded its number of clubs from the usual one or two to FOUR!. Our LMSC has had a long history of having the majority of its members belong to one club.

We held a variety of events this year in our LMSC. We held five pool events (hosts were two different clubs and the LMSC itself) and one open water event. We joined with the Ohio LMSC to host the Ohio State Masters Championships.

Ohio news

- 1) The Ohio LMSC has seen a 20.2% increase in its member registration from last year.
- 2) We successfully implemented a grant program for our USMS coaches to attend the ASCA world clinic every year. In return the selected coaches will provide several clinics throughout the

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

year and offer them to the entire LMSC. 3 clinics were hosted since the last convention with great success.

3) Sanctioned 7 pool events and 2 open water events.

4) Increased USMS registration by \$3 last year and will increase another \$2 next year.

5) Will no longer offer OEVTs (one event registrations) since they were rarely used and when they were used, they were always done wrong.

GREAT LAKES ZONE MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am

Greenbrier

1. Introductions
2. LMSC reports
3. Old Business –
4. New Business
5. 2009 Calendar of Zone Meets
6. Survey to make sure all LMSC's have bylaws, grievance procedures, and are up to date with financial reports to National Office
7. Election update and floor nominations
8. Discussion of Convention Issues important to the GLZ
13. Adjourn

NORTHWEST ZONE

Jane Moore, Zone Representative

The 2007 Northwest Zone Short Course Meters Championship was hosted on December 1st in Anchorage, AK. The 2007 Northwest Zone Short Course Yard Championship was hosted by Federal Way Masters in conjunction with the PNA Association Championship meet at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center (WKCAC) in Federal Way, WA. There will not be an official Northwest Zone 2008 Open Water Championship. The 2008 Short Course Meters Zone Championship meet will be held in Oregon in the fall.

The Northwest Zone is the location of several 2008-2009 national events. Oregon is the host for 2008 USMS National Long Course Championships at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham, OR. COMA (Central Oregon Masters Aquatics) hosts the 2008 USMS 3-6 Mile Open Water National Championship at Elk Lake and the 2008 USMS 5 and 10 Kilometer Postal Championships. PNA's Ohana Swim Team will host the 2009 1 Hour Postal Championships. Each LMSC in the zone has hosted swim meets and clinics as usual.

Communication is an important part of the Zone Rep's activities. The Northwest Zone Chatter (newsletter) has been distributed electronically semi-monthly. It contains a calendar of events in the zone and information on activities in each of the LMSCs in the Northwest Zone. The web page (www.northwestzone.org) also contains up-to-date information on zone and LMSC events. Emails to LMSC Officers are sent as needed.

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NORTHWEST ZONE MEETING AGENDA Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am Fairlie

1. Introductions
2. Approval of minutes from April 2008 meeting
3. Financial Report – Sarah Welch, NW Zone Treasurer
4. Old Business
 - a. Zone Event Reports
 - i. 2007 SCM Champs – Alaska
 - ii. 2008 SCY Champs – Federal Way/PNA
 - iii. 2008 USMS 3-6 Mile Open Water National Championship – COMA/Oregon
 - iv. 2008 USMS National Long Course Championships - Oregon
 - b. Upcoming Events
 - i. 2008 USMS 5 & 10 Kilometer Postal Championship – COMA/Oregon
 - ii. 2009 One Hour Postal – Ohana/PNA
 - c. Other
5. New Business
 - a. Zone Events
 - i. 2009 Northwest Zone Short Course Yards Champs
 1. Review bids
 2. Select site
 - ii. 2009 Long Course Champs – scheduled for Oregon (if held)
 - iii. 2009 Open Water Champs - scheduled for PNA
 - iv. 2009 Short Course Meters Champs - scheduled for PNA
 - b. At-Large Director nomination
 - i. Announce current nominee(s)
 - ii. Open for possible floor nominations
 - iii. Hold for/against vote by secret ballot for slating each nominee. (This is not a vote for one over the other if more than 1 nominee – a vote is held for each nominee only to determine if the zone supports nominee to go to HOD vote on Directors).
 - iv. Determine slate from zone
 - v. Destroy ballots after voting
 - c. Convention issues
 - d. Other
6. LMSC Reports
 - a. Alaska
 - b. Inland Northwest
 - c. Montana
 - d. Oregon
 - e. Pacific Northwest
 - f. Snake River
 - g. Utah
7. Adjourn

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

OCEANA ZONE

Leianne Crittenden, Zone Representative

PACIFIC LMSC SUMMARY:

The Pacific Masters Committee has adopted the following the Mission Statement: "*Pacific Masters Swimming welcomes anyone who would like to gain and maintain fitness through swimming and encourages programs to foster this mission.*" Goals include: (1) Target coaches and clubs for PMS programs and help; (2) Provide programs to enhance fitness and competitive opportunities; (3) Provide resources to help clubs solve their problems; and (4) Provide high quality competitive events.

Pacific Masters swimming held SCY Championships with over 800 swimmers and 40 broken records. LCM Championships had over 400 competitors and 8 World records.

Other highlights: Barry Fasbender received the Ransom Arthur award. Swimming World Magazine named Laura Val the 2007 Masters Swimmer of the year (with 8 LCM World Records and 14 SCM records). Runners up included Margery Meyer and Robert Strand. Walnut Creek Masters (2007 Team of the Year) were profiled in the March/April issue of USMS Swimmer; Suzanne Heim-Bowen and Jean Durston were profiled on the FINA web site in February and Lauren Welting of the Olympic Club was selected as Pacific Coach of the Year.

Pacific lost a long time volunteer and founding member, Dore Schwab, Jr on June 1, 2008. Dore was a Top Ten swimmer, president of Tamalpais Masters, Chairman of Pacific Masters, Dorothy Donnelly Award recipient, Chair of the USMS Marketing Committee and Zone Representative.

HAWAII LMSC SUMMARY:

Hawaii continues to concentrate on ocean swims (more popular than the swim meets). Membership is slightly down, around 400 members. Hawaii, made up of separate island communities is going to try to hold virtual meets to cut down on travel, and will let us know how it goes.

OCEANA ZONE MEETING AGENDA **Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am** **Harris**

1. Review of Year
2. At Large Director Elections
3. New Business
4. Discussion of "Hot" Convention Topics
5. Adjourn

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SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE **Jill Gellatly, Zone Representative**

South Central Zone includes Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, consisting of 6 LMSCs. Each of the LMSCs is active with membership numbers stable. Our 2008 SC Zone meet was hosted by the South Texas LMSC in San Antonio and had about 250 participants. The SC USMS Nationals was also held within the SC Zone in early May and was very successful with over 1800 swimmers participating. The LC Championship is being hosted by the Gulf LMSC in late July at the Woodlands.

Beginning in 2006, the Zone established the Jessie Coon Memorial Award. This award is given in honor of the late Jessie Coon who was a stand-out swimmer in our Zone during his career. The award is given annually to an individual who exemplifies the true spirit of Masters swimming but not necessarily the fastest swimmer. For 2008, the award was presented to Graham and Janis Johnston collectively for their contributions to the sport of swimming within our zone.

Discussions and projects:

We are currently developing a facility listing within our Zone that lists facilities capable of hosting USMS meets of varying sizes.

SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE MEETING AGENDA **Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am** **Edgewood**

- Introductions
- LMSC Reports
- Old Business
 - Distribute Survey of Membership for review
 - Maintenance of Zone Records
 - Facility Listing Project
- New Business
 - Calendar of Events for 2009
 - Zone Meet Bid SC
 - Zone Meet Bid LC
 - SC Zone Candidates for At-Large BOD position
 - Other
- Convention Hot Topics
- Adjourn

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

SOUTHWEST ZONE Mary Hull, Zone Representative

The 2007 Southwest Zone Short Course Yards Championship Meet was hosted by Mission Viejo, the Long Course Meters Zone Championships is scheduled to be hosted by Arizona, and there was no Zone Open Water Championship scheduled for this year. All four LMSC's (Arizona, San Diego-Imperial, New Mexico, and Southern Pacific) have hosted swim meets and there has been some open water swims as well.

SOUTHWEST ZONE MEETING AGENDA Thursday, September 25th, 8:30-10:15 am Marietta

1. Introductions
 2. Zone Financial Report
 3. Zone At Large Director Nominations (current nominee: Laura Winslow from Arizona).
Open for possible floor nominations.
Close nominations
 4. Current Convention Issues
 5. Old Business
- Zone Meets
6. New Business
 7. Adjourn

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF GOVERNORS Doug Church, Chair

Committee Members: Mark Gill, Ted Hartz, June Krauser, Jim Miller, Rob Copeland, Jody Wellborn, Mel Goldstein, Tom Boak, Julie Heather, Michael Heather, Patty Miller, Dan Gruender, Leo Letendre, Meg Smath, Mike Laux

Opening paragraph:

The United States Masters Swimming Endowment Fund was established to provide a philanthropic means of supporting projects that benefit Masters swimmers and to receive gifts and contributions as memorials or honoraria recognizing achievements by Masters swimmers. It is governed by the Board of Governors which receives and approves grant requests and otherwise governs the activities of the Endowment Fund.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. The BOG authorized a grant at last year's convention to Metro for a Pilates based alternative training program.
2. The Endowment Fund has received a grant application which has been circulated for discussion and action at convention..

USMS COMMITTEE REPORTS & AGENDAS

Action items:

1. At convention, all formal requests for funding will be considered and voted on.

ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, September 25th, 10:30-11:30 am

Edgewood

1. Call to order.
2. Review of financial report for 2007 and current 2008.
3. Consideration of Grant request(s).
4. Other old business.
5. New business.
6. Adjourn.



USMS Candidates For Office



USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

BREADBASKET ZONE – Anthony Thompson



LMSC: Missouri Valley

Consent-to-Run: I, Anthony Thompson, am interested in running for BOD member from Breadbasket Zone

Candidate Qualifications

I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year: Yes No

I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year: Yes No

I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office: Yes No

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

San Diego CA 2003, Orlando FL 2004, Greensboro NC 2005, Dearborn MI 2006, & Anaheim CA 2007

Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

The BOD would provide me an opportunity to be part of the dialog with our membership to meet our common vision to retain and grow our membership.

The qualification of a candidate for elected office within any organization should be a natural progression toward leadership, and my tenure in USMS includes chairing of my LMSC, then attending conventions and actively participating in meetings as well as HOD discussions, serving on USMS committees, election to Zone Committee, and currently chairing a USMS committee. During my tenure at the national level, I have been active within our Zone and can provide insight about how smaller LMSCs function.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

Executive Director – securing and establishing the function on this position
Succession Planning – within LMSCs, USMS Committees, the Executive Committee, BOD, and National Office Employees. Leadership development within all levels of this volunteer-based organization are key.

Retention and Recruitment of Membership – support effort of the already created Task Force on Club Development, with an emphasis on worked groups with coaches as well as support on-going projects by Marketing Committee and alliances with other masters/fitness/aquatics organizations.

Continued Review of USMS Governance Structure – With the current alignment of EC and BOD in place, the review of the current Zone and LMSC boundaries should be undertaken to see if the structure serves the membership.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Safety & Education (Julie Heather) 2004-5

Rules (Leo Letendre and Kathy Casey) 2004-2007

International (Sandi Rousseau, Mary Pohlmann, and Anthony Thompson) 2004- current

Zone Committee (Julie Heather) 2005-current

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

BOD for Kansas City Corporate Challenge (27-sport competition between corporations in KC metro over 7-weeks each summer, which includes a swim meet with 800 participants) with a focus on facilitating the 1200+ volunteers (from the 160+ company that participate) to smoothly operate these competitions.

USMS Convention Workshops – 2 years facilitated LMSC Chair workshop

In professional life, I have been a lead member of committees to develop and implement training programs.

Within our LMSC, I have served as:

- Missouri Valley LMSC Chair – 2003-2008
- Missouri Valley Fitness Chair – 1999-2003 and 2008-current
- Co-Meet director for local swim meets, including the Mizzou SCM Championship in Dec 2006 & Dec 2007.

Please list any other information you would like included.

None.

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

USMS is more than an organization, it is a diverse community. We are fitness and competitive swimmers; we swim in open water, pools and in postal events. We share a common vision that aquatic sports are lifelong venture and welcome members who are young and mature, with a variety of abilities and interests, and participate at the local, regional, zone, national and international events to support and grow our community. We need to be active in the local communities and partner with other adult fitness organizations who share our vision starting with USAS. Given a chance to be on the USMS BOD, I will first listen to the membership, invite and discuss input, and work to implement ways to retain, strengthen and grow our membership; as well as work to sustain our organization through developing leaders from our diverse membership.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Letters of nomination and recommendation:

May 13, 2008
Laurie Reaburn
11617 Bond Street
Overland Park, KS, 66210

To whom it may concern,

By means of this letter, I, Laurie Reaburn nominate Anthony Thompson, as the USMS Board of Directors member from the Breadbasket Zone.



Laurie Reaburn
MOVY Masters Co-Chair
11617 Bond Street
Overland Park, KS 66210
913.217.7384 work
913.220.4250 cell

Date: May 14, 2008
To: Election Committee, United States Masters Swimming, Inc.
From: Anna Lea Roof, USMS Board of Directors
Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Anthony Thompson

I am writing to recommend Anthony Thompson as a candidate for the position of At-Large Director of United States Masters Swimming, Inc.

Anthony moved to the Kansas City area in 1993 and began competing in Masters swim meets shortly thereafter. Within a few years he was active within the Missouri Valley LMSC, first serving as the Fitness Chairman and eventually serving five years as the LMSC Chairman.

Under Anthony's direction our small LMSC greatly increased its offerings. In 2007, the LMSC issued sanctions or recognitions for 14 different events. Anthony and I run several of these events each year. He is always motivated and focused on getting the job done.

At a national level, Anthony has been an active member of several committees, including Rules and Fitness. His interest in international travel and competition (he has swum in four FINA Masters world championships) resulted in him assuming the Chair position of the International committee. Under his leadership as the Breadbasket Zone representative, he assisted the Iowa LMSC in sending a delegate to the USMS convention (they had not attended for many years).

Anthony and I have become good friends and work well together. He has a good understanding of USMS at all levels – local, regional, and national. I strongly recommend him for the position of At-Large Director of USMS.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

MEMO TO: Election Committee Chair
United States Masters Swimming
FROM: Jill Geller
Superintendent of Recreation, Johnson County Park and Recreation District
DATE: May 15, 2008
RE: Letter of Reference for Anthony Thompson

Please accept this letter of reference for Anthony Thompson in support of his nomination to serve on the USMS Board of Directors. I have worked with Anthony in various capacities for more than a decade.

As the previous Executive Director of the Kansas City Corporate Challenge, the largest corporate (olympic-type) games event in the country, I had the privilege to interact with Anthony frequently. He served as the Company Coordinator for his employer, Bayer Corporation. In this role it was his responsibility to organize Bayer employees' participation in the Games, which included recruiting employee-athletes for various events, communicating with these employees as to their event time, location, schedule, etc., communicating with the Kansas City Corporate Challenge office to ensure efficient exchange of information, and the overall administration of his company's participation in this huge event.

Anthony exhibited a level of excellence in his responsibilities as Company Coordinator which resulted in his being elected to serve on the 2003 Kansas City Corporate Challenge Board of Directors. He was a very effective Board Member, and was always willing to share his knowledge and challenge staff to improve upon this already successful event. One of Anthony's main responsibilities as a Board Member was to organize the more than 1,400 volunteers necessary to conduct the games. He provided each of the 164 companies involved with an assigned event, the number of volunteers needed, their volunteers' duties, and the dates, times, and location at which their service was required. With 27 events and more than 20,000 participants in the KCCC Games, this was no easy task. But Anthony completed the task efficiently and effectively. Anthony continued his service to the KCCC past 2003 by serving as an Ambassador, providing guidance and counsel to new companies entering the games for the first time. In both his role as a Board Member and Ambassador, he also provided valuable assistance in the on-site administration of events.

As the Superintendent of Recreation for the Johnson County Park and Recreation District, I had the opportunity to work with Anthony as he served on the Advisory Committee for our Roeland Park Aquatic Center. This Advisory Committee provides advice and counsel to staff to ensure that the Aquatic Center is operating at its full potential. Anthony was an integral part of this team due to his swimming expertise. He provided input and suggestions from the participant's point of view which enabled us to better meet their needs. He objectively considered issues or concerns and thoughtfully weighed all options to help determine the best course of action.

Anthony's experience, in the areas of sports administration and the oversight of large scale operations and events, make him an excellent candidate for the US Masters Swimming Board of Directors. Feel free to contact me if you need additional information. Thank you.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

COLONIES ZONE – Betsy Durrant



LMSC: Virginia

Consent-to-Run: I, Betsy Durrant, am interested in running for BOD member from Colonies Zone

Candidate Qualifications

I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year: Yes No

I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year: Yes No

I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office: Yes No

*Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:
1987 - 2007*

Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

This is an important time for USMS as we continue our transition into the new governance format. I believe I have contributions to make as a member of the BOD. I am chairing a BOD committee on Policy and would like to complete this project.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

Hiring an Executive Director and transitioning to a more professionally run administration is an important issue. At the same time, the BOD must assist the LMSCs and clubs to be productive and to serve our members. We cannot rely on paid staff to do everything, our leaders must be involved with local issues. I am president of my team and edit a monthly newsletter for my team and for my LMSC. I work hard to be in touch with our members.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Zone Committee. 1986-1991. Colonies Zone Rep.

Zone Chairs: Dory Schwab, Edie Gruender, Pat Maley.

Executive Committee. 1991-1995. Zone Chair.

Presidents: Dan Gruender and Mel Goldstein

Executive Committee. 1997-2001, Secretary.

President: Nancy Ridout

Planning Committee and Governance Task Force. Chair 2002-2006.

President: Jim Miller

Finance Committee. 2002 – Present.

Chairs: Tom Boak, Jeff Moxie, Ralph Davis

BOD. 2005 – Present.

President: Rob Copeland

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

LMSC Chair – 4 years

LMSC Registrar – 11 years

LMSC and Team Newsletter Editor – 11 or 12 years and still at it.

Please list any other information you would like included.

Dorothy Donnelly Service Award, 1997

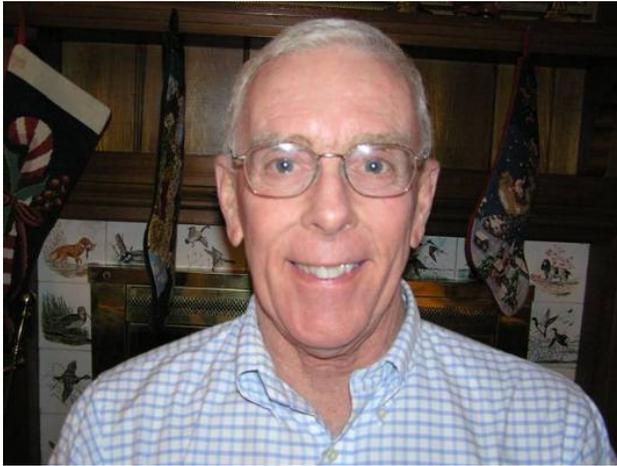
Ransom Arthur Award, 2005

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

After chairing the Governance Task Force, I decided to run for a position on the Board of Directors three years ago because I wanted to be involved in implementing the new governance structure. The new structure involves a larger Executive Committee and a smaller, more active Board of Directors. So far, I think the structure is working well. However, we still have not fully worked out the role of the Executive Director. I would like to continue in this position while the BOD works with a new Executive Director to fully implement our new governance format. I am also involved with a project to compile USMS Policy that I would like to complete.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

DIXIE ZONE – Jerry Clark



LMSC: LMSC for NC

Consent-to-Run: I, Jerry Clark, am interested in running for BOD member from Dixie Zone

Candidate Qualifications

I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year: Yes No

I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year: Yes No

I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office: Yes No

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

1999 - 2007

Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

Because I've been the Dixie Zone at large director for the past three years, and as such, have been involved with a number of projects during those years. I very much want to continue further work in the upcoming years as new and exciting opportunities are investigated. I am a proactive person and sincerely interested in helping make USMS more attractive to the many adult swimmers who don't seem to want to join. I solicit any opportunity to do productive work toward the goal of increasing our membership.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

Stagnation of membership is a major issue facing USMS and it is being addressed by a Club Development Task Force. I believe a primary reason adults will want to join USMS and remain as members is if they can participate in coached workouts. Therefore I would endeavor to work with the coaches committee to explore more ways to connect workout groups around the country to prospective coaches. Then direct communication could take place between the two parties. I also think USMS should expand its horizons by becoming more proactive about joint relationships with large groups and/or organizations that share our goal of promoting adult fitness.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Rules – Kathy Casey; Legislation – Rob Copeland; Championship – Sandi Rousseau, Barry Fasbender and Mark Moore; Coaches – Mo Chambers

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

I am used to dealing with the principals of large organizations that want assistance with commercial real estate transactions. I am a good team builder. I am a good team player. I am tenacious when working on worthwhile projects with reasonable goals and I enjoy either leading or being a member of a group working continuously toward the objectives.

Please list any other information you would like included.

I consider myself as a “people person”. I have enjoyed meeting and getting to know many people in all facets of USMS. I have participated in 23 National Championship meets and 3 World meets. I have been meet director of a 200+/- person meet in my home town for the past 10 years. I have been Chairman of the LMSC for NC two times and have also been the treasurer of our LMSC for 6 years.

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

I have always believed in contributing to sports I participate in and I’ve always enjoyed meeting and getting to know the other participants in those sports. I genuinely want to help make USMS more attractive to adults in areas that, like us in North Carolina, do not have multiple clubs that have coached workouts.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

GREAT LAKES ZONE – Nadine Day



LMSC: ILLINOIS

Consent-to-Run: I, Nadine KM Day, am interested in running for BOD member from Great Lakes Zone

Candidate Qualifications

I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year:

Yes No

I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:

Yes No

I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office:

Yes No

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007

Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

United States Master Swimming is an outstanding organization dedicated to swimming, which has and continues to be my life's passion. I provide a youthfulness approach to masters swimming. Being involved with the strategic plan, I feel that I have an obligatory duty to fulfill the plan to assist in the succession of USMS. I am committed to USMS and feel privilege to have served on the BOD for the past three years.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

A critical issue for USMS is what I characterize as our non-thriving membership. I believe we can and must marshal our governance to collaborate with USA Swimming, ASCA, YMCA, universities/colleges and other organizations to make USMS more visible not only to those constituents who desire competition but also to those potential constituents with a fitness-oriented focus.

I believe that USMS can become more unified within the organization between LMSCs. The LMSCs are closer to the members than the national organization as a whole. Supporting the LMSC and supporting clubs will grow our membership. This will promote aquatic fitness for all ages and promote USMS.

USMS has a strategic plan and implementation of the strategic plan belongs with the committees under the guidance of the BOD. As a board member, I would like to see USMS redirect the focus of the BOD and shift towards a staff oriented implementation under the leadership of the executive director. The BOD needs to serve as policy-making body and to support programs of USMS.

I strongly believe that USMS needs national office and this will give USMS a national presence. This will help streamline daily activities and improve on communication within the organization.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Marketing Committee 2003 to current

Sports Medicine 2003-2007

Safety Education 2004-2005

Publications Committee 2005-2007

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

Within the first year of my master swimming career in Illinois, I became the sanction chair. The following year, I was elected Vice Chair. Since September 2005, I have served as the Chair of Illinois LMSC. At the 2004 convention, I served as the interim Great Lakes Zone Chair. I have been serving on the USMS BOD since 2005 as the Great Lakes Director and would like to continue my role on the USMS BOD.

Prior to co-owning a private physical therapy practice, I was a Director of Rehabilitation overseeing physical therapist, occupational therapist and speech therapist. I was responsible for the budget and hiring of staff, in addition to working contract employees. I also served on the administrative board of a rural hospital. I was employed as a Clinical Administrator for a Physicians own practice working with Administrators, Physicians and Physical Therapist and Athletic Trainers. I served on the BOD of the Champaign County YMCA for 2 years. I am a high school girl's swimming coach.

Please list any other information you would like included.

Task Force:

Compensation and Benefits: Chair

Club Development

Executive Director Search

National Office Search

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

I wish to submit my nomination for re-election of the Great Lakes Zone Board of Directors position. Leadership, advocacy, and administrative roles in my professional life outfit me for the Board of Directors position. USMS provides individuals an opportunity to fulfill their lifelong passion. My passion for, and commitment to, swimming, in all of its many facets, will serve as my guidepost in my delivery of services to USMS as a member of its Board of Directors.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

NORTHWEST ZONE – Jeanne Ensign



LMSC: Pacific Northwest

Consent-to-Run: I, Jeanne Ensign, am interested in running for BOD member from Northwest Zone

Candidate Qualifications

I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year: Yes No

I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year: Yes No

I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office: Yes No

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

1992 - 2007

Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

This continues to be a very exciting time for USMS. Having been a member of the BOD for the last three years has given me the opportunity to participate in many compelling projects and discussions. Online registration and adapting to more employees, including an ED, are among the many projects, present increasingly more complex opportunities to help shape USMS going forward. I find taking an organizational vision and putting a plan into action exciting and want to continue to be a part of it.

I bring good communication, leadership and organizational skills developed in my professional life, along with my USMS experience, including four years on the Executive Committee. I can get things done, know how to delegate responsibilities, can identify and think well about issues, and can take care of work in a timely fashion. I have been active in my zone, and in both a large and a small LMSC. I understand our ultimate goal – to provide for individual swimmers. I have the intellect and the skills necessary to be a good board member and, last but not least, the desire to do so.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

We continue to experience growth and the tough decisions related to it. Through it all we must continue to keep our membership foremost in our mission, goals and objectives. USMS has gained respect from others for the professional manner in which we provide for and service our membership, and we strive to create fitness opportunities for all swimmers, all ages no matter their swimming goals.

We need to continue to communicate among ourselves and with our volunteers, employees and most of all with our swimmer/members. How do we relay information to individuals and make it understandable in a way that is meaningful to them? We need to focus on our teams and

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

swimmers through the website and the magazine, and to work with the communications an individual member experiences.

Our website is a major communications tool, and demands on it are likely to continue to increase. We need to continually define our communications strategy and the dissemination of information, and to financially support communications within the organization and with our current and potential members.

We must continue to focus on and provide resources to individuals, teams and clubs, which is where the action is. How can we help provide pool time, coaching and clinics? We must create programs to we can offer support for swimmers at the local level. We must learn how to assess our progress and accomplishments.

And last, while doing what it is we do, we must provide a framework within which our national staff and volunteers (including the BOD) can accomplish the most with the least amount of effort. We need to learn to work with our Executive Director. We need to clearly and simply define our goals and expectations for each position, task forces and committees. It is the responsibility of the BOD to provide oversight to this process.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Executive Committee, Treasurer 1997 – 2001, Nancy Ridout, President

Endowment Fund Board of Governors, 1997 – 2001, Doug Church

Finance Committee, 1994 – 1997 and 2002 – present, Chair (96-97) and under chairs Dave Zander, Doug Church, Jeff Moxie, Ralph Davis

Internal Audit Committee, 1993 – 1995, 2006 – 2007 Chair

Registration Committee, 1992 – 1993, Joanne Leilich

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

USMS member since 1985, delegate to convention since 1992, active at the Zone, LMSC (immediate past president PNA), and team level, organizing committee member and treasurer for three national championship pool meets, devoted swimmer

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

The swimming community has been a big part of my life for many years. Early on I figured out that if I volunteer time in an administrative and visionary capacity, which I love to do, the benefits I receive in exchange are huge. If I can contribute to more opportunities for swimmers to get in the water and enhance their lives by providing more pool time, a coached workout or a first class meet, I get something back that is very rewarding and difficult to define. I get to swim. I can always find a buddy for an early morning lake swim. I make new friends. I consider it time well spent.

Sometimes it's hard to see results locally, but the work we do at the national level is vital to the health of our entire masters swimming community. The BOD provides vision and planning, and monitors the progress and effectiveness of our organization. As a lifelong resident of my zone and an active member of USMS for over 20 years, I believe that I will continue to make a positive contribution as director from the Northwest Zone.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

OCEANA ZONE – Michael Moore

LMSC: Pacific LMSC

Consent-to-Run: I, Michael Moore, am interested in running for BOD member from Oceana Zone.

Candidate Qualifications

I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year: Yes No

I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year: Yes No

I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office: Yes No

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

With the exception of 2001, I have attended all USMS conventions since 1993

Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

I have served as an LMSC chairman, multiple USMS Committee and have run a very successful international swim meet. I am familiar with the problems that face USMS near term and long term. With my background and experience, I can help guide US Masters Swimming

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

USMS is in transition from an all volunteer national governing body to a more professionally managed one. As a member of the Board of Directors with much experience I can help shape the policy that the staff will work under.

As USMS looks strategically at where to give help to grow the organization, there are two areas. The first are the clubs. USMS needs successful clubs to attract members, as chairman of an LMSC with over 100 clubs, I am familiar with the many types of club organizations. I can bring my experience to help guide the club strategy of USMS.

Another major issue is how to help and guide LMSCs. Having worked in my LMSC for the past 15 years, I have seen many ideas that have worked and others that have been less successful. I can help with policy as the Board of Directors considers how to assist LMSCs.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Communication Committee

Officials Committee

Rules Committee

Ad hoc Web committee

Ad hoc Officials Committee

Championships Committee

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

Am the webmaster for Pacific Masters that experience keeps me up to date on the issues facing swimmers.

As a member of a national bank's Board of Directors, I am familiar with what boards can and should be doing.

Please list any other information you would like included.

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

Michael Moore is currently a member of the USMS Board of Directors. He is also the chairman of Pacific Masters swimming. Michael has worked in his LMSC for the past 15 years and has been a member of the House of Delegates for the past 15 years. Michael was also chairman of the organizing committee of the XI FINA World Masters Championships.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE – Chuck Burr



LMSC: North Texas

Consent-to-Run: I, Chuck Burr, am interested in running for BOD member from South Central Zone

Candidate Qualifications

I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election

year: X Yes No

I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election

year: X Yes No

I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office: X Yes No

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

2004 and 2007.

Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

I have been the Head Swim Coach for Team Ridglea Masters – Fort Worth, Texas – since I started the team 7 years ago (approximately 100 members). I would like to represent my team, the North Texas LMSC and the South Central Zone on the national level. I feel my enthusiasm and passion for masters swimming could be shared throughout the country.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

I feel that tapping into the high interest in the sport of triathlon could benefit USMS. Here we have a huge group of athletes that need the expertise that USMS can provide. We need them and they need us.

I realize that 75% of all registered masters swimmers don't compete, AND DON'T WANT TO! We need to understand this better and address these members' needs more directly.

We need to encourage more people that participate with a registered USMS team to become registered with USMS. I firmly believe that there are thousands of people that participate with USMS clubs that never bother to register. If we were to give each coach an incentive (idea: 0-20 registered members – the coach receives a USMS pen/pencil set; 21-40 registered members – the coach receives a USMS coaching shirt; 41-60 registered members – the coach receives a USMS travel bag; etc.) to get ALL their members registered, we would see a dramatic increase in the overall numbers of members.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

USMS Coaches Committee – Chairperson Mo Chambers; 2005, 2006, 2007, and current.

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Founder of Team Ridglea (www.teamridglea.com) – team finish at last summers national swimming championships in The Woodlands – 20th place; Current masters swimmer – competes regularly on the local and national level; Active ‘On-Deck’ Coach at USMS National Swimming Championships; conducted organized workout for coaches in Anaheim at the USMS Convention in September 2007; Featured masters swim coach in the March/April issue of ‘USMS Swimmer’; current ‘On-Line’ swim coach for USMS – submitting daily organized, structured swim practices on ww.usms.org; currently serves as Coaches Liaison for North Texas Masters swim committee; Director/Co-Head Swim Coach for Water Works 2 Swim Team (USS age-group team in Fort Worth, Texas – 100 member club).

Please list any other information you would like included.

2 – Time Ironman Triathlon finisher (Wisconsin – 2006, Florida – 2007); Swimming professional for the nationally acclaimed Texas Triathlon Camp (www.texastricamp.com) – with Joel Friel and Tom Rogers. B.S. from Texas A& M University – 1979; M.Ed. from Texas Christian University – 1981; partial completion of Ph.D. from University of Texas at Arlington – Urban Affairs.

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

I have been involved in masters swimming for the past 7 years. I feel it is time for me to become more active on the national level and use the experience I have as a USMS coach and swimmer to share my ideas and passion for the sport.

Letters of Nomination and Recommendation:

To: USMS Nomination Committee

From: Jill Gellatly

Re: Charles (“Chuck”) Burr

I would like to place the name of Chuck Burr in nomination for the South Central At-Large Board of Director position.

Chuck has been active in the aquatic arena for over forty years. Over this time span, his roles have evolved from athlete, to coaching at a variety of levels, facility management and serving as owner and president of a pool service company. These varied experiences more than qualify him for the SC Zone BOD position and make him a tremendous asset to our National BOD.

Chuck’s career started young as a successful collegiate swimmer including qualifying for five national championships and the 1980 Olympic Trials. His success as a swimmer led him into the collegiate coaching ranks where he gained valuable coaching and administrative skills. After two years of collegiate coaching, he started full-time employment at a local Fort Worth country club. He eventually became the full-time aquatic director responsible for personnel administration (over 48 employees under his direction), budget analyses and overall operation of the entire aquatic facility. During this tenure, he also started his own business (a pool service

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

company) which grew to over \$1 million in annual sales. Concurrent with these responsibilities, he built and coached an age group swim team and eventually started a Masters team in 2001. This team has grown to over one hundred swimmers. His dedication to tasks and building ideas from the grass roots is second to none.

Once his USMS club (Team Ridglea) was established, Chuck became involved at the local level (North Texas LMSC) and has attended the last two National conventions. He currently serves on the Coaches committee, has written articles for SWIM magazine and is active in local triathlon community (he is s a two-time Ironman finisher). Chuck believes our biggest obstacle in USMS is growth and determining how best to attract new members including integrating triathletes into the USMS community. He recognizes not all potential members will want to compete and we need to market our organization better to address these concerns.

Chuck's diverse background, demonstrated leadership qualities and his vision and passion for USMS will help take USMS to the next level.

I highly recommend the USMS Membership to consider Chuck Burr for the SC Zone At-Large BOD position.

I grant permission to include this letter in his nomination packet.

May 14, 2008

Ms. Julie Heather
Chair of the Election Committee
United States Masters Swimming

Dear Julie,

It is with pleasure that I recommend Chuck Burr to serve on the Board of Directors representing the South Central Zone. Chuck has been an advocate for swimming on numerous levels and takes an active interest in Masters Swimming and the promotion of fitness and competitive swimming.

Chuck has been involved in swimming on the age group, collegiate and Masters levels. He has been a swimmer, coached age group swimmers beginning two United States Swimming programs, and enlarging a country club swim program to be the dominant program in the Fort Worth area. In 2001, he founded the Team Ridglea Masters growing the program from 5 swimmers to 100 offering 18 practices a week. His swimmers have achieved record performances at the Zone, National and World levels. Chuck also serves as an On Deck Coach at National events.

Chuck strives to learn more about swimming and holds numerous clinics to pass the information on to his Masters swimmers, his age group swimmers, and the community. He brings in past Olympic and collegiate swimmers to help host clinics, and he himself has been a presenter of pool and open water sessions.

Additionally, Chuck is devoted to his wife, Debbie, and their four children.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

I think you can see that Chuck has a vested interest in the future of USMS and will be a strong advocate for the South Central Zone on the Board of Directors. Please contact me if I may provide further information

Sincerely yours,
Kristin Henderson

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE – Don Mehl



LMSC: Border

Consent-to-Run: I, Don Mehl, am interested in running for BOD member from South Central Zone

Candidate Qualifications

I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year:

Yes *No*

I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:

Yes *No*

I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office: *Yes* *No*

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have

attended, including the dates of attendance:

I have attended every USMS National HOD Meeting at the last 22 consecutive USAS Conventions, 1986 to 2007.

Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

The majority of older Americans currently living in Assisted Care Facilities are there, not because of disease, but because of physical frailty. That is a crime! Those of us who enjoy the enormous fitness and fellowship benefits of Masters swimming must dedicate ourselves to “sharing the wealth” by promoting swimming to everyone, of every age and condition. During my 30 years with Masters swimming as an administrator, coach, and competitor I have developed strong local adult swimming and dryland training programs. I have also worked at the National level for 22 years, learning from many other USMS members how to utilize our resources to encourage and motivate adults to improve their lives with Masters swimming.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future? As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

The issue that first comes to mind is the position of Executive Director. I was very disappointed with the initial selection process, which determined our first Director. It is important, of course, to hire someone with considerable administrative experience, but I believe it is just as critical that they “eat, sleep, and breathe” Masters swimming! In my 30 years with USMS I have met many remarkable people who have accomplished amazing things for this organization. I am adamant that our next Executive Director be someone who has love and enthusiasm for Masters swimming and the desire to move us forward.

Another issue that I believe USMS should vigorously pursue is joint participation activities with other aquatic/athletic organizations such as USA swimming, USA Triathlon, Senior Games, Special Olympics, Paralympics, etc. Although USMS has liaisons or contacts with most of these groups, I believe more should be done at the local level. Many communities have benefited from coordination and consolidation in regards to administration, coaching, securing water time, and training officials.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

USMS and USA Swimming could both greatly benefit from a large number of potential swimming officials from USMS members. However, USMS members are required to register separately (and pay additional registration fees) to USA Swimming to be certified. Why do USMS swimmers need a 2nd registration? USMS and USA Swimming are insured by the same company for the same coverage. I will work to help streamline and facilitate training and certification of officials for USMS members.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

Various years, 1986-2007:

Coaches Committee Judy Bonning, Steve Schofield, Mike Collins, Scott Rabalais, Ed Nessel, Bob Bruce, Mo Chambers

Sports Medicine Committee Jim Miller, Jane Moore, Jessica Seaton

Safety Committee (Ad Hoc) Chair unknown

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

As Masters swimming administrator, coach, and competitive athlete:

1978 – founded and coached the first United States Masters Swimming program for adults in El Paso at the Central YWCA

1980 to 2000 – served as LMSC Chair for Border Swimming

1985 to 2005 – founded and coached the Rio Grande Swim Club

1986 to Present – represented Border USMS and USA Swimming at United States Aquatic Sports (USAS) conferences, as delegate and serving on Sports Medicine, Safety, and Coaches Committees for USMS

1991 to 1993 – chaired USMS Coaches Committee

1997 to 2004 – developed and taught the Swimming Smarter program for swimmers of all ages at the University of Texas at El Paso

2001 – interned and coached Masters swimmers at the USMS/USA High Altitude Training Camp at the United States Olympic Training Center (USOTC) in Colorado Springs, Colorado

2004 – attended the Adapted Swimming Training Camp at the USOTC, which trains swimmers with disabilities

Authored articles for Swim Magazine, Masters Aquatic Coaches Association Newsletter, and on the USMS website

Currently certified as USA Swimming and UIL Swimming Official

2000 and 2006 – meet director for the USMS South Central Zone Long Course Swimming Championships

1978 to Present – competed in numerous local, regional, state, national, and world competitions, achieving All-American status (2006) and many Top-10 rankings

Honored to receive the 2005 Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award

As Medical Training Captain and Health and Fitness Coordinator for the El Paso Fire Department:

Coordinate and oversee Medical (EMS) and Health and Fitness training for fire department recruits and veterans

Provide education, motivation, and hands-on fitness training to 800+ emergency fire and medical personnel

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Manage 60+ Certified Fitness Coordinators (American College of Sports Medicine) stationed throughout El Paso who provide guidance and support to other firefighters in their respective districts

Coordinate and monitor annual medical physicals for all emergency personnel with contracted Health Care Provider

Liaison with City Employee Assistance Program for stress management and debriefing

Research, recommend, purchase, and distribute physical fitness equipment for 40 fire stations, administration, and support facilities

Develop and instruct various health related courses to recruits and veterans, such as: Back Injury Prevention, Performance Nutrition, Exercise Science, CrossFit Training Protocol, and Emergency Scene Safety

Produce and edit monthly *Health & Fitness Update* newsletter

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

I am honored to be nominated for the position of South Central Zone Director.

As the US population ages, adult fitness will continue to grow, and USMS should lead the way. We must promote swimming to everyone, regardless of age or ability. I bring a unique perspective to USMS, as I have worked in every capacity for our LMSC, including 20-years as Chair and 22 years as the USAS delegate. I have been directly involved in United States Masters Swimming as a coach, administrator, and competitor since 1978. I have the knowledge, passion, and skills to help develop growth and continuing interest in Masters swimming.

Letters of Nomination and Recommendation:

April 29, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I hereby nominate Don Mehl for the position of South Central Zone Director. Don's life long swimming experience and participation across all levels of the organization lends itself well to this position. Groups like ours need people like Don assuming leadership positions that benefit all levels of the organization.

Don's qualifications for this position are built on the foundation of being a lifelong swimmer, a tireless competitor, a knowledgeable coach, an LMSC Board member and a loyal USMS member. Don is the founder of Masters Swimming here in the Border LMSC, which is primarily located in El Paso, Texas. With his enthusiasm for the sport, the Rio Grande Swim Club was formed shortly after USMS came together as an organization. Without Don's time and inspiration, our club would not be as vital or as successful as it is today. Over the years whatever has needed doing, from coaching on deck at 6AM, to attending business meetings, to directing zone meets, Don has done it all for us while asking for little in return.

On the national level, Don has attended countless USAS conventions (many at his own expense) to ensure that we, as one of the smallest LMSCs, still had our voice heard. His participation made us aware of what was going on in our sport outside our LMSC and kept us in the loop on national issues. While many would think that our small group would go unrepresented at national events, Don seems to find a way to either represent us himself or encourage someone to answer the roll when "Border LMSC" is called.

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Positions such as Zone Director require someone who is well versed in all aspects of our sport, reliable and able to see the big picture. I can't think of many people who fit this profile as well as Don Mehl.

Please feel free to publish my nomination/recommendation.

Sincerely,

Robert Oppenheim

Border LMSC Registrar

April 29, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for my friend, Don Mehl, for the position of South Central Zone Director. It was 12 years ago that I signed up for a swimming class and where I met coach Don.

Don has a persevering commitment for swimming. In 1978 he had the initiative to start the first Masters swimming program at our local YWCA. We now we have 2 swim clubs registered with Border LMSC. Using his interpersonal skills, Don attained the first coached adult swim program at the University of Texas at El Paso. For over a decade he single handedly coached over 60 swimmers a session, clearly a willingness to accept responsibility. Despite obstacles in the program, Don remained dependable and mature and always put his swimmers first.

Don loves swimming. For over 50 years Don has poured his heart out for swimming and has dedicated more than 30 years to the United States Masters Swimming organization. Don is a competitive swimmer, husband, a father of 2 girls who also swim competitively, and still finds time to contribute his direction for our swim club. He is an exceptional, creative, motivating leader.

It is my extreme pleasure to recommend Don Mehl for the position of South Central Zone Director. I feel that his experience, education, and good moral character will provide a solid backbone to your mission.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to call me. You may publish my nominee recommendation.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

Jane H. Masters

Border LMSC Chairperson

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

SOUTHWEST ZONE – Laura Winslow



LMSC: Arizona

Consent-to-Run: I, Laura Winslow, am interested in running for BOD member from Southwest Zone

Candidate Qualifications

I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year: Yes No

I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year: Yes No

I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office: Yes No

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

San Diego, CA 2003, Orlando, FL 2004, Greensboro, NC 2005, Detroit, MI 2006, Anaheim, CA 2007

Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

I am passionate about masters swimming and USMS. Since 2003 I have been a USMS volunteer on the local and national level. I have a strong desire to serve USMS, grow the organization, and give back to the sport and organization that has given me so much.

My unique background as a CPA, a controller for a swim club, masters swim coach and an assistant swim meet/event organizer offers the organization key knowledge and energy in areas that are important for its growth.

As a current BOD member I have had the opportunity to chair several committees and have been a valuable member of several task forces. I have enjoyed my service and demonstrated that I can get the job done.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

Leadership, growth, communication, coaching and member services are areas I see as critical to the health of our organization. I bring my enthusiasm and knowledge and will continue to volunteer for participation on sub-committees and task forces to address these issues.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

International 2003 – 2005; Sandy Rousseau

Championship 2004 – 2005; Barry Fasbender

Long Distance/Open Water 2007 – current; Marcia Cleveland

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

CPA

Swim club controller

USMS AT-LARGE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Swim meet/event director/organizer
Current member of BOD
Chaired first ED Search Committee
Chaired Dues Increase Task Force
Current Member National Headquarters Task Force
Former Sanctions Chair for Arizona LMSC
Former Competition Committee Chair for Arizona LMSC
Masters swim coach
Head coach for boys and girls high school swim and dive team

Please list any other information you would like included.

I am a professional who brings knowledge, experience, and energy to this position. I also possess the drive and determination to help the organization grow through the many obstacles it is facing, such as the hiring of its second Executive Director, the establishment of a National Headquarters, etc.

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

It is an exciting time for USMS as we undergo numerous changes. I want to assist by continuing to lead the organization and helping to take us to the next level.



USMS
Special Assignment
& Liaison Reports



CONVENTION COORDINATOR Victor Buehler

There have been several meaningful developments initiated this year in preparation for convention and with regard to future convention budgets. With the help of controller Margaret Bayless, we have been able to break the convention budget down into more categories than used in past years. This provides a clearer picture of how our monies are spent and will enable us to recognize any developing patterns through the coming years. Hopefully future budget requests will be more accurate than they have been in the past.

A second rather unique development has been the organization process for convention Atlanta-2008 with the Georgia LMSC. This innovative LMSC conducts monthly conference calls of which they have graciously invited me to participate in. We have had unsurpassed communication throughout the year. Volunteers are lined up, the hospitality room and swimming pool are secured. The daily workout schedule is set. The bus to the pool will be arranged very soon. Locations of supply stores have been identified as well as potential barriers for getting supplies to the room. My special thanks are extended at this time to the members of this LMSC: Lisa Watson, Ed Saltzman, Sean Fitzgerald, Donna Hooe, Jeffrey Tacca, Bill Lotz, Rob Copeland, Bob Kohmescher and Karol Welling . I strongly encourage all LMSCs hosting conventions in the future to utilize this practice.

For the first time all committee chairs, BODs and other positions covered by the convention budget for travel and rooms will also be covered for registration. This will make tracking of registration costs much easier and relieve the committees of this chore.

We have experienced a significant increase in the requests for Audio-Visual equipment at convention by about 38% for 2008 compared to 2007. Fortunately, because several of the requests made are for setups that will be in the same room at different times of the same day we will only need to pay for one setup instead of four. Just the same, our needs and expenses in this area have increased this year and I expect this pattern to continue in future years. I predict we will need to procure a second LCD projector for convention 2009.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. Improve reimbursement tracking and develop better methods for identifying convention expenses.
2. Improve communication with convention LMSC hosts.

Action items:

1. Track all 2008 convention expenses according to the following categories: EC Rooms, EC Travel, Chair Rooms, Chair Travel, Hospitality Room, Hospitality Room Supplies, Pool, Bus to and from pool, AV , Convention Booklets and Postage, Convention Office Costs at Convention, Registrations, Convention Coordinator Office Expenses.

CONVENTION STAFF MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, September 24th, 3:45-5:15 pm
Hospitality Suite

1. Meet with Vale parking personnel prior to 9/24/08.
2. Meet with committee chairs on 9/24/08.
3. Be available or assign someone to move LCD projector from one room to another in a timely manner.
4. Ensure all Committee Chairs have cell phone number: 352-317-0284.
5. Attend all HOD Sessions.
6. Attend finance committee meetings.

FINA REPRESENTATIVE
Nancy Ridout

This was a FINA World Masters Championships year and three days of meetings were held in Perth prior to and during to the competition. Topics of discussion included the World Championships and issues needing to be addressed, continuing development of Masters Rules, update of the Guide to Hosting Masters Events, a survey of National Federations, the growth of Masters worldwide, and providing Masters articles to the FINA Aquatics World magazine.

Walt Reid reported on the world record application process and celebrated the 16th year of FINA Masters records publication. He has also compiled an "All Time" Top Ten listing. The committee approved his plan to update the current records on the FINA web site so that those broken between publication dates can be recognized.

I presented a brochure I created for the FINA Masters Development sub-committee, which I chair, that was well-received and will be printed for the federations and posted on the FINA web site. I also developed a survey that was approved for distribution to each member federation. It will help us determine the best direction to build the Masters program throughout the world.

I asked for clarification about the eligibility for world records. The only reference in minutes to this issue was from those of the Masters Commission (Chair, Sec., & FINA Bureau rep) on Aug. 1 & 9, 2007. The reference was to "...third party events. The key word is 'controlled by or conducted by, ours vs. theirs.'"

From this, my understanding is that if a federation member or subgroup such as an LMSC, club, or zone, of USMS, conducts the meet then it is considered a FINA approved meet and swims would count as FINA records. If the event is conducted or controlled by an organization that not a direct subgroup of the federation, then it wouldn't count as a FINA record. For example, if the IGLA meet in Maryland was conducted and controlled by the host club, then those swims would count. If it was conducted and controlled by IGLA then they wouldn't. FINA has said in Masters Committee meetings, that Masters can participate in any meets they like; they don't care. And, this is significant. Masters athletes will not be penalized for their choices of competition.

USMS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

But, to break and set a FINA World record, it has to be done in a FINA (family) meet. USMS sets criteria for eligibility for its records and this is similar. We approve certain meets in which records can be set and so does FINA. In the past we have been operating under the radar and assuming that FINA and USMS agreed about record eligibility. The LalyCar problems made such practices more public and FINA has set the criteria for Masters that is consistent with all other FINA aquatic sports.

It was also decided to discontinue the FINA Masters Officials List. The committee felt that some good officials were not attending because they were not on the list and many of those from the actual list were not attending. It was generally felt that officials should be recruited from the federations for the FINA World Masters Championships.

It was suggested and approved that the next FINA Masters Congress be held in conjunction with all other Technical Congresses in Rome, 2009.

2009 is the final year of the current term of the FINA Masters Committee. Nominations will be submitted from the federations and a new committee chosen for the term beginning in 2010. I have been proud to represent USMS as a member of this committee and hope that it sees fit to recommend to USMS that I continue for another term.

IGLA LIAISON **Jessica Seaton**

The 2008 IGLA Championships were hosted by the District of Columbia Aquatics Club and the Washington Wetskins (waterpolo) June 18-22. It was a very successful meet. IGLA was granted Associate status by USMS. There is no final word on whether or not the results will be accepted for FINA top ten, but we're hoping for the best.

The IGLA Championships in 2009 will be hosted by the Copenhagen Mermates in Copenhagen, Denmark from July 25 until August 2. The championship meet will be part of a broader athletic and cultural event, The World Outgames. The World Outgames are similar to the Gay Games, but have only been held once before. When asked about the records counting for FINA Masters top ten, the Danish Swimming Federation replied that as long as the swimmer is affiliated with a club that is a member of FINA, there will be no problems of recognizing a FINA-record. This could truly be the case, or the Danish Swimming Federation is unfamiliar with the problem of FINA recognizing such events. The Danish Swimming Federation will provide the necessary proofs of length and there will be electrical timing and so forth. The aquatics will be held in the newly constructed Bellahøj Swim Arena.

The IGLA General Meeting held in Washington, D.C. resulted in the election of a new Board of Directors, updates to the Policy and Procedure booklet and the Championship Rules booklet. The IGLA web site is currently being revised. IGLA is actively reaching out to other organizations.

RULE BOOK COORDINATOR Susan Ehringer

Opening paragraph:

Once again Cheryl Gettelfinger; Walt Reid; Tracy Grilli; Kathy Casey and the Rules Committee; and Marcia Cleveland and the Open Water Long Distance Committee; and Sean Fitzgerald and the Legislation Committee pulled together to help edit and publish the 2008 Rule Book. I thank all of you for your hard work.

Advertisements rolled in a little better this year than last year. Many were sent via email. The deadline for ads for 2009 is Oct. 3, 2008. One advertiser was mistakenly left out of the printed Rule Book, Total Immersion. As soon as I was notified, I updated this in the online version.

There were some issues with the selected printer. A lack of communication caused the printing to be delayed.

A notice was published in *USMS SWIMMER* calling for submissions for the cover contest and bids. As of 07/15/08 no bids or covers have been received. I am going to request quotes from printers if nothing is received in the next few weeks.

The price of USPS postal rates is affecting the cost of shipping the Rule Book. A task force was approved by Rob Copeland in an effort to make recommendations about how to reduce the number of pages.

366 Rule Books were sold or distributed to LMSC's by June 2008. The selling price of the books is \$9 per book. It costs \$5.84 to print each book and \$3.21 to ship each book. That means that in 2008 USMS is losing \$.05 per book. The cost to print a mini book is \$4.88 per book; USMS is selling these for \$3 per book. USMS is losing more than \$1.88 per book. (I am not sure of the cost of shipping). It is my recommendation to increase the price of the rule books to \$10 for the regular and \$6 for the mini.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. Susan has started reviewing and correcting the 2008 Rule Book for 2009.
2. Cheryl will begin contacting advertisers for the 2008 Rule Book.
3. Rule Book task force, approved by Rob Copeland, has made suggestions about how to reduce the size of the Rule Book.

Action items:

1. Seek printing bids and cover submissions.
2. Work with task force to streamline the Rule Book.
3. Prepare book for 2009 changes.
4. Work with Walt Reid to get a better format for transferring the records into the book.
5. Work with Open Water Long Distance committee to implement changes and review Part
6. Work with Rules committee to implement changes and review Parts. 1 and 2.
7. Work with Legislation Committee to ensure no editing changes need to be fixed.

USMS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

RULE BOOK COORDINATOR MEETING AGENDA

1. Announce the winner of the Rule Book Cover based on voting by Convention Attendees
2. Announce the Rule Book Dedication

USA SWIMMING LIAISON Ted Haartz

Following the 2007 Aquatics Convention in Anaheim, CA, the USA Swimming board of directors met in Los Angeles in November, Colorado Springs in January and Omaha in May of 2008. Of the greatest interest to the USMS membership was the resolution for dual sanctioning of events. USA Swimming, USMS and their respective insurance carriers were finally able to reach an agreement and agree on a process to allow combined events by the two organizations. A “hats off” to John Peterson and Sandi Blumit at Risk Management Services, Inc. our insurance brokers in Phoenix, AZ for their efforts on behalf of both organizations to bring this endeavor to a successful conclusion.

In April, I was asked to serve on a USA Swimming Board of Directors review panel to consider an appeal to a National Board of Review decision. We met, via conference call in May, considered the facts and rendered a decision. I found the process quite educational and interesting.

USA Swimming is engaged with Wasserman Media Group to expand its media coverage in all fields to better access a wider audience than its own basic membership; think, MLB - major league baseball, NASCAR, NBA, etc. as a means of increasing membership, sponsorship and general public exposure. There is probably no better time than in an Olympic year with its stable of great athletes, to attempt this.

The next USA Swimming BoD meeting will be in Atlanta, September 23, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE Jeanne Ensign

Members: Jeanne Ensign (chair), Carolyn Boak, Chris Colburn, Jim Miller (EC liaison), Jim Wheeler, Mel Goldstein, Nadine Day, Rob Copeland, Tom Boak, Tom Boyd

History: The task force was created at the 2006 convention with the mission to “develop an initiative for servicing, staffing, enhancing and developing a support system for our clubs”.

Our objectives are:

1. Increase awareness of how USMS can help clubs through effective communications
2. Create recruiting tools for clubs
3. Create tools for club management and coaching
4. Develop an active strategy for assisting development of existing and new clubs

USMS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

5. Act as a resource for navigating governmental and facility policy and decision making bodies
6. Establish dialog with USA Swimming and similar fitness oriented organizations

(The word club(s) is used throughout and meant to encompass clubs, teams and workout groups).

Activity this Year

Shortly after the 2007 convention Mel Goldstein, Jim Wheeler and Tom Boyd met to develop curriculum for club mentoring. The materials created are for use by mentors in working with clubs and fall into three categories: effective club models, facilities and marketing. A finance module was added later.

In late January a mentor workshop facilitated by Mel, Jim and Tom, our training instructors, was held in Dallas and attended by Chris Powers, Dan Cox, Hugh Moore, Jane Moore, Jill Wright, Nadine Day, John Grzeszczak, Lisa Dahl, Christine de Santos, Chris McGiffin and Jeanne Ensign. The workshop was the first step in the educational process of providing resources and now educators to help clubs throughout USMS to grow their memberships.

After our mentor training session we saw the need to expand the materials we have, create new materials and develop processes for club selection, assigning mentors to clubs, overseeing mentors, evaluation of the mentoring process and evaluation of the benefits to clubs. We concluded that an individual was needed to coordinate these functions.

The Pilot Program was developed to address these needs and was approved by the EC in June. The duration of the Pilot Program is through the end of the year and payment to a current USMS contractor, Mel Goldstein, to be coordinator for the Pilot Program was approved. A one page summary of the Pilot Program is at the end of this report.

Mel has received a tremendous response from clubs, individual YMCAs and colleges and universities to what we are going to try to provide and we have not as yet actively marketed the program. We are scheduled to have a [paragraph/blurb – help!] posted on the front page of the USMS website. Setting up mentors and clubs for visits took a little longer than anticipated due to hectic schedules during the summer but by convention one club will have been visited by two mentors and Mel will visit White Plains, NY and meet with representatives of several YMCAs.

The Budget

At last year's convention Finance Committee approved a line item budget of \$25,000 with the requirement that prior to spending we submit a detailed request. Finance approved our request in December to fund the facilitators meeting, two mentor training workshops (one in early 2008 and one in Atlanta prior to convention), and travel for mentors to clubs. The task force decided not to hold the second mentor training

In June Finance Committee approved a reallocation of part of the unspent monies to fund the Pilot Program.

USMS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

Our Future

Our new Executive Director views club and coaches development as a primary facet in the growth of USMS. Club and coaches development is included in his USMS Vision and budget request.

The task force will not meet at convention.

END TO END EVENT MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE (“E2EEM”) Anna Lea Roof

This task force is defining the tools and processes to make it easier for USMS to sanction a Masters swim meet and process the meet results data afterward. We're still working on defining the different phases of E2EEM. Some of the components, however, were already under development before the task force was formed.

National Calendar of Events (in progress): The online calendar of events is being changed to an online database with various search capabilities. Tools will be developed to allow an LMSC representative to maintain their own listings on the national calendar of events.

Sanctioning of meets (future): An online system that will allow a meet director to apply for a sanction and receive a sanction number from the appropriate LMSC. The meet and sanction information will automatically feed into the Calendar of Events.

Meet Results Database (complete): A new USMS-hosted meet results database has been created with online views of the database for viewing meet results history for any swimmer and for viewing YTD event rankings in any event/age group. This database is available for various other online USMS tools to use, such as integrating with online entry for nationals and the individual swimmer info pages.

Top Ten Collection (in beta-testing): Tools have also been developed to allow LMSC top ten recorders to feed the meet results database and retrieve annual top ten submission files at the end of each season. Several LMSCs participated in early tests of these tools; some created their 2008 SCY top ten submissions using these tools.

Nationals Online Entry (ongoing): The online entry tools for our national championships continue to evolve. A new innovation was rolled out for this year's LC meet that allows USMS members to look up and select their entry times from past meet performances. This required integration with the meet results database.

Club Assistant database (ongoing): This data, which is transmitted from the online member registration site to the USMS database in real-time, is necessary for the E2EEM system to function properly. The data includes the swimmer's permanent ID, which is used for cross-referencing purposes in the meet results database, Top Ten, and records. It is also used in the Nationals online entry process. Having this real-time data allows USMS to verify meet entries much more quickly. For the 2008 SC Nationals, the verified meet roster and psych sheets were

USMS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

posted the day after entries closed. This verification process used to take 2-3 weeks after the close of entries.

USMS records (future, late 2008): The way that USMS records are tracked will be updated. This will help to streamline the processes for volunteers and will also allow us to publish the record progression history for all age groups on our website.

LMSC, club, zone, and meet records (future): A future add-on to the records area will also allow local groups to track LMSC, club, zone, or meet records.

US TRIATHLON ASSOCIATION LIAISON

Jerry Clark

My appointment to be the Liaison to USAT began in February 2008 at the mid-year meeting of the USMS board of directors. I prepared a set of missions, objectives and goals (MOGS) and submitted those to the Executive Committee for review, revisions and subsequent approval. In June, after consultation with the Vice President of Member Services, I agreed to proceed with the following tasks (with results as of August 11, 2008 shown in bold print):

- Contact USMS coaches to gather information and success stories. The goal is to conduct an electronic brainstorming session. The coaches were asked to tell things that help them work successfully with triathletes. The deliverable from this effort will be a list of ideas, attributed to the programs that use them, so other coaches can use those ideas and become successful in attracting triathletes. We will send this list by email to all USMS coaches and also share it with the club development task force. A comprehensive questionnaire pertaining to how coaches work triathletes into their daily workouts was created, revised to include distance swimmers and submitted to the members of the Coaches Committee in July. As of this writing, the past and current chairmen of the Coaches Committee and I are developing a summary document from the replies to our questionnaire. A full report will be included in your packet at the convention.
- Contact the coaches committee and ask them to increase the number of online workouts to include one or two that are written specifically for triathletes. The Coaches Committee chair agreed to find coaches to post weekly workouts for triathletes / distance swimmers on the USMS website. NOTE: it is recommended that any and all workouts posted on the website should be password protected so that just USMS registered members of might access those workouts. As of this writing, no coaches have yet been picked because we want to complete the summary of the replies before deciding what will be offered in the workouts section of the Discussion Forum.
- Create a document that explains the steps for hosting a USMS open water swim as part of a triathlon event. Help and information will be solicited from the Open Water Committee. When completed, this will be shared with LMSC chairs and the Open Water chair. This is actively in process as we're working with the step by step process with a local promoter of multiple triathlons. By following this event director's planning and submittal in July/August of an application to host one of the USMS Open Water championships, a document is being created showing the steps to follow for hosting an Open Water championship in conjunction with a triathlon. It will be attached with this report in your packets at the convention.

USMS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS AND LIAISON REPORTS

- Help LMSC's understand what information is available for usage in packets at triathlons. Make a list of materials that can be ordered from the national office and how far in advance they need to be ordered. This might include bonus distributions of our magazine, various fliers, the planner, etc. Make note of any good ideas that could be used by triathlon directors in our LMSCs. This is not active at the time of this writing due to the fact that a new branding effort is underway. Once the branding process is completed, new materials will be ordered. The existing materials stored at our former national office (Tracy's address) have dwindled. Advance notice of at least 90 days for requesting materials will be required.

The USMS Executive Director, Rob Butcher, met with the head of marketing for USA Triathlon (Tim Yount) and the executive director of USA Triathlon (Skip Gilbert) at the USA Swimming Olympic trials in Omaha this year. They discussed how the two organizations might work together more closely in the future. According to Rob, a number of ideas came up that will need to be flushed out before more a definitive relationship can be implemented. It is the general opinion of myself, other board members, the coaches on the USMS coaches committee, many of our members and our executive director that these two organizations serving adults in their quest for fitness should be able to find common ground on which to enhance the delivery of their respective goals.



USMS
Rules, Open Water/Long
Distance & Emergency
Legislation Proposals



PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

The following proposals have been submitted, in accordance with section 601.2 to the Rules Committee for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 2008 Convention.

Please note that many of the proposed changes are from review work done by the Rules Committee and are a matter of clarifying, reorganizing, maintaining consistency, and updating rules.

The real substantive proposals are R 11, R 18, R 21, R 30, R 31, R 35, R 51, R 52, and R 53.

Others of some substance are R 4, R 6, R 12, R 16, R 22, R 27, R 29, R 32, R 33, R 34, R 37, R 38, R 39, R 47, R 50, and R 54.

R 1	Glossary	page x	Rules Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Bulkhead – moveable end wall of a course.

Rationale: Not currently defined in the rule book.

R 2	Glossary	page x	Rules Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Competition – an athletic performance by an athlete, either individually or as a part of a relay team or a club.

Rationale: Not currently defined in the rule book.

R 3	Glossary	page xi	Rules Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Leadoff – the first part of the relay event that is swum by a single team member.

Rationale: Not currently defined in the rule book.

R 4	Glossary	page xi	Rules Committee	Modify and Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled	

Recognized Events Recognition – the written authorization of an LMSC for a designated competition conducted in conformance with relevant USMS rules, a demonstration, clinic or exhibition conducted by USMS member clubs, individual members or organizations other than USMS in which both members and non-members may participate. Times or distances achieved by members at recognized competitions may be accepted for recording purposes by USMS.

Rationale: Clarify the definition and match the definition of sanction. Recognized events are defined in 202.2

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 5 **101.1.2B** page 2 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Backstroke Start

B All courses – The swimmers shall line up...or on the starting grips. Standing in or on the gutter, ~~or~~ placing the toes ~~over~~ above the lip of the gutter, or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter before or after the start is prohibited.

Rationale: To match the corresponding USA Swimming language.

R 6 **101.1.2B** page 2 **Rules Committee** Delete

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Backstroke Start

B All courses – The swimmers shall line up...or bending the toes over the lip of the gutter before or after the start is prohibited. ~~A backstroke starting block may not be used.~~

Rationale: To match the corresponding USA Swimming language.

R 7 **101.2.2** page 2 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Breaststroke

Stroke – After the start...on the breast. ~~It~~ The swimmer is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time. (Rest is unchanged.)

Rationale: Makes it clearer that “It” refers to the swimmer.

R 8 **101.2.3** page 2 **Rules Committee** Modify and add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Breaststroke

Kick – After the start...at the completion of the first arm pull. ~~Following which,~~ After the completion of the first arm pull, all movements of the legs...without alternating movement. The feet must...downward butterfly (dolphin) kick

Rationale: Original sentence is grammatically incorrect.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 9 101.4.2 page 3 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Backstroke

101.34.2

Stroke – Standing in or on the gutter, ~~or placing the toes above the lip of the gutter, or curling~~ bending the toes over the lip of the gutter immediately after the start is not permitted. The swimmer shall push off on the back...head must have broken the surface of the water.

Rationale: To match the language of 101.1.2B and the corresponding USA Swimming language.

R 10 101.6.3B(2) page 4 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Individual Medley Turns

(2) Backstroke to breaststroke – The swimmer must touch the wall while on the back. Once a legal touch has been made, the swimmer may turn in any manner, but ~~the shoulders must be at or past vertical toward the breast~~ when the swimmer leaves the wall the body shall be kept on the breast and the prescribed breaststroke form must be attained prior to the first arm stroke.

Rationale: To match the language of 101.2.2 and the FINA language.

R 11 102.13.2 page 13 **Rules Committee** Add new .2 and renumber the rest

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Change of Program and Postponement

.2 At the meet referee's discretion, events may be combined by distance and/or stroke provided there is at least one empty lane between such combined events.

Rationale: Correspond with USA Swimming language.

R 12 102.15.1 page 14 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Disqualifications

A disqualification can be made only by the official within whose jurisdiction the infraction has been committed. Except for ~~the relay takeoff judges when dual confirmation of relay takeoffs judging is used as provided in article (103.10.5B) is used~~ and false starts (103.8.6A and B), the referee, stroke, turn or relay takeoff judge, upon observing an infraction, shall immediately raise one hand overhead. If the official does not do so, there shall be no disqualification.

Rationale: Add dual confirmation for false starts as an exception to the requirement for raising one hand overhead.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 13 102.15.8 page 14 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Disqualifications

Should a foul endanger...reswim the event. In the case of collusion to foul another swimmer, at the referee's discretion, the swimmer for whom the foul was committed may be disqualified as well as the swimmer doing the fouling.

Rationale: Clarify awkward sentence.

R 14 103.8.8B page 19 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Deliberate Delay or Misconduct

~~B Swimmers who fail~~ The Referee shall disqualify a swimmer who fails to appear at the starting platform ready to swim in time for the initial start of their the heat. ~~shall be disqualified by the referee.~~

Rationale: Change to singular and more closely match the corresponding USA Swimming language.

R 15 103.13.1 page 25 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Official Time

An official time shall be achieved in a USMS-sanctioned competition or a USMS-recognized event in accordance with all applicable rules. It may be achieved in:

Rationale: Clarify that "USMS" modifies "recognized event" as well as "sanctioned event".

R 16 103.13.2 page 26 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Official Time – An official time for an event or stroke can be achieved...(e.g., a backstroke time must be achieved in a backstroke event, or a butterfly time can be achieved in an individual medley event). Regardless of the stroke(s) used, times achieved in freestyle events can be recorded only as freestyle times.

Rationale: To clarify that the first one-fourth of the individual medley is also the initial distance of that event.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 17 104 page 27 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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ARTICLE 104: NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS

(Recommended for all other championship meets when possible)

Rationale: Clarifies the original intent that Article 104 is mandatory for national championship meets but recommended for other championship meets.

R 18 104.1 page 27 **Pacific** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Meet Categories

USMS national championship meets shall be awarded in the following categories and held during the following dates, at venues located within the boundaries of USMS:

Rationale: To assure that USMS National Championship Meets are held at venues within USMS.

R 19 104.3.1A page 27 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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A Solicitation of bids—The USMS Championship Committee shall be responsible for the solicitation of bids ~~and for each short and long course championship with emphasis on soliciting bids from all areas of the country.~~ The committee shall present a list of all certified bidders for each short and long course championships to the House of Delegates at the annual meeting held more than one year prior to the meet being contested, ~~with emphasis on soliciting bids from all areas of the country.~~

Rationale: Clarify the process.

R 20 104.3.1C page 28 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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C Bid information—The Championship Committee shall provide a bidder with the appropriate bid documents, financial statements, meet contract, and meet reports from previous championships, and all other information pertaining to the policies and procedures of running a national championship meet.

Rationale: Update the list of information provided to a bidder.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 21 104.3.1D page 28 **Championship Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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D Bid deadline—All bids for a national championship meet shall be returned to the chair of the Championship Committee no later than ~~30~~ 60 days prior to the annual meeting.

Rationale: This will allow the Championship Committee time to solicit other bids if there are no qualified bids for either long course or short course national championship meets.

R 22 104.4.2 page 28 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Payments—An amount per entrant to be determined by the Championship Committee and stipulated in the contract ~~The amount of ten dollars per entrant~~ shall be withheld in the payment from USMS to the national meet host prior to the meet. Upon compliance with the conditions set forth in the meet contract, an amount the sum of \$3 per entrant shall be returned as stipulated in the contract. Noncompliance with said conditions, as determined by the meet evaluation committee within 30 days of the receipt of the final meet report, shall result in forfeiture of part or all of ~~this amount~~ the final payment.

Rationale: Clarify awkward language and remove set dollar amounts, allowing the Championship Committee to set those amounts as policy.

R 23 104.4.4 page 28 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Meet Evaluation Committee—A five-member meet evaluation committee shall be composed of at least three Championship Committee members, ~~plus~~ and two additional USMS members who are knowledgeable in championship procedures. No member of the protest committee, host club or host LMSC ~~may~~ shall serve on the meet evaluation committee. A written evaluation shall be submitted to the meet host.

Rationale: Change “plus” to “and” and “may” to “shall” (it’s mandatory).

R 24 104.5.1B page 29 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B Warm-up schedule—A list of times when the competition pool and other facilities will be available for warm-up shall be provided in the ~~premeet~~ official meet information.

Rationale: Use the same term for meet information as in 104.5.1A(1).

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 25 104.5.4A(1) page 32 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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(1) USMS membership—USMS individual membership numbers and club names and abbreviations must be submitted on all entry forms together with entry times. “Pending” (except for 18-year-olds) for membership number ~~will~~ shall not be permitted. An 18-year-old must enter the meet by the entry deadline and must register for USMS membership prior to the first day of the meet. An 18-year-old may register for USMS membership at the championship venue on the day prior to the beginning of competition and must be 18 by that date.

Rationale: Change “will” to “shall” because it’s mandatory.

R 26 104.5.4A(3) page 32-33 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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(3) Affiliation—A swimmer’s affiliation as stated on the entry form ~~will~~ shall apply throughout the meet. If the club on the entry form and the club listed in the USMS membership database do not match, the swimmer shall, prior to the first day of competition, submit a new USMS membership card showing the new affiliation. If there are any questions about club affiliation, the swimmer ~~will~~ shall be switched to unattached status for the duration of the meet, regardless of actual affiliation. A swimmer may declare unattached status at any time.

Rationale: Change “will” to “shall” because it’s mandatory.

R 27 104.5.4C(2) page 33 **Rules Committee** Delete and move

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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(2) Relay entry deadline—A relay may be entered until the day before it is scheduled to be swum. Participants therein must have entered the meet by the individual entry deadline. ~~A fee of \$12 per relay as determined by the Championship Committee shall be charged for all each relays.~~

Rationale: Move last sentence to section on entry fees (104.5.4D[1]) and remove the dollar amount, allowing the Championship Committee to set that amount as policy.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

104.5.4D(1) page 34 **Rules Committee** Modify
Entry fees

(1) The Championship Committee shall determine ~~the~~ individual and relay entry fees.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 28 104.5.4C(3) page 33 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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(3) Postmark deadline—The meet director may establish a U.S. Postal Service postmark deadline seven days prior to the individual entry deadline. If a postmark deadline is established, individual and relay entries postmarked by a U.S. Postal Service office in the 50 states by midnight of that date ~~will~~ shall be considered on time. Private or corporate meter postmarks will not be accepted.

Rationale: Change “will” to “shall”, mandatory.

R 29 104.5.4D(3) page 34 **Rules Committee** Delete

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Entry fees

~~(3) The meet host shall not be required to refund overpayments of \$10 or less. Any payments greater than \$10 may be subject to a processing fee of up to \$10.~~

Rationale: The USMS Office rather than the meet host takes care of refunds. This should become policy.

R 30 104.5.6 page 35 **Ohio** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Club Scoring

B Categories Overall Club Scoring – Club scoring based on the total individual and relay points earned by a club will be tabulated in three categories.

1. Women’s – women’s individual events and women’s relay events.
2. Men’s – men’s individual events and men’s relay events.
3. Combined – women’s individual events, women’s relay events, men’s individual events, men’s relay events and mixed relay events.

C Quality Club Scoring – Club scoring based on the average points per swimmer scored by each club will be tabulated as follows: divide each club’s total individual and relay points by the number of swimmers entered for the club. A club must have at least four swimmers entered in the meet to be eligible for the Quality Club award. Quality club scoring will be tabulated in three categories.

1. Women’s – women’s individual events and women’s relay events.
2. Men’s – men’s individual events and men’s relay events.
3. Combined – women’s individual events, women’s relay events, men’s individual events,

men’s relay events and mixed relay events.

D Overall Point Totals – The overall point totals for each club and the quality point totals for each eligible club shall be published in all results documentation.

Rationale: This will reward clubs in two categories. Overall Club Scoring will reward clubs that bring a large number of swimmers to the National Championship. Quality Club Scoring will reward clubs based on performance only (average points per swimmer) rather than club size. The Ohio LMSC has used this club award system for the last year and a half with a 98% approval rating from coaches and swimmers in the LMSC.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

Article 104.5.7C – Awards page 36 **Ohio** Modify

~~**Team Club awards**~~ – The organization conducting the national championship meet shall provide awards to the first through ~~tenth~~ fifth place winners in the women's, men's and combined categories for both the Overall Club Award and the Quality Club Award.

R 31 104.5.6 page 35 **Pacific** Modify

Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Club Scoring

B Categories—Club scoring will be tabulated in ~~three~~ two categories.

- (1) ~~**Regional Clubs**~~~~**Women's**~~—~~women's individual events and women's relay events.~~ For competition at national championship meets, a "Regional Club" consists of a club made up of those swimmers who represent a club at nationals, but at competitions within their LMSC, they compete for an entity or subgroup (such as a workout group) that is different than the one they compete with at nationals.
- (2) ~~**Local Clubs**~~~~**Men's**~~—~~men's individual events and men's relay events.~~ For competition at national championship meets, a "Local Club" consists of a club that does not qualify as a Regional Club.
- (3) ~~**Combined**~~—~~women's individual events, women's relay events, men's individual events, men's relay events and mixed relay events.~~
- (3) The Championship Committee shall publish a list of Regional and Local Clubs no later than February 15 of each year. A club may contest its designation by filing an appeal with the chair of the Championship Committee at least 45 days prior to the national championship meet.

Rationale: Provide a more equitable means of scoring the National Championships by proposing two scoring divisions and giving awards for combined club scoring only (1st – 10th) in each category.

Other articles that would require changing in order to maintain consistency:

Article 104.5.7C – Awards page 36 **Pacific** Modify

~~**Team Club awards**~~ – The organization conducting the national championship meet shall provide awards to the first through tenth place clubs winners in the women's, men's and combined categories for two categories: the Regional Club category and the Local Club category. Points scored for a club will be the sum of all points scored by members competing for that club in events for men, women, and relays.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 32 104.5.7C page 36 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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C Team Club awards – The organization conducting the national championship meet shall provide awards to the first through tenth place winners in the women's, men's and combined categories.

Rationale: Change “Team” to “Club” since all other references to scoring at nationals are for a “club” (104.5.6).

R 33 104.5.8B page 36 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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B Publication of meet results–Meet results...hard copies and electronic files shall be sent to the chair and liaison for the Championship Committee and the USMS Records and Tabulation Chair or designee.

Rationale: The Records and Tabulation Chair may assign the duties for Top 10 and records to someone else.

R 34 104.5.9B page 36 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Protest Procedure

B Protests affecting the eligibility of an individual, ~~or~~ a relay team, or a club to compete, or protests arising from the competition itself, shall be handled by a panel of five persons comprised of one representative each from the Championship Committee and Rules Committee, if present, plus three other participants selected from other than the host ~~team~~ club by the protest panel chair or Championship Committee liaison. This panel shall be chaired by the representative from the Championship Committee. Protests shall be submitted in writing, heard by the panel and decisions rendered no later than the last day of competition. Both the party lodging the protest and the party charged shall be afforded a chance to be heard. The decision of the panel shall be final.

Rationale: More accurate description of eligibility protests. Part 1 deals with relay teams or clubs.

R 35 104.5.10 page 37 **Officials Committee** Modify and add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Personnel

(Section A is unchanged)

B Officials –

~~The minimum number of officials at each session of a USMS national championship meet shall include the following:~~

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

~~One meet referee
One deck referee for each course
One administrative referee
One starter for each course
Two stroke and turn judges for each course.~~

The meet host shall appoint a meet referee and an administrative referee subject to qualification standards established by the USMS officials committee. A head starter shall also be assigned.

The following positions shall be assigned for each session:
one deck referee for each course
one starter for each course,
one chief judge for each course.

A sufficient number of stroke and turn judges shall be assigned in order to provide fair and equitable jurisdictions per 103.10.4.

In addition to the officials listed above, additional officials may be assigned in order to provide adequate relief for all officials during each session.

All officials shall be certified by USA Swimming, USMS, YMCA or any other USMS-approved certifying body in the capacity in which they are assigned. ~~An official may serve in only one officiating position during any event, except that during freestyle events 400 meters and longer, the referee and starter may double as stroke and turn judges.~~

C Other personnel - The minimum other personnel at each session of a USMS national championship meet shall include the following:

Two timers per lane for each course, each using a backup button and at least one timer using a stopwatch
One recall rope operator for each course if a recall rope is used
One safety marshal for each end of each pool in use for warm-ups.

A sufficient number of administrative officials (including timing equipment operators) shall be assigned to ensure that rules and procedures regarding seeding, official time determination, results, and certification of records are followed.

D Availability of Officials

In the event of insufficient personnel, the meet referee may modify or combine assignments, except that the deck referee and starter may not be the same person and lane timers may not operate two similar timing devices simultaneously.

Rationale: The current rule does not adequately describe the number of officials needed to run a National Championship meet.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 36 105.1.4 page 38 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Required Information— To be considered for national Top 10 times or for USMS national records, ~~all relay times must include the name of the club and the full name (as it appears on the USMS membership card), the age, and, for mixed relays, the gender of each swimmer~~ eligibility For all individual ~~events, times and relay leadoff times~~ eligibility is are based on current USMS membership as noted on the entry card, and the results must contain the full name (as it appears on the USMS membership card) and age of each swimmer. All relay times must include the name of the club and the full name (as it appears on the USMS membership card), the age, and, for mixed relays, the gender of each swimmer.

Rationale: List the individual information first followed by the relay information and include relay leadoffs in individual information since that is also for an individual.

R 37 105.1.7A page 38 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Pool Measurement

A The exact length of the course, measured for all lanes using a steel tape or other acceptable measuring device in ~~feet and inches and fractions of an inch, or in meters and centimeters~~ English or metric units, must be attested to by the person performing the measurements.

Rationale: To allow measurement in fractions or decimals (e.g., tenths and hundredths of a foot) in a short phrase.

R 38 105.1.7B page 38 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Pool Measurement

B A statement of the conditions under which the course was measured must be included as stipulated on the USMS Pool Length Certification Form (Appendix B).

Rationale: Add a phrase that directs one to the description of “conditions”.

R 39 105.1.7C page 38 **Records and Tabulation Committee** Modify and add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Pool Measurement

C Where a moveable bulkhead is used and the initial pool length certification for all lanes is on file, course measurement of the two outside lanes and a middle lane must be confirmed at the conclusion of the session during which the time was achieved. **Note:** It is recommended that the ~~bulkhead placement~~ pool length be confirmed prior to the start of the meet.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

Rationale: Clarify that the initial measurement of a bulkhead pool must be for all lanes and that it is recommended to check the length of the pool rather than just the placement of the bulkhead.

R 40 105.1.8 page 39 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS national records shall be published annually in the *USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition*.

Rationale: Clarify the frequency and match 105.2.1 which also uses “annually”.

R 41 105.2.2E page 39 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Top 10 Times (split times)

E ~~The swimmer's~~ For a relay leadoff split time, ~~shall not count if~~ the second swimmer does not starts in the water.

Rationale: Parallel sentence structure with A, B, C, and D.

R 42 105.3.1 page 39 **Rules and Records and Tabulation Committees** Modify and add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

.1 The fastest certified official time by a USMS member in each event in a USMS-sanctioned ~~competition~~ or USMS-recognized event competition shall be designated as a USMS national record. For Open Water Long Distance records, see Article 306.

Rationale: Add clarifying language and direct open water long distance swimmers to record information.

R 43 105.3.2 page 39 **Rules Committee** Delete

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

.2 Records shall be achieved only in ~~recognized~~ distances and strokes as listed in article 102.5.

Rationale: To avoid confusion with recognized events as described in 202.2, pages 54-55.

R 44 105.3.4 page 39 **Rules Committee** Delete and renumber the rest

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

USMS National Records

~~.4 Times may be submitted for Masters records only.~~

Rationale: It is not within USMS's control whether a time is submitted or accepted by another swimming governing body.

R 45 105.3.6 pages 39-40 **Rules and Records and Tabulation Committees** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

~~.6 The official time for establishing records shall be achieved and determined in accordance with articles 103.11, 103.12 and 103.13. Records shall require automatic timing, semiautomatic timing with three buttons or manual timing with three watches, ~~semiautomatic timing with three buttons or automatic timing.~~~~

Rationale: List the timing quality in order of preference.

R 46 105.3.7 page 40 **Rules and Records and Tabulation Committees** Delete

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

~~.7 Split times shall be considered for USMS national records if: they meet the requirements of 105.2.2A-E.~~

~~**A** Recorded by fully automatic timing equipment,~~

~~**B** In an individual event other than backstroke, the request to have a split time recorded is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee prior to the conclusion of the meet,~~

~~**C** In a relay event or an individual backstroke event, the request to have a split time recorded is brought in writing to the attention of the meet referee prior to the swim and~~

~~**D** The swimmer(s) completes the full distance of the scheduled event without being disqualified and performs a legal finish at the initial distance.~~

~~**E** The swimmer's relay leadoff split time shall not count if the second swimmer starts in the water.~~

Such split times shall be included separately in the summary of results prepared by the meet director and submitted to the LMSC Top 10 recorder.

Rationale: Not necessary to repeat the rules from the previous page but keep the last paragraph.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 47 105.3.8 page 40 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

.8 Records must be achieved in the relevant stroke/event (e.g., a backstroke record must be set in a backstroke event; or a butterfly record can be set in an individual medley event etc.). Records set in freestyle events can be submitted only as freestyle records, regardless of the stroke or strokes used.

Rationale: To clarify that the first one-fourth of the individual medley is also an initial distance of that event which could be an official split time (as in 103.13.2).

R 48 105.3.10 page 40 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

.10 When a record is claimed, an official USMS record application form (Appendix B) shall be filled out, signed by the designated officials and transmitted immediately following performance with all supporting data, including official meet results, the primary printout tape and/or copy of the entry card with timers' signatures to the records and tabulation chair for the LMSC in which the event was sanctioned or recognized. Responsibility for this lies with either the LMSC records chair or the official scorer of the meet. The LMSC records and tabulation chair shall send the supporting data to the chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee or designee for verification. Upon verification, the chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee or designee shall promptly publish the new record on the USMS website.

Rationale: Add clarifying language, and the Records and Tabulation Chair may assign the duties for records to someone else.

R 49 105.3.11 page 40 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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USMS National Records

.11 Records set outside the United States shall be applied for on official USMS record application forms (Appendix B) and are subject to all pertinent requirements.

Rationale: Add clarifying language.

R 50 105.5 page 41 **Rules Committee** Modify and add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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World Records

Applications and documentation for world records (25-meter and 50-meter courses only) shall be

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

~~supplied~~ submitted to the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee chair or designee as detailed in Appendix B (see also articles 103.13.3 and 103.13.4).

Rationale: Use more accurate language, and the Records and Tabulation Chair may assign the duties for records to someone else.

R 51 108	page 47	Open Water Long Distance Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

ARTICLE 108: GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIATING SWIMMERS WITH ~~A DISABILITY~~ SPECIAL NEEDS IN USMS MEETS

Rationale: To align our organization with the current ADA language. If this is adopted, “Disability” will need to be replaced by “Special Needs” throughout Article 108.

R 52 108.1.2B(3)(c)	page 48	Open Water Long Distance Committee	Modify				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Modifications

(c) Allowing the athlete’s assistant(s) on the deck, in the pool, or in open water ~~or in the water~~ to assist with a start- and/or a finish.

Rationale: Athletes with physical special needs may need help getting from the water to the start and or finish in an open water event, especially those with a running start or finish.

R 53 108.1.2B(3)(d)	page 48	Open Water Long Distance Committee	Add				
Action:	Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled

Modifications

(d) In an Open Water event, allowing the referee to assess the severity of the special need of a swimmer and to allow them to wear adaptive equipment they currently use in everyday life, such as a leg brace to stabilize a paralyzed leg.

Rationale: Swimmers with special needs may need to use their same adaptive equipment when competing in open water events in order to maintain body position, as long as such equipment does not provide them with speed.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

R 54 108.5.1D page 49 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Start

D May need to assume a modified starting position on the blocks, deck, gutter or in the water to maintain balance.

Rationale: The added phrase appears in the USA-S rules upon which USMS Article 108 is based.

HOUSEKEEPING

HK 1 101.2.2 page 2 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Separate into four paragraphs as follows:

Stroke—After the start and after each turn when the swimmer leaves the wall, the body shall be kept on the breast. It is not permitted to roll onto the back at any time. Throughout the race the stroke cycle must be one arm stroke and one leg kick in that order.

All movements of the arms shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

The hands shall be pushed forward together from the breast on, under or over the water. The elbows shall be under water except for the final stroke before the turn, during the turn and for the final stroke at the finish. The hands shall be brought back on or under the surface of the water. The hands shall not be brought back beyond the hip line, except during the first stroke after the start and each turn.

During each complete cycle, some part of the swimmer's head shall break the surface of the water. After the start and after each turn, the swimmer may take one arm stroke completely back to the legs. The head must break the surface of the water before the hands turn inward at the widest part of the second stroke.

Rationale: Easier to read and matches USA Swimming language.

HK 2 101.2.3 page 2 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Separate into two paragraphs as follows:

Kick—After the start and after each turn, a single butterfly (dolphin) kick, which must be followed by a breaststroke kick, is permitted during or at the completion of the first arm pull. Following which, all

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULES OF COMPETITION

movements of the legs shall be simultaneous and in the same horizontal plane without alternating movement.

The feet must be turned outwards during the propulsive part of the kick. A scissors, flutter or downward butterfly (dolphin) kick is not permitted except as provided herein. Breaking the surface of the water with the feet is allowed unless followed by a downward butterfly (dolphin) kick.

Rationale: Easier to read and matches USA Swimming language.

HK 3 102.15.4 page 14 **Rules Committee** Modify

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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A swimmer must start and finish the race in ~~their~~ the assigned lane.

Rationale: Maintain singular throughout the sentence.

HK 4 103.2 page 16 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Certification of Officials

The referee shall be certified as a stroke and turn judge, starter or referee by USA Swimming, USMS, YMCA or any other USMS-approved certifying body (Appendix B).

Rationale: To help readers find the complete list of USMS-approved certifying bodies.

HK 5 105.1.6C page 38 **Rules Committee** Add

Action: Adopted	Defeated	Adopted/Amended	Tabled	Postponed	Withdrawn	Pulled
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Certification data need only be filed once unless structural changes have occurred since the original certification.

Rationale: Add a missing word.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

The following proposals have been submitted, in accordance with section 601.2, to the Rules Committee for consideration by the House of Delegates at the 2008 Convention.

LD1 301.2.2 p. 57 OWLDC Modify

Membership, Representation, and Sanctions

301.2.2 Open water and long distance meets may include both USMS and USA Swimming events, with the USMS events sanctioned by USMS and the USA Swimming events sanctioned or approved by USA Swimming. Under no circumstances shall a USMS athlete and a USA Swimming athlete be considered part of the same event but they may swim at the same time on the same course. Athletes holding both USMS and USA Swimming memberships must declare their race affiliation, in writing, prior to the start of the ~~meet~~event.

Rationale: By holding simultaneous races, both organizations are able to utilize and offer their athletes the best resources of each. Since the rules are aligned, members of both organizations will be officiated in the same manner.

LD2 301.3 p. 57 OWLDC Modify

LIABILITY RELEASE

Entry forms shall contain the exact language of the liability release according to article 203.1. The following statement shall be added to the end of the release for all open water meets: “*Finally, I specifically acknowledge that I am aware of all the risks inherent in open water swimming and agree to assume those risks.*” The language ~~may~~must only be modified by naming the sanctioning LMSC, sponsoring USMS club(s) and/or additional insured(s) following “UNITED STATES MASTERS SWIMMING INC.” The liability release must be signed by each person prior to participation on race day.

Rationale: Due to the increase of online registrations, participants need to sign the liability release when they check in for the event to insure coverage.

LD3 302.3.1 p. 58 OWLDC Modify

OPEN WATER Straightaway Events

The course shall be a straight, measured distance, within plus or minus 6 inches, in stationary open water and defined by a cable with floats or a continuous marking system visible to the swimmer. ~~The ends of the course shall be delineated by two fixed and stationary markers in the water.~~ Floats on the course shall be a maximum of 10 meters apart.

Rationale: GPS is not accurate enough. If *permanent* fixed & stationary markers are used, a course only needs to be certified once. If course has no permanent stationary markers, it must be certified by a licensed surveyor annual.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

LD4 302.5 p. 59 OWLDC Modify

~~TEAM~~ **RELAY EVENTS**

~~Teams~~ Relays are comprised of groups of swimmers entered in the individual swim-, except at the discretion of the Event Director. A ~~team~~ relay event may be contested on a total time/distance or point system basis.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

Rationale 2: Some marathon open water events may be done as relays without entering the individual marathon distance.

LD5 302.5.1 p. 59 OWLDC Modify

Time/Distance Basis – A specified number of contestants on each ~~team~~ relay shall be considered in the computations for team scoring. The ~~team~~ relay whose top specified number of swimmers has the lowest cumulative time or the greatest cumulative distance shall be declared the winner. A similar method will be used to determine second, third, and subsequent places. In the event of a tie, the ~~team~~ relay with an individual member who finished nearest to first place shall be declared the winner or awarded the place.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

LD6 302.5.2 p. 59 OWLDC Modify

Point Basis – Points are awarded on the basis of overall finishing position, with one point for first place, two points for second place, etc. The points of specified ~~team~~ relay members are added, and the lowest cumulative score determines the winning ~~team~~ relay; the second lowest score, the second place, etc. In the event that two or more ~~team~~ relay score the same number of points, the ~~team~~ relay that has the swimmer who won or finished ~~closest~~ nearest to the first place shall be declared the winning ~~team~~ relay.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

LD7 302.5.3 p. 59 OWLDC Modify, Add

Rules Pertaining to ~~Teams~~ Relays

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

A All ~~team~~ relay members shall be from the same USMS-registered club.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

Rationale 2: To ensure that a club is currently registered with USMS.

B All ~~team~~ relay members shall also be entered in the individual event-, except at the discretion of the Event Director.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

Rationale 2: Some marathon open water events may be done as relays without entering the individual marathon distance.

C ~~Teams~~ Relays shall be male, female and mixed gender.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

D Competitors shall be allowed to swim in only one same-gender and one mixed-gender team relay event per meet.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

E The age of the youngest relay member determines the age group of the relay: 18+, 25+, 35+...
95+.

Rationale 1: To clarify that Open Water and Postal Relays are determined by age group, not the cumulative sum of the ages.

EF A swimmer who ages up during the duration of an event and swims the individual event twice may swim on two additional same-gender and mixed-gender ~~teams~~ relays in different age groups.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

Rationale 2: Renumber, Housekeeping

EG Mixed-gender ~~teams~~ relays may be entered, provided at least one swimmer of each gender is represented as follows:

Rationale 1: Renumber, Housekeeping

CHANGE HEADING OF COLUMN ONE IN CHART TO:

Total number of ~~team~~ relay team members

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

LD8 302.6 p. 60 OWLDC Modify, Add

302.6 RELAY FORMAT

Rationale 1: The title clarifies the relay formats available, and describes scoring and eligibility procedures.

A. Relays shall consist of two or more swimmers as specified on the entry form. The relay members shall rotate in the same order throughout the event. The time or distance each swimmer is required to spend in the water shall be specified on the entry form. The changeover to the new swimmer shall be made as soon as practical after the completion of the previous swimmer's leg. In the exchange in open water events, physical contact must be made between the two swimmers. In pool events, the exchange is governed by articles 101.7.3C and 101.7.3H. The ~~meet event~~ director, with the concurrence of the chair of the Open Water and Long Distance Committee, may allow special events in which members of an open water relay need not be from the same club.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

B. Event participants may swim simultaneously a portion of the total distance of the prescribed event then combine their times with other members from the same USMS-registered club to create a cumulative relay time for the complete distance. The gender representation in 302.5.3F is to be adhered to.

Rationale 1: To allow individuals who may not be able to complete the full distance, such as the 25K, to participate, thus increasing the participation of OW swimmers in USMS events. Having swimmers complete a

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

portion of the event, such as 5K, all at once, allows these relay swimmers to watch the rest of the longer individual swim and not to be forced to wait around for their individual leg of a 5 person relay.

Rationale 2: To clear the course of relay swimmers as early as possible, to allow solo swimmers as clear of a course as possible for the remainder of their event, and to allow officials and volunteers to focus on safety and the needs of the solo swimmers for the remainder of an event.

LD9 303 p. 60 OWLDC Modify
ARTICLE 303: CONDUCT OF OPEN WATER MEETS EVENTS

Rationale 1: Clarification. An Open Water Swim is an Event, not a Meet.

LD10 303.1.2 p. 60 OWLDC Modify
CONDUCT OF OPEN WATER MEETS EVENTS
303.1.2 Safety Standards

Providing accurate maps with course descriptions, course markings, and other pertinent information, including but not limited to anticipated water temperature and general water conditions, with entry forms and meet information packets.

Rationale 1: To put course markings on the swim map is very helpful for swimmers.

LD11 303.1.9 p. 61 OWLDC Modify
CONDUCT OF OPEN WATER MEETS EVENTS
303.1.9 Safety Standards

303.1.9 Considering use of fluorescent ~~orange and other~~ or brightly colored caps to assist in identification and visibility of swimmers in open water events.

Rationale 1: Since race buoys are often orange, event participants get orange cap colors confused with the buoys. Therefore our committee advises that colors other than orange are best.

LD12 303.1.10 p. 61 OWLDC Modify
CONDUCT OF OPEN WATER MEETS EVENTS
303.1.10 Safety Standards

303.1.10 Informing swimmers of the anticipated water temperature, specific weather and water conditions, and known hazards.

Note: LMSCs are encouraged to ~~develop their own safety~~ use USMS safety guidelines and precautions for the conduct of open water and long distance events, as well as develop their own, provided they are not in conflict with USMS rules, policies or procedures. Visit <http://www.usms.org/longdist/safety.pdf>.

Rationale 1: Why ask event directors to reinvent the wheel when we've already got great resources for them to use??!

LD13 303.3.1 p. 61 OWLDC Modify
STARTS
303.3.1 Types

A Stationary—Swimmers start from a platform or in the water behind a marked lined (real or imaginary) with no forward motion prior to the starting signal.

Rationale 1: To prevent swimmers from jumping the gun or inching up on the starting line, especially in an in-water start.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

L14 303.5.1 p. 62 OWLDC Modify

FINISHES In-the-Water

The swimmer shall have finished the race when any part of the swimmer touches a vertical surface or crosses a ~~defined~~ specifically designated finish line after completion of the prescribed distance. Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly. Order of finish shall be determined as the swimmer touches the vertical surface or crosses the finish line.

Rationale 1: To make it perfectly clear where the race ends.

LD15 303.5.2 p. 62 OWLDC Modify

Out-of-the-Water—Swimmers shall leave the water, as defined by the course, and run up the beach to a ~~marked~~ specifically designated finish line. Place judges and timers shall position themselves accordingly. Order of finish shall be determined as the swimmer's chest crosses the finish line.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with 303.5.1.

LD16 303.6.3 SWIMWEAR p. 62 OWLDC Modify

303.6.3 Wetsuits may be allowed in all USMS-sanctioned open water events, at the discretion of the ~~meet~~ event director. Wetsuits generally provide a competitive advantage. If awards are given to wetsuit competitors they shall be awarded separately from those for non-wetsuit competitors. Any published results or records must clearly indicate which swimmers wore wetsuits.

Rationale 1: Because the OWLDC is aware that people wearing wetsuits are no longer allowed to be treated as non-participants because they represent a major area of growth to our organization. In most cases, these neoprene-clad souls would trade their eye teeth to go without but for whatever reasons they chose to look like shark bait, they want/need/can't live without it so by allowing this new rule, they can now wear their wetsuit in our USMS races and get a prize from USMS. Also, members of the OWLDC are getting tired of extracting naked, frozen people from the bathrooms where they are attempting to warm up by splashing themselves with lukewarm water from the sink and recognize that if these folks had been offered an opportunity to wear a wetsuit in their race, they would be having a much more fun time at this USMS event than experiencing hypothermia and swearing on their mother's grave to never swim in an open water race again.

Rationale2: This rule is leading our organization down the slippery slope to *The Sanitization of Open Water Swimming*. We have regulated water temp, hot hats, buoys every so often, swim suits that help us float, and more devices to take the element of nature out of the events, sort of like rock climbing with an elevator, so are we "purists" now viewed as the extremists in our sport, the on the fringe element? But on the other hand at least people are swimming and staying healthy, which is a wonderful thing for our society.

Rationale3: As purists spend time acclimating to less warm water temps and not spending time cycling 140 miles or running 26 at a stretch, do we get a motor on our bike? How about we start a "Buffet Event", similar to the 300IM: Pick a few choices you want and we'll all compete together. This could lead to the "All Gadget Olympics."

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

LD17 303.6.3 SWIMWEAR

p. 62

Verne Scott, PMS

Modify

303.6.3 Wetsuits may be allowed in all USMS-sanctioned open water events, at the discretion of the ~~meet~~ event director. Wetsuits generally provide a competitive advantage. If awards are given to wetsuit competitors they shall be awarded separately from those for non-wetsuit competitors. Any published results or records must clearly indicate which swimmers wore wetsuits.

Rationale 1: Encourage more people to enjoy the benefits of open water swimming and especially senior folks.

Rationale 2: Provide confidence, safety and protection for swimmers and reduce the risk of hypothermia when the water has a low temperature.

Rationale 3: Provide equal and fair treatment and opportunity for all swimmers whether they do or do not wear a wet suit.

Rationale 4: The policy should include a provision that a wet suit should not be worn in competition when the water temperature exceeds a defined temperature.

Rationale 5: I believe that some of the comments against such a policy are from those who are only considering their own personal experience rather than what is good for the sport of swimming. My swimming background and experience, which serves as the basis for my recommendation spans 34 years under USMS rules, includes training and competition in pools and open water, Chairman of PMS, Vice President of USMS, and Executive Director of USA Triathlons. Your assistance in making my recommendation known to delegates of the Convention will be appreciated.

LD18 303.8.10 DISQUALIFICATIONS p. 63

OWLDC

Housekeeping

303.8.10—Act in an unsportsmanlike or unsafe manner within the swimming venue.

Rationale 1: Remove indent in 2008 Rule Book.

LD19 ARTICLE 304 CONDUCT OF POOL MEETS POSTAL EVENTS p. 63

OWLDC

Modify

CONDUCT OF POOL MEETS POSTAL EVENTS

Rationale 1: The OWLDC does not run any pool meets, rather we organize postal events run by selected event hosts. Please see existing article 306.1.7 as an example of existing comprehensible wording.

LD20 304.3 OFFICIALS p. 64

OWLDC

Modify

304.3.1 There shall be at least one ~~an~~ adult acting in the capacity of a starter/~~head~~ counter/timer/referee (~~may be one person~~) who shall be present at all times, having no other responsibilities during the period of the swim.

Rationale 1: Better clarifies that only one adult on deck is needed during a postal event.

LD21 304.5 TIMING p. 65

p. 65

OWLDC

Modify

304.5 A stopwatch or electronic timing system shall be used to time the ~~meet~~ event.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 303.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE
RULES OF COMPETITION**

LD22 304.5 TIMING p. 65 OWLDC Add

304.5.2 *Splits must be recorded to the nearest second and tenth (or hundredth) of a second. Cumulative time is the primary split to record, lap split times are secondary.*

Rationale 1: Clarifies the expectation of what splits to record and the accuracy needed.

LD23 ARTICLE 305 NATIONAL OPEN WATER ~~LONG DISTANCE~~ AND POSTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS p. 65 OWLDC Modify

Rationale 1: To clarify what events our committee presides over.

LD24 305.2.1 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS p. 65 OWLDC Modify

305.2.1 At the discretion of the Open Water Long Distance Committee, national championship ~~meets~~ events may be awarded in the following events:

Rationale 1: Housekeeping, making the language consistent with the title.

LD25 305.2.1 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS p. 66 OWLDC Add

I Other national championship events and distances may be awarded at the discretion of the Open Water and Long Distance Chair.

Rationale 1: When excellent opportunities become available for the USMS membership, our organization can make the most of these events as national championships.

Rationale 2: Housekeeping

LD26 305.2.2 Team Events p. 66 OWLDC Modify
305.2.2 ~~Team~~ Relay events (as defined in article 302.5).

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

LD27 305.2.2 Team Events p. 66 OWLDC Modify

A ~~Team~~ Relay competitions shall be contested in postal championships and may be contested in other championships. Recognized ~~teams~~ relays shall be three-person male and female ~~teams~~ relays and four-person mixed ~~teams~~ relays (2 women, 2 men).

B Age groups for ~~team~~ relay events shall be the same as those listed in article 102.3.2A.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

LD28 305.3 SITE SELECTION p. 66 OWLDC Housekeeping
305.3.3 Events not awarded at the annual meeting may be awarded by the Open Water and Long Distance Committee chair.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

305.3.4 Suitable bids shall comply with all applicable USMS swimming and Open Water and Long Distance rules, policies and procedures.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

LD29 305.3.5 SITE SELECTION: p. 66 OWLDC Modify & Add

We would like to propose that we rewrite 305.3.5 and include this chart in Appendix D along with the site selection map and description of areas (as in the 2007 rule book, pages 159 & 160)

305.3.5 A three-area award system shall be followed for the bidding of non-postal Open Water National Championships. (See Appendix D for map and description of areas.) ~~Suitable bids from a qualifying area shall receive preference over bids from other areas.~~ Suitable bids will be evaluated on the basis of three criteria (1) in or out of a qualifying area, (2) the timing and venue of the Open Water National Championship in relation to a same year pool National Championship and (3) is the bid for a festival of Open Water National Championships or for just one Open Water National Championship. (See Appendix D for chart of the hierarchy of the criteria to be evaluated.) Postal national championships may be awarded to an organization for two consecutive years and will be awarded without regard to area.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF SUITABLE BIDS FOR OPEN WATER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

Rank	In Area Bid	Out of Area Bid	Bid Tied to Pool NC (SCY or LCM)	Multiple OW NCs (Festival)	1 OW NC
1	x		x	x	
2	x		x		x
3		x	x	x	
4		x	x		x
5	x			x	
6		x		x	
7	x				x
8		x			x

Rationale1: We realize that we're thinking outside of the box a bit, but in continuing with the mission of growing USMS OW Swimming and utilizing tying an OW NC to a Pool NC and the festival idea as incentives and preference during the bidding process, we've designed a chart that represents a ranking system to evaluate bids for the OW NCs. Please note that the geographic rotation would continue with the in area and out of area criteria as outlined in 305.3.5 We believe that having a clearly defined criteria chart will aid the bidders in submitting their bids and in understanding the outcome of the awards of the bids.

LD30 305.3.5 SITE SELECTION: should follow p. 152 Appendix D OWLDC Modify & Add

We also recommend changing the titles of the map and the description of the areas

BIDDING AREAS FOR LONG-DISTANCE OPEN WATER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS

Rationale1: Clarification of what events are eligible for bidding areas.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE
RULES OF COMPETITION**

LD31 305.5.2 FINANCIAL p. 67 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.5.2 Complete financial statements shall be forwarded to the Open Water and Long Distance Committee chair after completion of the ~~meet~~ event, according to the championship forms provided.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

Rationale 2: To clarify to event directors where their forms are located.

LD32 305.6 ENTRY FEES p. 67 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.6.1 The entry fees for open water long distance national championships shall not exceed \$30 \$50 for individual events and \$5 per ~~team~~ member in ~~team~~ relay events. Exceptions may be made to the fee limit at the discretion of the Open Water and Long Distance Committee.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping – two times

Rationale 2: To keep up with rising costs in our current economy.

Rationale 3: Until a procedure manual exists for USMS, we maximum entry costs need to be published as a source of guidance for race directors and bidders.

LD33 305.6 ENTRY FEES p. 67 OWLDC Add

305.6.2 Postal National Championships: The entry fees for the postal national championships shall not exceed the following amounts. Exceptions may be made to the fee limit at the discretion of the Open Water and Long Distance Committee.

- A. One Hour Postal: \$6.00 per individual entry; \$15 per relay entry
- B. 5Km & 10Km Postals: \$12 per individual entry; \$18 per relay entry
- C. 3000-yd & 6000-yd Postals: \$12 per individual entry; \$18 per relay entry

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

Rationale 2: Entry Fees and Host Profits are based on the number of event entrants.

Rationale 3: To avoid confusion, the entry fees for the two smaller postal events will be the same.

LD34 305.7.3 RULES OF CONDUCT p. 67 OWLDC Modify

305.7.3 Officials—In addition to the officials required by article 303.7, the following officials are required for open water national championship events:

Rationale 1: Clarification

[Comment from the Chair: Since all of Article 305 pertains to OW NCs and all of Article 304 pertains to Post NCs, I'm not sure we need this except that many event directors don't read chapter headings --it's that forest/trees thing. Adding these additional 10 characters will not create a new line, hence no additional real estate is required.]

LD35 305.7.5 Wetsuits p. 67-68 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.7.5 Wetsuits—Wetsuit competitors shall be ~~excluded~~ included for the purposes of articles 305.8 through 306.1, except where noted. ~~In addition, wetsuit competitors shall have a separate start time and a separate finish line.~~ At the discretion of the event director, wetsuit

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

competitors may have the same start and finish line as all non-wetsuit competitors but may be started in their own separate wave. Wetsuit competitors shall not be eligible for All-American or All-Star status or any USMS individual or relay records.

Rationale 1: To grow OW Swimming in USMS and allow all USMS participants to earn an award. See 303.6.3 for further rationale.

Rationale 2: To clarify exactly what honors wetsuit swimmers are eligible for.

A The temperature parameters observed by USA Triathlon will be observed by USMS for wetsuit use in USMS-sanctioned races.

Rationale 1: From a safety perspective, just as hypothermia is a potentially serious outcome for some OW naked swimmers, heat-related illnesses ie: heat exhaustion or it's more serious continuum heatstroke, are potentially serious outcomes for wetsuit wearers in warmer temperatures. If we align ourselves with the current USA Triathlon temperature rules for wetsuit use, many of the wetsuited swimmers will already be versed in the rules and not be surprised if the water temperature dictated 'No Wetsuit Use' at a particular event. The current USA Triathlon rules are below for reference:

4.4 Wet suits. Each age group participant shall be permitted to wear a wet suit without penalty in any event sanctioned by USA Triathlon up to and including a water temperature of 78 degrees Fahrenheit. When the water temperature is greater than 78 degrees, but less than 84 degrees Fahrenheit, age group participants may wear a wet suit at their own discretion, provided however that participants who wear a wet suit within this temperature range shall not be eligible for prizes or awards. Age group participants shall not wear wet suits in water temperatures equal to or greater than 84 degrees Fahrenheit. The wetsuit policy for elite athletes shall be determined by the USAT Athletes Advisory Council.

LD36 305.8.1 RESULTS p. 68 OWLDC Modify

Individual results shall be tabulated electronically by gender and age group in order of finish. Women's results shall be shown first, followed by Men's results. For each swimmer, the following information must be reported in ~~this~~ the order designated on the results forms in the championship packet for that event:

A Age group place

B Swimmer's name (~~last name first~~, as it appears on the USMS membership card)

Rationale 1: Due to variation of individual USMS registrars, all USMS cards are not consistent

C Age on day of event

Rationale 1: Add and renumber subsequent letters D&E. Item 'C' was inadvertently omitted.

Rationale 2: With postal events, an individual's DOB may indicate an aged-up age, instead of their actual age on the day he/she swam the event.

D ADD DOB

Rationale 1: To have for historical purposes for USMS Archives, to be able to cross-reference for confirmation of identification (two people with the same name.)

Rationale 2: Renumber

DE Club (official USMS team abbreviation)

Rationale 1: Renumber

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

E F USMS Number

Rationale 1: Renumber and reformat to align with other letters.

(Ann is checking with Patty Miller to determine the need for this info; confidentiality issue)

FG Official time/distance

Rationale 1: Renumber and reformat to align with other letters.

GH Special information (national records, overall place, place among men, Quality Points, etc.)

Rationale 1: Renumber and reformat to align with other letters.

LD37 305.8.2 RESULTS p. 68 OWLDC Modify

305.8.2 ~~Team Relay~~ results shall be ~~tabulated~~ tabulated electronically by gender and age group in order of finish. Women's results shall be shown first, followed by Men's results, then Mixed teams last. Only non-wetsuited swimmers may contribute to relays. For each team, the following information must be reported in ~~this~~ the order designated on the results forms in the championship packet for that event:

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

Rationale 2: Housekeeping: typo

A Age group place

B ~~Club (official USMS team abbreviation)~~ Full name of Club and official USMS team club abbreviation

Team's full name (USMS club followed by blank, A, B, etc.)

Rationale 1: To clarify.

Rationale 2: To make the language consistent with Article 305.8.1C

C Official time/distance for the ~~team~~ relay.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

D For each member of the ~~team~~ relay, include:

1. Name, as it appears on USMS registration card,
2. Age on date of swim,
3. Official time/distance,
4. USMS number,
5. DOB.

Rationale 1: To make the language consistent with Article 102.3.2

Rationale 2: To have for historical purposes for USMS Archives, to be able to cross-reference for confirmation of identification (two people with the same name.)

E Names, ages, ~~and~~ official time/distance, USMS number, and DOB for each member of the ~~team~~ relay.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

LD38 305.9 CLUB SCORING p. 68-9 OWLDC Modify

305.9 CLUB SCORING

Club scores shall be officially tallied for national open water long distance championship postal events. At the discretion of the ~~meet host~~ event director, club scoring may be tallied for open water events.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

LD39 305.9.1 CLUB SCORING p. 69 OWLDC Modify

305.9.1 Scoring A Club scoring for the one-hour swim shall be based on total club yardage for individual swims.

B Club point scoring for the 3000/6000 yard and 5K/10K postal national championships may be calculated based on a predetermined formula, approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee, to fit the age group national record times for each gender. A preformatted spreadsheet containing this formula will be supplied to the meet directors, and is available at www.websitebobbruce.org

- 1. Description of club scoring in the entry information:** “Club Scoring: Club point scoring will be calculated based on Quality Points, which are ratios of each individual time to the corresponding USMS Record for the gender & age group. The faster the swim the more Quality Points a swimmer earns. Club totals will be the sum of the quality points of its swimmers. Since every swimmer will receive quality points, every swimmer counts!”

Process for determining Quality Points:

1. Include the swimmer’s personal data in the spreadsheet/database.
2. Include the following columns for each swimmer:
 - a. Time: The swimmer’s time expressed in hours, minutes, seconds, and hundredths of a second.
 - b. TimeSecs: The swimmer’s time expressed in seconds and hundredths of a second by formula.
 - c. Record: The USMS Record for the swimmer’s sex and age group expressed in hours, minutes, seconds, and hundredths of a second.
 - d. RecSecs: The USMS Record expressed in seconds and hundredths of a second by formula.
 - e. QPoints: Quality points are determined by dividing RecSecs by TimeSecs then multiplying by 1000, rounded to the whole number. Quality points are typically three digit numbers, but will be four digits if the swimmer ties or breaks the USMS Record.
3. See the attached sample spreadsheet (with examples) for cell formatting and formulae.

Individual Placement: Rank order of swimmers is determined strictly by time without reference to quality points.

Club Scoring: The sum of the quality points earned by each club (in individual events only) will determine ranking in the Club Scoring.

Results: The results MUST include both the swimmer’s time and quality points.

Rationale 1: To clarify to Quality Points for Postal Championships.

C Club scoring for the other national championships shall be point value for placing in individual swims. Points shall be determined as if the meet were swum in a 10-lane pool (11-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1).

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

D Only non-wetsuit swimmers will be allowed to contribute to relay events.

Rationale 1: To keep the purity of open water swimming.

LD40 305.10 AWARDS p. 69 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.10.1 National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded at least to the first six place non-wetsuit winners of individual championships in each age group, and at least to the first three place wetsuit winners of individual championships in each age group.

Rationale 1: We are clarifying the number of wetsuit award places for which an event director will need to provide.

Rationale 2: The more individuals who receive medals, the more apt they are to return to a USMS event.

A National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded to the first ten place winners of individual championships in each age group of the One Hour Postal Swim.

Rationale 1: Since this event is the largest of any USMS national championship, we are keeping consistent with 104.5.7A, in reference to individuals. (See Rationale 2 of 305.10.2 for more info.)

Rationale 2: The more individuals who receive medals, the more apt they are to return to a USMS event.

LD41 305.10.2 AWARDS p. 69 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.10.2 National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded to the members of at least the first three place winners of ~~team~~ relay championships in each age group.

B National championship medals or other appropriate awards approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee chair shall be awarded to the first ten (or six???) place winners of relay championships in each age group of the One Hour Postal Swim.

Rationale 1: The more individuals who receive medals, the more apt they are to return to a USMS event.

Rationale 2: Since this event is the largest of any USMS national championship, we are keeping consistent with 104.5.7A.

CURRENTLY NO AWARD DETERMINATION EXISTS IN USMS POOL CHAMPS FOR RELAYS. I CROSS-REF'D 104.5.7, 104.5.6, AND 102.12.3. ARTICLE 102.12.3 ONLY REFERS TO SCORING, NOT AWARDS GIVEN. COMMITTEE CLARIFICATION IS NEEDED TO GET THIS CONSISTENT.

LD42 305.10.3 AWARDS p. 69 OWLDC Modify & Add

305.10.3 A USMS championship patch shall be awarded to each individual non-wetsuit champion and each scoring member of a non-wetsuit championship relay team. An individual shall receive only one patch per ~~meet~~ event.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

Rationale 1: Wetsuit swimmers may only earn individual awards; we cannot mix and match relay teams with WS and Naked swimmers. At this point, it's a stretch for USMS to extend our OW boundaries to include ANY wetsuited swimmers.

305.10.4 Appropriate awards approved by the Open Water Long Distance Committee chair may ~~shall~~ be awarded to the first, second and third place club winners in each non-wetsuit division.

Rationale 1: I sense a nightmare of scoring for already stressed event directors and wish to make this optional.

LD43 305.11.1 ALL-AMERICAN RECOGNITION p. 69 OWLDC Modify
305.11.1 The highest ranking non-wetsuit USMS member in each age group of each individual national open water long distance championship event shall qualify as a USMS Open Water Long Distance All-American for the calendar year in which the event was conducted.

Rationale 1: This will keep the playing field level and allow wetsuit swimmers to shed their skins if they want AA Recognition.

LD44 305.11.2 ALL-AMERICAN RECOGNITION p. 69 OWLDC Modify
305.11.2— The members of the highest ranking non-wetsuit USMS ~~team~~ relay in each age group of each national Open Water Long Distance Championship event shall qualify as USMS Open Water Long Distance ~~Team~~ Relay All-Americans.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping: separate onto its own line in the Rule Book.

Rationale 2: This will keep the playing field level and allow wetsuit swimmers to shed their skins if they want AA Recognition; to be consistent with 305.11.1.

LD45 305.12 ALL-STAR TEAM p. 70 OWLDC Modify
305.12 ALL-STAR TEAM
A USMS All-Star Team shall be selected each calendar year from the official non-wetsuit results of the USMS open water and postal ~~long distance~~ national championship events.

Rationale 1: To clarify exactly which swimmers are eligible and in which races they must participate.

305.12.1 A swimmer shall earn points for a top 10 non-wetsuit finish in each open water ~~long distance~~ and postal national championship event in the following manner: 1st: 22 points, 2nd: 18 points, 3rd: 16 points, 4th: 14 points, 5th: 12 points, 6th: 10 points, 7th: 8 points, 8th: 6 points, 9th: 4 points, 10th: 2 points.

Rationale 1: To clarify exactly which swimmers are eligible and in which races they must participate.

305.12.2 To be considered for the All-Star Team, a swimmer shall compete in at least three non-wetsuit events, of which one shall be an open water event and one shall be a postal event.

Rationale 1: To clarify exactly which swimmers are eligible and in which races they must participate.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE
RULES OF COMPETITION**

305.12.3 If a swimmer scores points in one age group and ages up to another age group in the course of a year, the points earned shall be transferred up to the new age group. If a swimmer swims the same event in two different age groups, only the higher finish will be counted. Only non-wetsuit results will be tabulated.

Rationale 1: To clarify exactly which swimmers are eligible.

LD46	305.12.5	ALL-STAR TEAM	p. 70	OWLDC	Add
305.12.5 If a swimmer begins an open water event but does not complete it due to an individual DNF, his participation will still not count towards 305.12.2					

Rationale 1: Only events that are completed count towards All-Star status. However, in the case of an event being stopped due to unforeseen circumstances (weather, safety issues, etc.), such an event would be counted.

LD47	306	RECORDS	p. 70	OWLDC	Modify
306.1.1 Individual <u>and relay</u> national records for <u>non-wetsuit</u> swimmers will be maintained in quarter-mile straightaway events (1-mile and 2-mile) and time/distance pool events (one-hour, 3000yard, 6000-yard, and 5- and 10-kilometer postal). Team <u>Relay</u> national records shall be maintained in all long-distance pool postal events. The records shall be for three-person male and female teams <u>relays</u> and four-person mixed teams <u>relays</u> .					

Rationale 1: To clarify exactly which swimmers are eligible to set records.

Rationale 2: The OWLDC does not run any pool meets, rather we organize postal events run by selected event hosts.

Rationale 3: To make the language consistent with 302.5.1.

306.1.2 Record times shall be swum in a sanctioned meet and shall be routed through the ~~meet~~ event host to the Open Water ~~Long-Distance~~ Postal Committee chair.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

Rationale 2: The OWLDC does not run any pool meets, rather we organize postal events run by selected event hosts.

306.1.6 ~~Long-distance~~ Postal national records may be established by using a swimmer's split time in an individual event if:

- A** The split is swum as an initial distance within a scheduled event,
- B** The swimmer completes the full distance of the scheduled event without being disqualified and
- C** The intent to record a split time is brought to the attention, in writing, of the event ~~host~~ director at the time of entry in the longer event.

Rationale 1: Housekeeping

D At least two dedicated handheld watches are used to ~~recored~~ document the record split.

Rationale 1: Better wording, more clear.

306.1.7 Split times from individual postal events may not be used as part of a relay entry

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

into a separate relay postal event of a shorter distance or for entry into a separate individual postal event of a shorter distance.

LD48 Glossary - Drafting/Slipstreaming **p. x** **OWLDC** **Modify**

Drafting/Slipstreaming—In an open water event, an individual swimming behind or next to ~~a single~~ another swimmer or support craft for the purpose of taking advantage of the reduced water resistance created by the former's wake.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD49 Glossary – Electronic Timing Chip **p. x** **OWLDC** **Modify**

Electronic timing chip is a miniature transponder in a specially designed housing, marked with a unique identification number. The transponder is a waterproof glass capsule that contains a silicon chip and an energizing coil. The chip, worn on an ankle strap, triggers the timing system when the swimmer steps on a timing sensor pad when exiting the water and records finish times and race numbers. It can be used in a wide variety of sports but may not be used an audible pacing device in swimming.

Rationale 1: To educate those who are not aware of this new device and how to use it.

LD50 Glossary –Escort Craft **p. x** **OWLDC** **Add**

Escort Craft — Boats or paddle boards used for the swimmers' safety and logistical support.

Rationale 1: To clarify this term for event directors.

Rationale 2: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

LD51 Glossary – Event (Meet Director) **p. x** **OWLDC** **Add**

Event (Meet) Director - The person responsible for the administration and conduct of the event.

Rationale 1: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD52 Glossary – Finish Point **p. x** **OWLDC** **Add**

Finish Point — The physical location where the race terminates.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD53 Glossary – Grease **p. x** **OWLDC** **Add**

Grease — A substance used by the swimmers to reduce friction or reduce the loss of body heat during a swim.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

LD54 Glossary – Open Water Swimming	p. xi	OWLDC	Add
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Open Water Swimming — any competition that takes place in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, or oceans.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD55 Glossary – Medical Evacuation Plans	p. xi	OWLDC	Add
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Safety/Medical Evacuation Plans — Written plans for the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency or need for medical intervention.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD56 Glossary – Paddler	p. xi	OWLDC	Add
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Paddler — A person on a paddle board or manually propelled craft who supports a swimmer or group of swimmers.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD57 Glossary – Straightaway Swim (a.k.a Cable Swim) p. xii	OWLDC	Add
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Straightaway Swim (a.k.a Cable Swim) is any swim of any length that is set on a straight course.
(see 302.3.1)

Cable Swim is a straightaway swim on a ¼ mile cable, measured within plus or minus 6 inches, in stationary open water and defined by a cable with floats or a continuous marking system visible to the swimmer.

Rationale 1: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD58 Glossary – Turn	p. xii	OWLDC	Add
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Turn— A point on the course where the swimmers reverse or change direction of the swim.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD59 Glossary – Venue	p. xii	OWLDC	Add
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Venue — Geographical area and environs where ~~the~~ a swim event is conducted.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE RULES OF COMPETITION

LD60 Glossary – Wave p. xii OWLDC Add

Wave — The second or subsequent start used if the start area cannot accommodate all contestants at the same time.

Rationale 1: To be consistent with USA-Swimming Rules and Regulations.

Rationale 2: To clarify this term for event directors.

LD61 507.2.10 Definition of Standing Committees p. 87 SALLY DILLON PNA Modify

I just noticed this past weekend that the committee description for the OWLD committee doesn't seem to be what was approved last year. The "new" wording (which is also in the title for Part 3) does not give a true picture of the committee's responsibility IMO. The term "Open Water Long Distance" does not indicate well that there are other long distance activities that the committee governs (i.e. Postal swims).

I discussed this with Kathy Casey and she looked back through convention notes and says this: "I couldn't find "Open Water/Long Distance" anywhere in writing, but the final copy of legislation that came to the House for a final vote says "Open Water and Long Distance" for the title and the first sentence and that was approved. However, the "and" was left out of both in the rule book. The sentence about selecting sites for championship events did not have the words "open water" in it, only long distance and that's what passed the House yet "open water" is in that sentence in the rule book. So that's what I found. It would be a legislation change (emergency this year) to straighten out the description (pg 87)." I also believe a rule change will be needed to change the title in Part 3 (pg 57). The rest of Part 3 appears to use the correct wording.

**LD62 Articles 108: GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIATING SWIMMERS WITH A DISABILITY
SPECIAL NEEDS IN USMS MEETS
p. 47 OWLDC Modify**

Rationale 1: To align our organization with the current ADA language.

If this is adopted, "Disability" will need to be replaced by "Special Needs" throughout Article 108.

LD63 108.1.2B3(c) Officiating Swimmers with Special Needs p. 46 OWLDC Modify
108.1.2B3(c) Allowing the athlete's assistant(s) on the deck, in the pool, or in open water ~~or in the water~~ to assist with a start- and/or a finish.

Rationale 1: Athletes with physical special needs may need help getting from the water to the start and or finish in an open water event, especially those with a running start or finish.

LD64 108.1.2B3(d) Officiating Swimmers with Special Needs p. 46 OWLDC Add
108.1.2B3(d) In an Open Water event, allowing the referee to assess the severity of the special need of a swimmer and to allow them to wear adaptive equipment they currently use in everyday life, such as a leg brace to stabilize a paralyzed leg.

Rationale 1: Swimmers with special needs may need to use their same adaptive equipment when competing in open water events in order to maintain body position, as long as such equipment does not provide them with speed.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS OPEN WATER/LONG DISTANCE
RULES OF COMPETITION**

LD65 507.2.10 Definition of Standing Committees p. 87 OWLDC Modify
507.2.10 Open Water Long Distance Committee—The Open Water Long Distance (or Open Water & Postal) Committee shall oversee and administrate the USMS Open Water Long Distance (or Open Water & Postal) national championships. The Open Water Long Distance Committee shall solicit and review bid proposals and select the sites for the open water ~~long distance and postal national~~ championship events. The committee shall work in a coordinating and advisory capacity with event hosts and make recommendations to enhance the quality of open water ~~long distance and postal national~~ championship events. The committee shall maintain records and select the All-American Open Water Long Distance and Open Water Long Distance All-Star Teams. The committee may initiate and shall consider proposed amendments, and shall report them, with the committee's recommendations, at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates, in accordance with the provisions of Part 6. ~~The committee shall maintain records and select the All American Open Water Long Distance and Open Water Long Distance All Star Teams.~~ The committee may interpret and render opinions regarding any provision of the rules and regulations of USMS within the committee's jurisdiction as defined in article 601.1.2. The committee ~~shall~~ may consist of ~~the~~ two committee co-chairs and no more than 16 additional members, with at least one member from each zone. The Rule Book Coordinator shall be an ex officio member of the committee. The co-chairs ~~chair~~ shall serve as the USMS liaison to the USA Swimming Open Water Committee.

Rationale 1: We have clarified early in the definition what the primary function of our committee is, before all the many many other facets come into play.

Rationale 2: Moving the "records" sentence up one sentence earlier is more logical and does not split up the two sentences that deal with proposing amendments and interpreting rules, similar to the format of the descriptions for the Rules and Legislation Committees.

PROPOSED EMERGENCY CHANGES TO USMS LEGISLATION

ARTICLE 201

L 1 201.2.1 Zone Committee page 52

201.2.1 Annual Membership—Annual membership for clubs is from the date of registration through December 31 of that year; however, a club applying for membership on or after November 1 will receive membership valid through December 31 of the following year. An LMSC shall not place any restrictions on the formation of clubs.

Rationale: We have several LMSCs that have only one club, and have no provisions for registering additional clubs. This is going to be an issue when we allow online registration of clubs, and we need to make it very clear that LMSCs must allow the registration of independent clubs, and not force all to become workout groups of a single LMSC-wide club. This is not intended to affect any rules put forth by an LMSC to determine whether or not a club is eligible for a vote on the LSMC committee or can host events. For example, an LMSC may require a club to have 8 members to have representation at LMSC committee meetings, and that is not affected by this proposed rule change. We consider this emergency legislation because of the plans to allow club registrations online.

The club registration issue is emergency because of the desire to provide the capability for clubs to register online this year. We have had several LMSCs that we have had to push really hard to allow anything other than the megaclub to register. We want to make it clear that they can't restrict club registration.

ARTICLE 601

L 2 601.1.3 Zone Committee page 93

601.1.3 Legislation Committee—Proposed changes to the Code of Regulations (Organizing Principles, Glossary, Part 2: Administrative Regulations of Competition, Part 4: Athletes' Rights, Hearings and Appeals, Part 5: United States Masters Swimming Inc. Organization and Bylaws, and Part 6: Amendment Procedures ~~and Appendix D: Zone and LMSC Boundaries~~) shall be considered by the Legislation Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.

add new section and renumber:

601.1.4 Zone Committee-Proposed changes to the Code of Regulations (Appendix D: Zone and LMSC Boundaries) shall be considered by the Zone Committee for report and recommendation to the House of Delegates.

Rationale: The Zone Committee is the logical body to gather information from all affected parties and provide a recommendation to the HOD regarding changed to Zone and LMSC boundaries. The Zone Committee is already working closely with LMSCs, and is in a position to research and advise the HOD on issues relating to boundaries. Zigzag boundaries create many problems, especially for online registration. We don't want a repeat of what happened last year, and the next opportunity for boundary changes would be next year.

PROPOSED EMERGENCY CHANGES TO USMS LEGISLATION

~~Water Long Distance All Star Teams.~~ The committee may interpret and render opinions regarding any provision of the rules and regulations of USMS within the committee's jurisdiction as defined in article 601.1.2. The committee ~~shall~~ may consist of ~~the two~~ committee co-chairs and no more than 16 additional members, with at least one member from each zone. The Rule Book Coordinator shall be an ex officio member of the committee. The co-chairs ~~chair~~ shall serve as the USMS liaison to the USA Swimming Open Water Committee.

Rationale 1: Due to the nature of the work load of this committee, in order to function properly, two co-chairs are necessary. One covers the open water portion of responsibilities and the other covers the postal events. In 2008, our committee oversaw 11 national championships from end-to-end. No additional budget or committee members are necessary.

Rationale 2: If anyone reading this has useable ideas, we welcome your suggestions.



USMS 2009 Proposed Budget



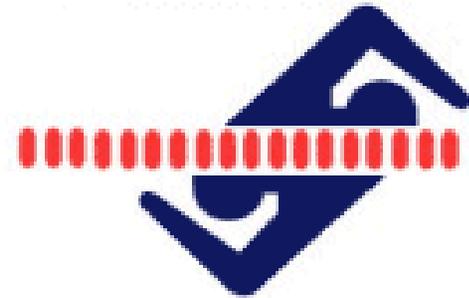


USMS

Attachments



United States Masters Swimming 2008 Convention Financial Overview



- 2007 Financial review & statement preparation was completed by USMS' independent auditors, Clifton Gunderson LLP. There were no booked adjustments or management letter comments.
- 2007 Tax return was completed. USMS incurred \$2,282 of Unrelated Business Income Tax for 2007 activity.
- 2007 Change in Unrestricted Net Assets ("net income") was \$165,678. (\$136,430 from USMS operations, \$29,248 from Endowment Fund).
- Cash and Investments balance at 12/31/07 was \$1,308,222, up 32% over prior year-end.
- Total Unrestricted Net Assets at 12/31/07 were \$1,515,784.
- 2007 Memberships were a record 44,131.

USMS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2007 Financial Highlights

Revenues:

Membership Dues	\$ 905,327
Publication Income	91,120
Interest Income	68,878
Other	<u>150,488</u>
Total	\$ 1,215,813

Expenses:

Publications Costs	\$ 397,718
Other Program Costs	353,513
General & Administrative	<u>298,904</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,050,135</u>

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets \$ 165,678

Independent Auditor's Report is available at Convention.

USMS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2007 Financial Highlights

At 12/31/07

Assets:

Cash & CD's	\$ 1,308,222
Accounts Receivable	319,382
Endowment Fund	244,636
Other	<u>100,776</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,973,016</u>

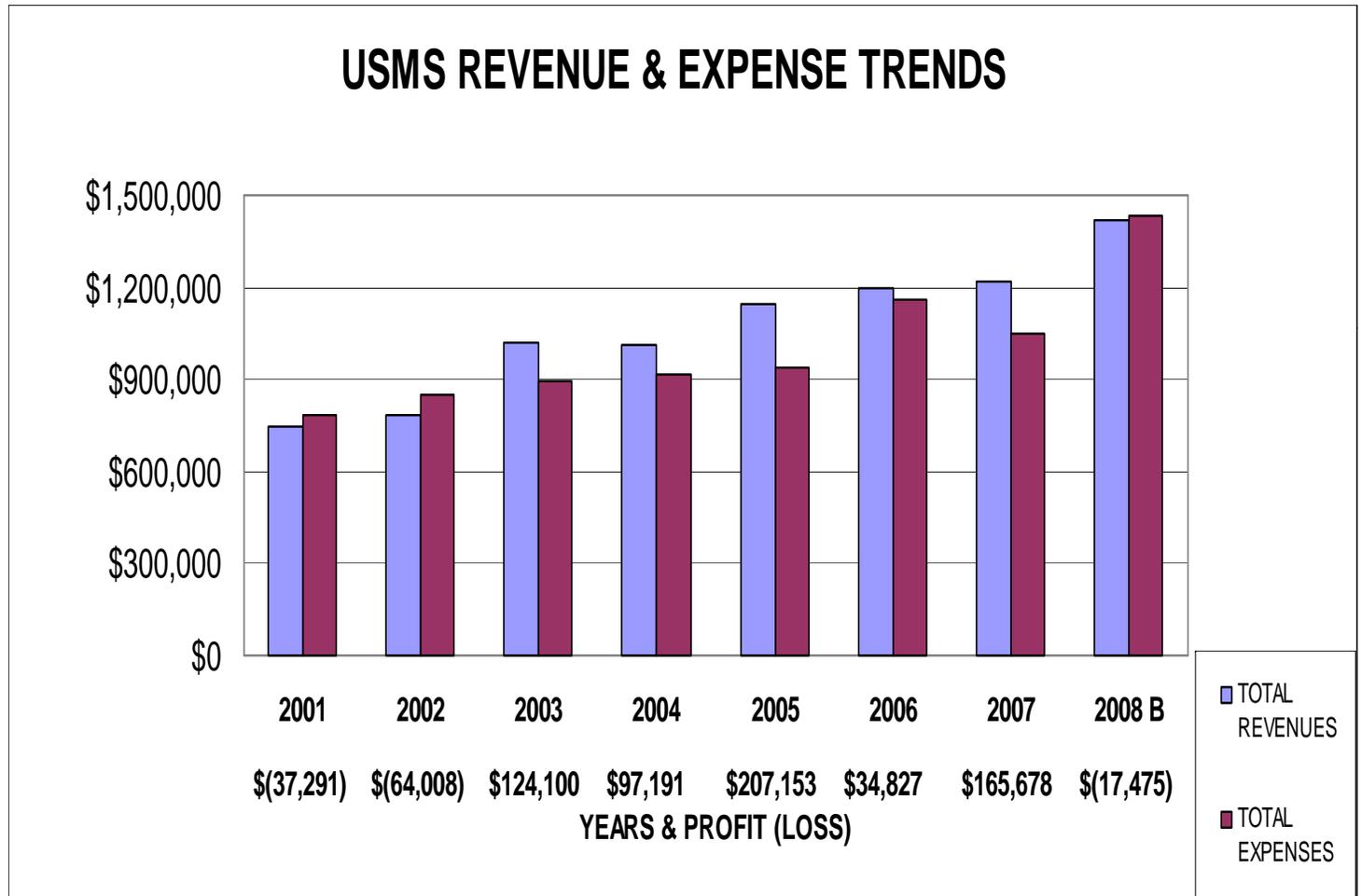
Liabilities and Net Assets:

Deferred Revenue	\$ 414,656
Other Liabilities	42,576
Insurance & General Reserves	270,000
Undesignated Net Assets	<u>1,245,784</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,973,016</u>

Independent Auditor's Report is available at Convention.

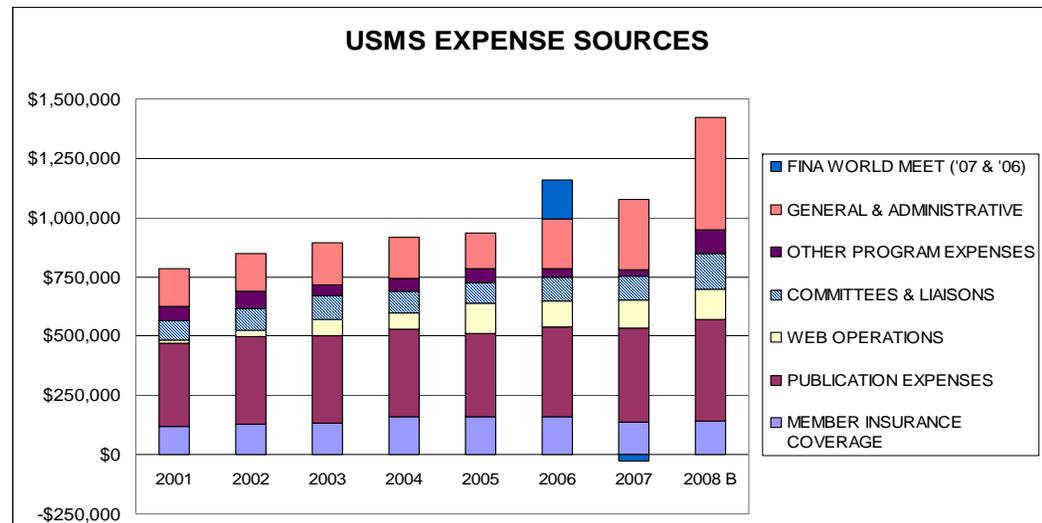
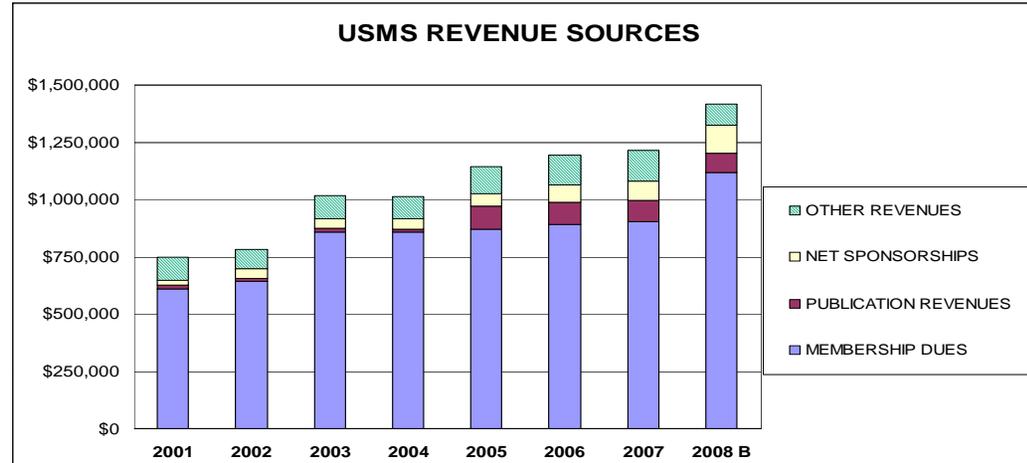
USMS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- Year-over-year revenues have increased or held flat.
- 2003 & 2008B revenue increases due to dues increase.
- 2007 revenues 2% over 2006.
- 2007 expenses 9% under 2006: XI FINA note reserve booked in '06.

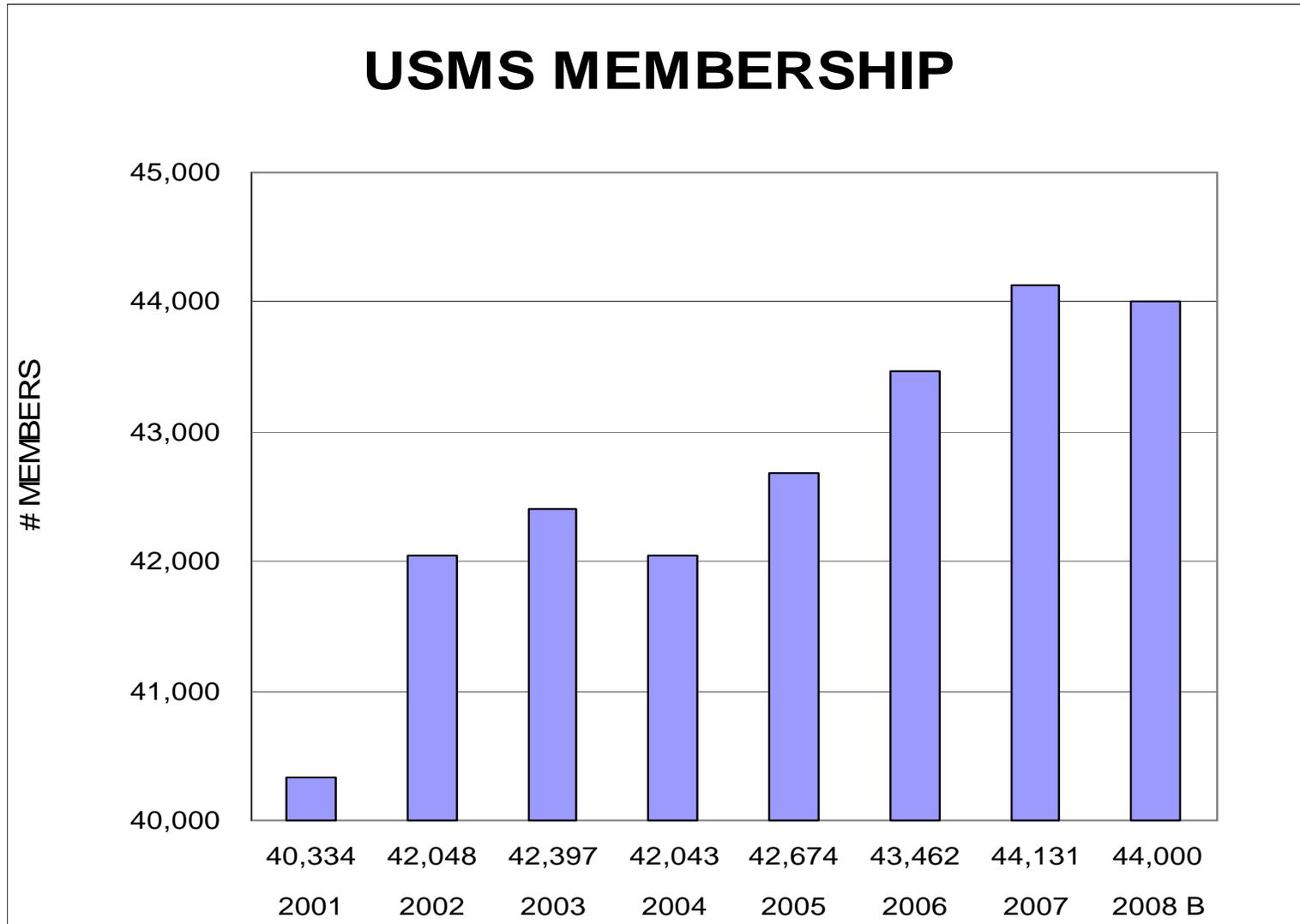


USMS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- Membership revenue has been relatively flat since 2003 dues increase. 2008B also reflects dues increase.
- Advertising revenue increased in 2005 with SWIMMER contract.
- Sponsor revenue has consistently contributed to the bottom line.
- Other revenues include Interest, Meet surcharges, Endowment Fund contributions.
- Costs growing slightly, but relatively constant until 2006.
- 2006: G&A higher due to ED search; recorded bad debt reserve re XI FINA note receivable
- 2007: G&A higher due to ED wages & employee benefit costs

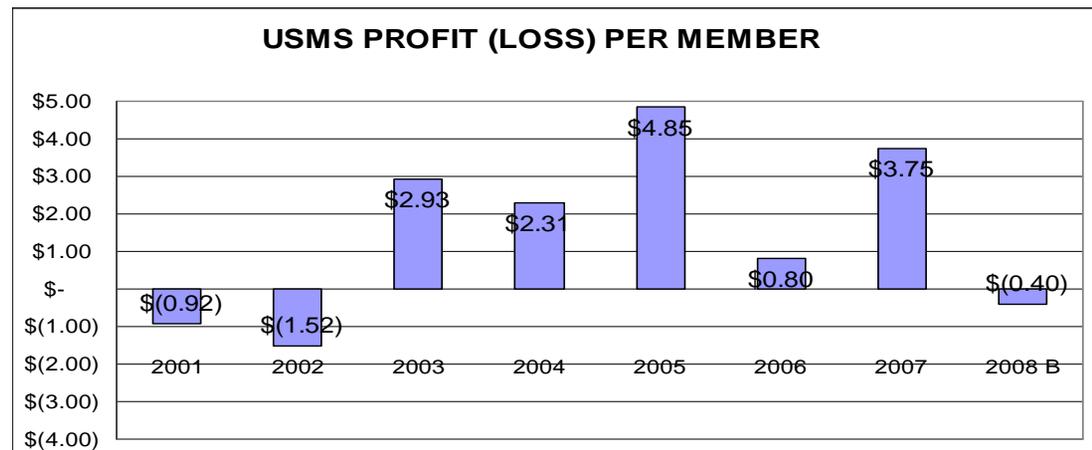
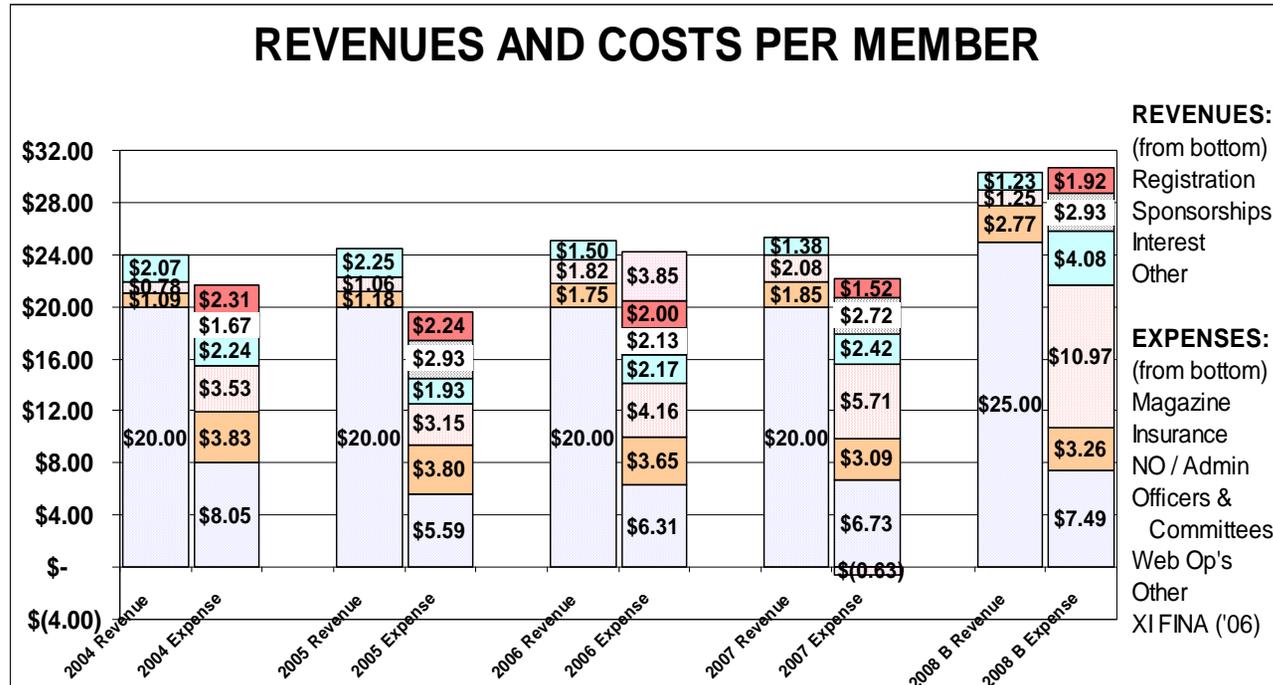


USMS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



USMS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

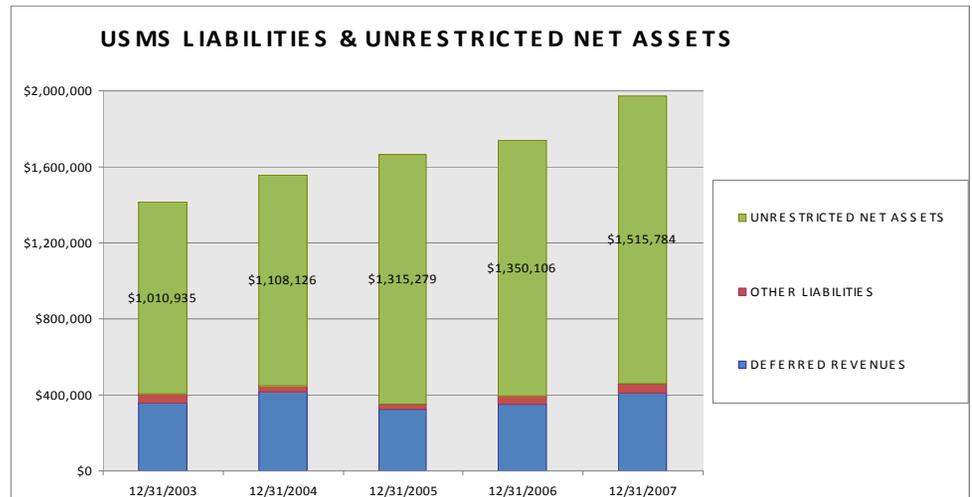
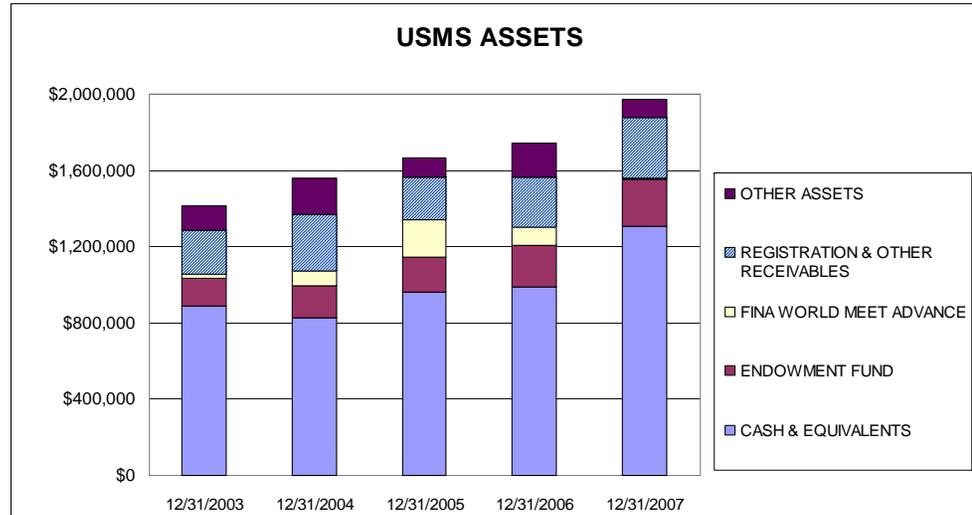
- Other income includes: meet surcharges, misc. product sales, misc. other.
- Costs per member exceed member dues in 2004, 2006, 2007 & 2008 budget.



USMS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

BALANCE SHEET

- Cash and CD position has been strong and consistent.
- Endowment fund has grown each year since 2000.
- Unrestricted Net Assets have increased from \$887,000 at 12/31/02, to \$1,516,000 at 12/31/07.



LMSC Workshops

Thursday, 7:15-8:45 p.m.

Risk Management and Insurance (Jim Wheeler and Sandi Blumit)

Marietta

Safety is always number one! Jim always entertains when in front of a crowd, so come to this workshop to see how he and Sandi can unravel the intricacies of risk management and our insurance coverage. They'll let you know what are the most common reasons for insurance claims, and what you can do to minimize the risk and keep your swimmers safe and healthy.

Effective Leadership (Ed Tsuzuki and Julie Heather)

University

Are you an LMSC Chair, local or national committee chair, Board of Directors member, or aspiring to be one? Then this workshop is for you. What works as a volunteer doesn't always work when you're in a leadership position. Learn how to make the transition from being a star volunteer to becoming an effective leader.

Club Models (Mark Moore, Nancy Reno, and Tom Boyd)

Piedmont

Learn about three very different club structures, three success stories, and three ways to serve the Masters swimmers in one area. Listen to Mark, Nancy and Tom share their stories and get some ideas on how manage, market, and succeed with your club.

End to End Event Management (Jim Matysek and Anna Lea Roof)

Vining

Learn about the USMS Meet Results Database, how it is used on usms.org, how it fits into the overall End to End Event Management initiative (E2EEM) and how to load results into the database. If you are an LMSC Top 10 Recorder, this workshop is for you. The tools to load meet results are available for top 10 recorders to use to process all of your LMSC meet results, as well as to create your annual top 10 submissions. All are welcome to attend to learn about these exciting new tools.

LMSC Roundtables

Saturday, 10:30-11:45 a.m.

Registrars Roundtable (George Simon and Leo Letendre)

Roswell

Get together with your fellow registrars and share what works, find solutions for what doesn't, and give your wish list to George and Leo.

Sanctions and Records (Walt Reid)

Lenox

Go over the intricacies of sanctions, recognitions and record applications with Walt, and make sure that every record setting swim is properly recognized.

Coaches Roundtable (Chris Colburn)

Vining

Brainstorm ideas with fellow coaches; find out how others would solve your sticky problems; and network, network, network.

Chairmen's Roundtable (Debbie Morrin-Nordlund)

Piedmont

Discuss common and uncommon issues facing LMSC Chairmen, let us know what USMS can do to better help strengthen your LMSC.

Want to know more about Postal Swims? (Marcia Cleveland and Ann Svenson)

University

Thinking about hosting a USMS postal swim, but confused about what's involved? Here's a chance to learn how!