

## U.S. Masters Swimming

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Recognition & Awards	<b>Session #:</b>	n/a
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Elizabeth Nymeyer		
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Sally Dillon	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b>	February 27, 2022 at 7 pm ET

### Actions Taken:

1. **MSA to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2022 committee meeting.**
2. **MSA to approve the DEI Committee's proposal for a new USMS National Award.**

<b>Number of committee members present:</b> 13	<b>Absent:</b> 1	<b>Guests:</b> 4
<b>Committee members present:</b> Charis Anderson McCarthy, Marcia Benjamin, Richard Burns, Hill Carrow, Nadine Day, Sally Dillon, Mike Hillegonds, Nancy Kryka, Ray Novitske, Beth Nymeyer, Ginger Pierson, Nancy Ridout, and Laura Val.		
<b>Not present:</b> Barbara Deshler		
<b>Guests:</b> VPLO Ed Coates and from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee - Jeff Commings, Ally Segal, and Diana Triana		

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm ET by chair Beth Nymeyer.

1. Minutes: **MSA to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2022 committee meeting.**
2. USMS Community: Beth noted that she has talked with Carrie Stolar, who explained that the USMS Board of Directors has been using "Community" and the goal is for all committees to do the same. Ed provided a brief tutorial. Access to the committee page is only for the committee's members; others cannot view the discussions. Once on the committee's page, we can view questions and discussions. Each member can select how often they want to be notified about postings (daily or weekly). Ed posted log-in details. We can select posts, reply, and upload files. Polls can be taken as well. Old discussions from previous R&A forums can still be viewed. Ed has subscribed all of our committee members to the page, but we each need to adjust our own settings. There are short videos on the USMS website that show how to interact on Community.
3. Future meetings: Our next meetings are scheduled for Sundays: April 24 and June 26. Both at 7 pm ET.
4. Proposal for a new USMS National Award: Beth noted that one of the R&A Committee's responsibilities is to vet and vote on the approval of new awards. A proposal from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee was reviewed by a subcommittee (Sally, Nancy R, Beth, and Ray). The subcommittee provided suggestions and the amended version was submitted by Jeff Commings and distributed to the committee prior to this meeting. There was discussion regarding the DEI Committee's intention to present one "or more" awards each year, with a number of people commenting that this would dilute the importance of the award. Jeff pointed out that his committee is just 2 years old and USMS has a long way to go to reach the goals the committee has set. He considers the award to be a "grass roots" type of award where numerous people or groups could be recognized, making it similar to the Dorothy Donnelly and Kerry O'Brien awards. **MSA to approve the DEI Committee's proposal for a new USMS National Award.** Sally noted that the subcommittee had a few suggestions for their nomination document; she'll forward that information to Jeff.
5. Ransom J Arthur M.D. Award: Nadine reported that the submission deadline to submit a nomination is March 15. She has received seven nominations so far; one is new. The Google Form was used but there were problems, so she provided a PDF form. Ray suggested that the nomination documents be posted online rather than being distributed by email.
6. Volunteer and Social media campaign: Beth reported that Daniel Paulling had requested information to create stories about volunteers. Ray had provided information about a few of last year's DDSA recipients already. April is "Volunteer Recognition Month", so it is timely to do this. Karen Harris, Karlene Denby, and Jenny Hodges were recommended and Nancy K said she could provide some names from her LMSC.
7. Subcommittees: Beth completed the subcommittee assignments and will send an email after the meeting. (They are listed at the end of these minutes).

8. Getting the word out: The spreadsheet needs to be edited and updated with LMSC and club contacts. Beth will provide a fresh link.
9. R&A Committee webinar: Beth is looking for volunteers to help with this May 5 event.
10. General priorities: Ed passed on priorities that the USMS BOD would like the R&A Committee to address.
  - Find ways to enhance the RJA award presentation.
  - Evaluate all awards; are they meaningful?
  - Propose a rule book change to remove the 5 RJA recipient requirement for the committee. We administer many other awards and the BOD considers it an administrative hassle to find enough RJA participants
11. Other issues: Ray reported that he contacted other award giving committees and the contacts committed to writing stories about their award recipients. He's received one, but unfortunately, it was not well written.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm ET.

## **2022 R&A SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

RJA award: Nadine (chair), Sally, Hill, and Nancy R

DDSA award: Beth, Charis, Ray, Sally, and Peter Guadagni

CofY award: Mike (chair), Rich, Laura, Marcia (and reps from Fitness and Coaches and a BOD VP)

JKC award: Nancy R (chair), Nancy K, Ginger, Hill (and at least three from other USMS committees)

Peer to Peer: Marcia, Nadine, Ray, Nancy R, and Beth

Getting the Word Out – email content: Nancy R, Rich, Charis (and other interested members)

Getting the Word Out – spreadsheets/email: Ginger, Nancy K (and other interested members)

Archiving Bios and Forms: Ray, Sally, Nancy K (and other members who “like to write”)