

U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name:	Recognition & Awards	Session #:	n/a
Committee Chair:	Elizabeth Nymeyer		
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	June 26, 2022 - 6 pm Central

Actions Taken:

1. MSA to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2022 meeting.
2. MSA to approve the motion to reduce the number of required RJA recipients on the committee to 2.

Number of committee members present:	12	Absent:	2	Guests:	3
Committee members present:	Charis Anderson McCarthy, Marcia Benjamin, Rich Burns, Hill Carrow, Sally Dillon, Mike Hillegonds, Nancy Kryka, Ray Novitske, Elizabeth Nymeyer, Ginger Pierson, Nancy Ridout, Laura Val, and Ed Coates (Ex Officio)				
Not present:	Nadine Day and Barbara Deshler				
Guests:	Michael Moore, Sandi Rousseau, and Skip Thompson				

Minutes

1. Chair Beth Nymeyer called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm Central. She noted that the agenda is organized so she can work through tasks that are more important for our deadlines. Things that will take longer are at the end.
2. Previous minutes: **MSA to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2022 meeting as written.**
3. Soliciting nominations: Beth asked if everyone contacted leaders within their zone. Ray noted that he received no responses to his messages. Beth has received ~8 DDSA nominations and 1 COYA nomination. Nancy R. has received 2 JKC award nominations. Beth contacted DDSA nominators from last year, whose nominees did not get awarded. Sally said that she's aware that Michael did the same for COYA and Nancy R. will do it after the meeting. With the deadline so close, Beth suggested "repeat" nominators change the dates and resubmit. Ray asked if we could accept late submissions. After some discussion, Beth said that although the deadline is July 1, we can consider July 5 as the unofficial deadline. Ultimately, she'd like the subcommittee chairs to make the final decision.
4. Social Media: Beth has posted stories on Instagram and received a nomination as a result. Next year she'd like to focus on Facebook.
5. R&A Peer-2-Peer event: Beth and Marcia worked together to prepare a presentation for the May 5th event. About 12 people attended (typical number as per Ed). Ray thought there were good comments, and the event covered the bases for recognition. Beth would like R&A to have an opportunity to present at the Volunteer Relay next year. Marcia suggested we solicit names of potential honorees at that event, then follow up to encourage official nominations afterward.
6. Award Selection: Beth asked the subcommittee chairs to have their selection committees organized and ready to vote after the 4th holiday. Sally reminded the chairs to make sure their voters do not have a conflict of interest. Charis offered to help subcommittee chairs rebalance their selection committees when needed.
7. R&A Committee's annual/convention meeting: Beth suggested we have a pre-convention meeting for business so we can focus on promoting the committee at the usual convention related meeting. Her idea was to "market" the committee so more people will join. Ed noted that committees won't likely follow the 2021 procedure where we met to do our business and then met to approve the minutes. There wasn't much support for having two meetings and it was suggested that potential members need to know what a typical meeting is like. Marcia said we can do our regular business and promote the committee as well. She and Beth will work together on a promotional presentation. It was agreed that our annual/convention meeting will take place on Sunday, August 21 at 6 pm Central.
8. Award bios update: Sally has completed the stories for JKC award winners and Nancy K. has made a huge dent in the story list of COY award winners. Sally will be helping Nancy with them. The DDSA and RJA stories are up to date. Regarding stories that are the responsibility of the other award-giving committees, Ray reported that the Officials' stories are complete, except the 2021 award (Ted Haartz). The Official's Committee is working on it. Ray continues to encourage the chairs of the other award-giving committees to submit their stories so he can post them on the website. Some have responded and while he did not send instructions, he will follow up with practical

suggestions for writing the stories. Ray mentioned that while we'd like to have photos of the recipients posted, we don't have the capability to do this. He is waiting for the IT people to assist; Ed said he would check into the request.

9. Lifetime swimmer recognition: Beth said a member of the Long Beach Grunion Masters club (CA) inquired about recognizing swimmers for lifetime membership. She wondered if we should consider this, and Ed said it was not something our committee should undertake.
10. Annual Meeting in Denver: After taking a head count, it appears that about 50% of our committee will attend in person. Ed explained that the meeting will be a hybrid with folks in person and virtually. We need to think about our award presentation. The room will be set up with a small lectern and a fixed camera focusing on it. Another fixed position camera will be on the microphone where people address the HOD. To give sufficient recognition, he suggested we prepare a video that can be seen in the HOD and viewed online. If the recipients are attending, we might be able to present the RJA, Coach of the Year, and Club of the Year awards in person.
11. Proposal to amend the committee's official description: At the previous meeting, it was moved and seconded to amend the official description of the committee as it appears in the USMS Rule Book by removing the requirement for 4 RJA recipients to serve on the committee. After significant discussion the motion was tabled so committee members could become more familiar with the proposal and discuss online. **It was MSA to take the motion off the table.** There were still numerous questions and comments about the proposal. Those in favor cited: it will give the committee more flexibility and the committee could still have RJA recipients as members. Those opposed cited the reason we have required their inclusion is because they have the knowledge of what it takes to be a volunteer, and the statements in the rationale are not accurate. A vote was taken, and the motion failed with only one yes vote. A second motion was made and seconded to amend the committee description by requiring 2 RJA recipients (instead of 4). **MSA to approve the motion to reduce the number of required RJA recipients on the committee to 2.** Vote was 6-2. A few members had dropped off the call at this point.
12. Next meetings: Sunday, July 24 at 6 pm Central. Sunday, August 21, same time. Ed will distribute the Zoom links to the meetings.

It was MSA to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm Central time.

Submitted to the Legislation Committee after the R&A meeting:

L-20 is a submission after the deadline (601.2.4) and requires a 2/3 majority vote of the committee of jurisdiction in order to be recommended for adoption to the House of Delegates.

L-20 507.1.11 Recognition and Awards Committee pages 104 modify

Committee Action: Recommended Not Recommended Tabled

HOD Action: Adopted Adopted as Amended Defeated

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, at least two Ransom J. Arthur Award recipients and sufficient members to execute the committee function. The committee should include representatives from other committees that present service awards.

Deleted: ~~four~~

Deleted: ~~other~~

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. 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.