

U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name:	Recognition & Awards	Session #:	n/a
Committee Chair:	Elizabeth Nymeyer		
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	April 24, 2022 6 pm Central

Actions Taken:

1. **MSA to approve the February 27, 2022 meeting minutes.**
2. **MSA to table the decision regarding the proposal to amend the committee's official description.**

Number of committee members present:	13	Absent:	1	Guests:	none
Committee members present:	Charis Anderson McCarthy, Marcia Benjamin, Richard Burns, Hill Carrow, Nadine Day, Sally Dillon, Mike Hillegonds, Nancy Kryka, Ray Novitske, Ginger Pierson, Nancy Ridout, and Laura Val.				
Ex Officio:	Ed Coates				
Not present:	Barbara Deshler				

Minutes

Chair Beth Nymeyer called the meeting to order at 6:02 Central time.

1. Meeting minutes: **MSA to approve the February 27, 2022, meeting's minutes.**
2. Ransom J. Arthur MD award: Nadine reported that Anna Lea and Jim Matysek received the RJA award during a recent Florida LMSC Zoom meeting. President Peter Guadagni surprised them with the virtual presentation. Nadine, Sally, Nancy R., and Nancy K. were in attendance. Earlier today, more than a dozen former RJA honorees gathered via Zoom to celebrate and chat with Anna Lea and Jim. The other outstanding nominees were Dan Cox, Ralph Davis, Phil Dodson, Barbara Dunbar, Mark Moore, and Ed Saltzman. The voting deadline was March 31, and the votes were confirmed by subcommittee members Hill, Sally, and Nancy R. Arrangements will be made to announce the winners at the upcoming National Championships. Nadine is unsure when the official "pinning" will take place. The status of the Annual Meeting is in the hands of the Executive Committee. Ed noted that the tentative date and location is September 16-18 in Denver, CO. He said that award presentations will take place there. Beth offered to work with Nadine on the presentation at nationals. Rich, Laura, and Marcia are the only committee members attending the meet in San Antonio, TX.
3. Meeting dates: Beth noted that we are already scheduled to meet on Sunday, June 26. July 31 was added to the meeting schedule. By June, we should have enough information to schedule our August meeting, which will act as the Annual Meeting since committees will not be meeting in Denver.
4. Promoting awards: Beth distributed a "sample" letter for review. She would like each committee member to distribute the final version to 5-10 workout group, club, LMSC, and/or Zone contacts.
 - a. Charis volunteered to receive suggested edits and prepare the letter's final version. Nancy R, Rich, and Sally volunteered; others are welcome to contribute. Deadline to submit edits set for May 1.
 - b. Spreadsheet documentation: As was done last year, Beth asks that everyone record their name and who they contact on the committee's spreadsheet that is posted on Google Docs (click "sheets" to access). That allows Ginger and Nancy K to follow who has been contacted and assure we don't contact someone multiple times. The subcommittee will be sending the revised letter to LMSC leaders. Others volunteered to contact LMSCs within Zones as follows: Ray - Colonies, Mike - Great Lakes and Breadbasket, Nadine - South Central and Southwest, Ginger - Northwest, Nancy K - Southeast, and Nancy R - Oceana. Ray suggested including award chairs when possible. Deadline to make these contacts is May 15. Beth will send a reminder just prior to the deadline. She will send the revised letter to the entire committee with the expectation that everyone will contact at least 5 clubs and/or LMSCs.
 - c. The promotion subcommittee needs to fill in the gaps and find different people to contact. Note that there are three tabs on the spreadsheet for this.
 - d. Beth will promote awards on Instagram.

5. Peer-2-Peer Zoom presentation – Recognition and Awards: The event is taking place on Thursday, May 5 at 7 pm Central. Beth encouraged committee members to attend. She distributed a Power Point deck and asked for a review and suggestions. Marcia Benjamin volunteered to help host. Beth will send the signup link to all. It includes all the necessary data.
6. Award subcommittees: Deadline to nominate is July 1. No nominations have been received, but Beth reminded subcommittees to meet.

7. Proposed change to the Recognition and Awards Committee description in the USMS Rules:
507.1.11 Recognition and Awards Committee—*The Recognition and Awards Committee shall promote recognition of service to USMS. The committee shall review and approve proposals for all official USMS service awards and ensure that a history of all service awards is maintained. The committee shall be involved in determining method of recognition and recipient selection when appropriate. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and sufficient members to execute the committee function. The committee should include representatives from other committees that present service awards.*

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Rationale: The committee has direct or indirect responsibility for 13 current awards given by U.S. Masters Swimming, including the administration of the Ransom J. Arthur (RJA) Award selection process. Additionally, the committee assists with the Master International Swimming Hall of Fame nominations process, as requested. Given the broad responsibility of the committee, requiring the committee membership to be weighted heavily to represent a single award is no longer necessary. RJA winners also tend to be very active volunteers and may serve in many volunteer roles, which makes it difficult to fill these roles each year. Only 3 of the 19 other committees (Board Committees and Standing Committees) have specific membership requirements and those requirements are not as narrow as those defined in this committee description.

To open discussion, it was moved and seconded to approve the proposal.

- Nadine stated that she had a conflict of interest since she has received the award. Ed did not consider any of the current RJA award members sitting on the committee to have a conflict.
- The proposed change was initiated by a subcommittee of the USMS BOD.
- Beth doesn't want to force people to be members and since all RJA members can vote for that award she didn't think it mattered. She wants more people to be able to be on the committee.
- Sally strongly disagreed with the proposal and noted that the R&A committee has no limitations on the number of members it can have and with the current total of 14, there is certainly room for more to join without making the proposed change. She sent a message to the committee earlier in the day that apparently did not go through and eventually re-sent it.
- Ray would vote for the change but thinks reducing the number, rather than eliminating it, would be better. He also suggested that the final sentence in the current description should be removed (*The committee should include representatives from other committees that present service awards.*)
- Nancy R. emphasized that the RJA award winners are in USMS's mind, the epitome of volunteers. This committee acknowledges volunteers and the input from our award winners is essential; their experience is broad, not limited to RJA. She also noted that the proposal was brought up during the Zoom gathering earlier today and there wasn't a single person on the call who said they wouldn't serve on the committee if asked.
- Charis clarified that the proposal only removed the requirement and RJA recipients could still be members of the committee.
- Ed suggested we could table the decision until the June meeting.
- Ray said that when he was chair, Patty Miller had trouble filling the RJA spots. He moved to amend the requirement to two RJA recipients. Ed said he thought the board would be OK with this.
- Sally suggested that the committee be given more time to be familiar with the issues and table the discussion to the next meeting as Ed had previously indicated.

MSA to table the decision regarding the proposal to amend the committee's official description. No action on either motion.

8. Award ordering and information collection. Beth reported on the development of an inventory of information regarding all USMS awards. It would include responsibility for award selection, type of award given, source for obtaining the awards, and any other information related to the process. Nadine and Charis are spearheading the

project. Ray noted that whenever possible, awards should be purchased from Hasty Awards, since they are a USMS sponsor.

- Nancy R. asked if the difficulties in getting the RJA award had been resolved and Nadine replied that she is still working with the National Office.

It was MSA to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 Central time.