

U.S. Masters Swimming — 2023 Meeting Minutes

Committee Name:	Colonies Zone	Session #:	2
Committee Chair:	Douglas Sayles	Vice Chair:	Jeremy Gross
Minutes recorded by:	Douglas Sayles	Date/Time:	August 24, 2023, 7 p.m. EDT

Motions Passed:

1. MSA (Ray, Jeremy) to reelect Douglas Sayles as Colonies Zone Chair for a second two-year term.

Other Actions:

2. Colonies Zone SCM championship to be held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA), Dec.16-17 or 15-17, 2023, and SCY championship at [Jeff Rouse Swim & Sport Center](#) (Stafford, VA), April 19-21, 2024.
Post-meeting update: SCM championship at WPI confirmed for Dec. 15 (evening) & 16-17.

# Colonies Zone delegates present: 25	# Zone delegates absent: 15	# Guests: 4
Voting Zone Delegates Present:		
Adirondack: Robert Singer		
Connecticut: Rob Duguay, Ally Sega, Ben Wycoff		
Delaware Valley: Jeremy Gross, Laurie Hug		
Maryland: Rand Vaillancourt, John Zarkowsky		
Metropolitan: Jayne Saint-Amour, RC Saint Amour, Bob Kolonkowski, Sharon Snyder		
Niagara: None		
New England: Alana Aubin, Douglas Sayles, Jason Weis		
New Jersey: None		
Potomac Valley: Charles Cockrell, Stephanie Gauzens, Mollie Grover, Ray Novitske, Jeff Roddin		
Virginia: Barbara Boslego, Caycee Buscaglia, Jennifer Kyff, Jim Miller, Chris Stevenson		
Voting Zone Delegates Absent: Joseph Boris (DV), David Grindlinger (MD), Guy Davis (NE), Jessie Feng (NE), Leo Letendre (NE), Kevin Loughlin (NE), Chris McGiffin (NJ), Gerald O'Mara (NJ), Jason Ellis (NI), Anna Jordan (NI), Brett LaPlante (PV), Luis Salazar (PV), Jeffrey Strahota (PV), Patricia Miller (VA)		
Non-Voting Zone Delegates Absent: Jessica Reilly (Senior Director, Business Operations)		
USMS guests: Peter Guadagni (President), Jennifer Kyff (MR), Hugh Moore (PN), Jane Moore (PN)		

Minutes:

1. Call to Order / Introductions

- a. The chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. EDT via Zoom.
- b. Quorum present.
- c. The chair welcomed the attendees and thanked them for their volunteerism.

2. Reports

- a. Chair Douglas Sayles
 - i. Discussed the [2023 Colonies Zone Report](#).
 - ii. Asked veteran governance volunteers to welcome and help acclimate newcomers.
 - iii. *Duty of Care:* Exercise reasonable care when conducting USMS business. Be informed, prepared, and involved, manage finances responsibly, and reveal conflicting interests.
 - iv. *Duty of Loyalty:* Act in USMS's best interest, not one's personal interests or the interests of another organization. Know when to wear which "cap."
 - v. *Duty of Obedience:* Understand and be faithful to USMS's mission to promote health, wellness, fitness, and competition for adults through swimming.

- vi. Zone Communications
 - 1. Doug contacted each LMSC chair to offer help or a sounding board.
 - 2. Emailed LMSC chairs, officers, and HOD delegates updates and notifications.
 - 3. Created the [Colonies Zone Facebook Group](#).
 - 4. Sent all zone members [February e-newsletter](#) and [April meet reminder](#).
 - 5. Convened working groups to identify venues and plan championship meets.
 - 6. Coordinated LMSC chair club and event development survey/outreach. LMSC officers should understand USMS's club & event development programs, communicate them downstream to their LMSC, and consult with and provide leads to Club & Coach Services and Event Services.
 - 7. Coordinated [August meeting](#) of LMSC reps with USMS BOD members.
- b. Vice Chair Jeremy Gross
 - i. Appreciates being involved and meeting people across the zone. Thanked LMSC reps for helping secure and plan zone championship meets. Encouraged others to help.
- c. Webmaster Ray Novitske
 - i. Updated the [zone website](#) as needed.
 - ii. USMS does not host the zone website. Cost is ~\$100 for hosting plus ~\$20 for domain.
 - iii. PV reimbursed Ray in 2021, MR in 2022, DV will for 2023.
- d. Recorder Chris Stevenson
 - i. Maintains [two sets of records](#):
 - 1. Zone records updated once per year per course after Top Ten lists published.
 - 2. Zone championship meet records updated after each championship meet.
 - ii. Researched and fixed missing records.
 - iii. Added relays to the records files.

3. Elect Zone Chair

- a. Doug stood for reelection unopposed. Jeremy conducted the election.
- b. MSA (Ray, Jeremy) to reelect Doug for a second two-year term.
- c. Jeremy will continue as vice chair as part of potential succession plan.

4. Zone Dot Donnelly Service Award

- a. Switched from paper to online nomination process in 2022.
- b. This zone service award is separate from the national Dorothy Donnelly awards bestowed by the USMS Awards & Recognition Committee.
- c. Steve Dougherty (absent) named 2023 award recipient. Jeremy lauded Steve's contributions.
- d. Doug requested that each LMSC submit at least one thoughtful nomination next year.

5. Zone Championships

- a. Doug mentioned post-pandemic difficulties clubs face regaining pool access and challenges securing championship meet venues. Thanked Geoff Meyer, Jeremy, Caycee, Brett LaPlante, and Ed Tsuzuki for facilitating zone championships. Welcomes others' help moving forward.
 - i. Mollie suggested leveraging local Masters swimmers when soliciting target venues.
- b. 2022-2023 Season
 - i. SCM: December 9-11, 2022, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (MA). 300 swimmers & 46 teams in 2022 vs 216 & 40 at WPI in 2021.
 - ii. SCY: April 14-16, 2023, Rutgers University (NJ). 225 swimmers & 48 teams in 2023 vs 298 & 38 at WPI in 2022. Nice facility. Meet directors were inflexible, unresponsive. Some good swims but meet was underattended and the atmosphere was low energy.
 - iii. LCM: Meet at Hampton Aquaplex (VA) fell through due to management turnover. New aquatics manager just hired. Charles Cockrell will inquire about Masters programming.

- c. 2023-2024 Season
 - i. SCM: Dec. 16-17 at WPI confirmed as Zone SCM championship. Friday the 15th TBD.
 - ii. Half-day Dr. Bill Ross Memorial Meet at Nassau County Aquatic Center (NY) too short in duration for Zone SCM championship. *Post-meeting update: SCM championship at WPI confirmed for Dec. 15 (evening) & 16-17.*
- d. SCY: April 19-21, 2024, [Jeff Rouse Swim & Sport Center](#) (Stafford, VA). See [draft meet info](#).
 - i. VA & DV LMSCs are co-hosting meet with support from PV.
 - ii. Doug is meet director, Caycee is volunteer coordinator, Heather & Chris Stevenson and Jason Weis are Hy-Tek operators. Bob Rustin is meet referee.
 - iii. Caycee working with USA-S club to secure volunteers. Also seeking other volunteers.
 - iv. Utilizing PV LMSC's Club Assistant and bank accounts for this meet.
- e. LCM: With upcoming Nationals after Indianapolis taking place on the west coast, Jeremy wants to prioritize securing a zone LCM championship on the east coast. Requested help.

6. Expenses / Budget

- a. DV will cover the \$120 website expense for 2023.
- b. Dot Donnelly Award expenses covered by the awardee's LMSC.
- c. NE incurs ~\$600/year to maintain zone emails in Constant Contact for quarterly e-newsletter.
- d. Financial implications of LMSCs directly running championships or other large meets TBD.

7. LMSC Updates & Shout Outs

- a. Zone membership on August 14 was 9,978 vs. 10,457 the same time last year, down 4.6%.
 - i. Doug urged LMSC leaders to get creative and spend excess reserves to provide member value, including sending people to Volunteer Relay to bring back and implement ideas.
- b. AD Bob Singer: Planning "a couple meets" this fall, 30 to 40 swimmers each.
- c. CT Rob Duguay: Starting to regain access to more pools. Working on SCY and SCM meets for LMSC and potential zone LCM meet bid for Wesleyan University.
- d. DV Jeremy Gross: One meet per month October-March culminating in LMSC champ meet.
- e. MD Rand Vaillancourt: [30th Chidester Memorial Swim Series](#) = one meet per month @ \$30. John Zarkowsky mentioned the need to increase meet fees due to rising costs.
- f. MR Jayne Saint-Amour: Ran 4 meets last season, spanning all three courses. Major clubs are in rebuilding mode, all with new head coaches and/or aquatics managers.
- g. NE Alana Aubin: Hosting the [USMS Boston Education Weekend](#) (all courses/clinics) on October 14-15. Invited people from other LMSCs to attend.
- h. NI: No update.
- i. NJ: No update.
- j. PV Jeff Roddin: Germantown Masters is hosting the [10th Annual Solstice SCM Swim Meet](#) on November 18. Mollie Grover: Despite the seemingly large number of pools, PV's dense population and many Masters and USA-S swimmers make it hard to secure pool time for meets and practices.
- k. VA Caycee Buscaglia: Hosting the [USMS Richmond Education Weekend](#) (all courses/clinics) on September 23-24. Also have SCM meet in Virginia Beach on November 4.

8. Adjournment

- a. The chair adjourned the call at 9:04 p.m.