

## U.S. Masters Swimming

**Committee Name:** Recognition & Awards

**Committee Chair:** Elizabeth Nymeyer

**Minutes recorded by:** Sally Dillon

**Date/time of meeting:** Nov. 27, 2022, 6 pm CST

**Actions taken:** The minutes of the August 21, 2022 meeting were approved via email.

**Number of committee members present:** 11

**Absent:** 3

**Guests:** 1

**Attendees:** Marcia Benjamin, Rich Burns, Hill Carrow, Sally Dillon, Mike Hillegonds, Nancy Kryka, Beth Nymeyer, Ray Novitske, Nancy Ridout, Laura Val, Ed Coates (VPLO)

**Absent:** Charis Anderson McCarthy, Nadine Day, Ginger Pierson

**Guest:** Stacy Abrams

Chair Beth Nymeyer called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm Central. She welcomed all and thanked the members for serving in 2022. Beth noted that we succeeded in gathering more nominations for awards this year and she appreciated all the jobs that were accomplished.

1. Meeting minutes: The minutes of the August 21, 2022 meeting were approved via email and submitted by Sally to USMS Secretary Carrie Stolar for posting.
2. Awards at the Annual Meeting: Beth and others complimented Ray for the outstanding video presentation for awards. He noted that the visual capability at the hotel was not as enjoyable for those in person, but he enjoyed seeing the reactions in those seeing the presentation live. Beth suggested we let winners know in advance so they can go online to watch the presentation. It was noted that it is traditional for the awards to be a surprise. Sally suggested all nominees be notified of the day, time, and link in advance, so they can tune in on the presentation. Beth would like to discuss this more next year. Nancy noted that she had confirmed that the recipient of the JKC award would be at convention, but at the last minute, they canceled. The nominator informed them about the award presentation so they could watch online. Mike asked if the COYA banner had been delivered to the recipient and Ed confirmed that it had. Ray asked Marcia if she would have wanted to know in advance when she won the COYA award in 2021 and she replied that it was a surprise, and she wouldn't have it any other way!
3. Online stories about award recipients: Beth noticed that the stories are only listed by award category, and she'd like to see all awards "by year". Ray said the website does list the winners up through 2020. Beth will contact the National Office and ask that 2021 and 2022 be done. Ray hasn't followed up since the annual meeting to get the other award giving committees to provide stories, but it's on his to-do list.

Sally reported that the stories for the Club of the Year Award are complete except for INDY (2006) and WCM (2007). Unfortunately, the nomination documents from those first two years were not retained by the R&A chair. Sally has contacted Mel Goldstein for 2006 and numerous people at WCM for 2007 (incl. Kerry O'Brien and Peter Guadagni). They are working on it, but as of now, information has not yet been provided. Stories for all of other R&A awards are up to date.

Ray noted that Jeff Cummings provided rather lengthy stories about the Diversity and Inclusion award recipients. Ray will work with Jeff to shorten them before posting. A few people expressed surprise that the D&I committee presented so many awards. It was unexpected, but possibly they were making up for “lost time”. It was also suggested that they were trying to elevate everyone’s interest in the purpose and mission of the committee and the award. Ed offered to discuss this with Chris Campbell.

4. RJA award: Citing a lack of time to develop a new ad, Beth submitted last year’s ad to the NO for promotion of the RJA award.

RJA “pinning” ceremony: This is traditionally done at the Annual Meeting, but the pins were redesigned by the NO and not available in September. After some discussion, Beth asked Nancy K to reach out to Anna Lea and Jim Matysek and plan an opportunity for them to get officially “pinned” among friends and teammates. It could be at a gathering that might include someone from the NO.

Ray asked if progress has been made to get photos of award winners to their page. For those who are in the USMS database, a photo will show up. If the recipient is not in the database, Ray would like to be able to add those photos. The IT folks will need to make this happen.

5. MISHOF: There was an extensive discussion about this award and our committee’s role. The R&A Committee has nominated in the Contributor and Coaches category. Beth noted in her agenda notes that MISHOF is an international award, and she wondered what “our take” was regarding a global perspective.

Comments:

- Ray noted that the committee’s nominations have all had some international component.
- In reference to email discussions over the past month, Sally noted that committee has never intended to nominate someone every year. We do want to be sure that our nominees have a connection to the global movement.
- Nancy R noted that other federations are not shy about making their own nominations.
- Ray noted this year’s contributor recipient – Jane Katz. He was wondering who nominated her. Nancy R thought it was the Hall of Fame itself. She recalled one other time when a nominee from USMS was someone we didn’t nominate. (Jane is well known to many in USMS.)
- Ed said there was not a direction from the BOD regarding R&A’s involvement in the award, but there was a concern that the changes within ISHOF have changed recently. They would like to see that the process going forward is stable.
- Rich was concerned that the National office would be taking this on, and Ed said it was never suggested that the National Office would take this over.
- Nancy asked if R&A needs to submit the criteria and process to the BOD; Ed said that it doesn’t.
- Rich was notified late about this year’s nominations and there was a hiccup in the process. We need to know what the hall’s deadlines are so we can plan for this. Rich noted that ISHOF has a new executive director. His relationship with Brent was casual. Our process has been very thorough in the past. He’s not sure that it’s appropriate to reach out to the membership for nominations (as suggested via email) and thinks the institutional memory of this committee can create the process.
- Beth asked that Rich & Sally develop best practices for the nomination process because there doesn’t seem to be anything in writing. Rich can reach out to the HOF and ask if they have any other nominations, but she doesn’t think there is time to for the committee to approve a nomination.
- Sally noted that in the past, the subcommittee developed a list of potential nominees, recommended one or more to the R&A cmte, and a vote to submit was taken.

- There was more discussion about submitting a nomination, how quickly Rich could put together the paperwork, and a couple names were mentioned as potential candidates. It was noted that we have typically spent a lot of time assuring our committee's nominee presents well with their accomplishments and service.
  - While no vote was taken, the consensus was to not rush to make a nomination now, but to get to work in January and nominate someone in 2023. It was not clear who was on the MISHOF subcommittee this year, but Hill, and Sally offered to serve in the coming year.
6. Closing summary: Beth announced that committee assignments will be coming soon. She will ask everyone for their subcommittee preferences once the committee membership is set. She proposed the committee meet next on January 8.

MSA to adjourn at 7:30 pm Central time.