

2023 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Hybrid

Committee Name:	History and Archives	Session #:	
Committee Chair:	Kirk Clear	Vice Chair:	
Minutes recorded by:	Meegan Wilson	Date/time of meeting:	08/22/2023 8:02 pm EDT

Motions Passed:

1. MSA to approve the July 6, 2023, History and Archives Committee Zoom meeting minutes.
2. MSA to adjourn the August 22, 2023, History and Archives Annual meeting at 8:42 pm EDT.

Number of committee members present: 9	Absent: 1	Number of others present: 26
Committee members present: Kirk Clear – Chair, Bob Anderson, Maryanne Barkley, Barbara Dunbar, Anna Lea Matysek, Walt Reid, Frank “Skip” Thompson, and Meegan Wilson.		
Ex Officio member present: Ed Coates, EC-VPLO		
Ex Officio member absent: Daniel Paulling, National Office		
Others present: Marcia Benjamin, Paige Beuhler, Barbara Boslego, Katherine Casey, MJ Caswell, Virgil Chancy, Alina de Armas, Kyle Deery (National Office), Sally Dillon, Jeanne Ensign, Marilyn Fink, Donita Flecker, Kathy Gill, Crystie McGrail, Hugh Moore, Cory Nguyen, Sue Nutty, Barbara Protzman, Sandi Rousseau, Doug Sayles, Ally Sega, Robin Smith, Jeff Strahota, Tim Waud, Mary Beth Windrath, Kris Wingenroth		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 EDT

1. **Welcome:** At 8:02 pm EDT, Kirk Clear called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and confirmed the presence of all committee members. He thanked delegates for attending the Zoom annual History and Archives (H&A) committee meeting.
2. **Approval of July 6, 2023, H&A minutes:** The motion (Barbara Dunbar, second Maryanne Barkley) to approve the July 6, 2023, History and Archives Committee minutes passed unanimously.
3. **Review the status of History and Archives projects:** Kirk requested a review and update of the ongoing projects.
 - a. ***In Memoriam* Video Project:** The *In Memoriam* presentation, which notes deceased members, has been presented at the Annual meeting for many years as a way to honor and respect our past members. Project coordinator Anna Lea Matysek stated that in 2021, Ed Coates suggested that the History and Archives Committee should take over creating the *In Memoriam* video presentation which is shown at the Annual meeting each year and posted on the USMS website. Maryanne Barkley, Meegan Wilson, and Bob Anderson are other committee members assigned to this project.

Obituaries of Masters swimmers are found throughout the year. For each deceased swimmer, a slide is created with a photo, USMS and FINA achievements, and other interesting facts. All the slides are compiled into a video presentation and then Bob sets it to music. USMS is made up of amazing, unique members who love swimming, and H&A is very proud to assemble this presentation to honor them. Project members are working diligently to complete and transmit the roughly 120 slide video presentation to Jessica Reilly in the National Office by September 1. In response to a question, Ann Lea explained that documenting deceased members also allows the National Office to update the USMS membership database and to delete email and mail addresses of deceased members, a requirement that Anna Lea instituted when working for USMS to avoid sending renewal emails to deceased members. Deceased swimmer information is transmitted to Jessica for periodic USMS database updates.

Bob Anderson stated that this project supports the community of USMS. Seeing the breadth of our membership and what they have achieved makes him more excited to be a member of this organization.
 - b. **Relay Top-10 Project:** Barbara Dunbar reported that the Relay Top 10 project involves conversion of Relay Top 10 hard copy data into digital files for each year and course, followed by swimmer ID assignment and upload into the USMS Top 10 Relay database. Names, times, ages, and club and LMSC designations for each relay appearing in the published Relay Top 10s are transcribed into a template for each year and course missing from the online database. Challenges have included truncated names, misspellings, missing names, and less than legible hard copies.

The conversion is followed by proofing; researching and adding missing first or full names; correcting name typos, and verifying ages. Swimmer IDs are subsequently added by Mary Beth Windrath and Walt Reid. The data files are reformatted for upload into the Top 10 Relay database by Mary Beth.

Transcription of all Relay Top 10 hard copy data has been completed with the exception of the 1982 Short Course Yards Men's Relays for which no official copy has been located. An interim reconstructed Men's 1982 list has been generated and uploaded, however it will need to be updated when the official list is found.

On the USMS Top 10 website, SCY relays have been posted for 1981 to present, plus 1972. Long Course Meters relays have been posted for 1981 to present. Short Course Meters relays are completed and have been posted for 1986 to present. 1986 was the first year that SCM Top 10 times were documented by USMS. Postings remain to be completed for 1973-1980 SCY TT Relays and for 1972-1980 LCM TT Relays.

More transcribed files will be uploaded into the Relay Top 10 database after Mary Beth and Walt add IDs. Mary Beth requested 224 more legacy IDs for pre-1981 relay swimmers from Jessica Reilly at the National Office. Jessica was thanked for her efforts. IDs are being added to swimmer's names on Individual and Relay Top 10 lists. Project volunteers, Paul Windrath, Walt Reid, Meegan Wilson, Barbara Dunbar, and Mary Beth Windrath, were thanked for their work.

- c. **All-American Relay Project:** Barbara Dunbar noted that Relay All Americans began being officially recognized in 1991 under the guidance of the USMS Records and Top 10 Coordinator, Walt Reid. Walt published the names of Relay All American recipients to accompany the Relay Top 10 listings.

As a result of the Relay Top 10 Project, it became possible for Relay All American recognition to appear on a swimmer's profile page provided that IDs were found or assigned and linked for all members of the relay. Some relays in the Relay Top 10 database are missing swimmer IDs, and some swimmers do not have IDs. H&A is working to locate missing IDs, to add IDs, and to ensure that Relay All American recognition appears as part of a swimmer's profile. Some Relay All American recognitions on Profile pages are missing from 1991 – 1996, but those issues are being addressed and may be solved when IDs are added to all #1 relays in the Relay Top 10s.

- d. **National Record Chronology Project:** Walt Reid reported that USMS maintains a database for the chronological listing of all the National records for all events and courses. This project to add precise record dates was started more recently, since many older records were missing month and day. Walt, Barbara, and Meegan are working to locate precise dates for both individual and relay National records. Walt searches the USMS website, June Krauser's Swim-Masters, many of which contained swim meet results, and LMSC websites with archived old newsletters and meet results as well as other documents containing dates that records were set. The project is on-going. Walt is the Masters World Record recorder for World Aquatics, formerly known as FINA, and often when dates are found for a USMS record, he is able to fill in a World record date in the World Aquatics database. Skip commented that he has dates of all National records set by Michigan swimmers and will send them to Walt.
- e. **Living History Project:** Bob Anderson said the Living History Project begins with the desire to encourage LMSCs and clubs to write articles and take photos and videos of events and members. This builds the community and helps to archive Masters history as it happens. Establishing how the Living History information will be archived and made available to our members is very important. Project members studied the LMSC websites and interviewed many LMSC representatives. LMSCs use newsletters which have historically been a way to capture stories, but unfortunately people are now turning to social media. Social media is a great thing and it helps make community immediate, but none of the social media platforms are archiving. Best practices are being identified. A report is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. Then we will meet and work with the LMSC Development committee to determine how best to get information out to the LMSCs. Finally, project members (Bob Anderson, Skip Thompson, Kirk Clear, and Rich Burns) plan to meet with the LMSCs to energize and help them use the best practices that are developed.
- f. **Physical & Digital Archives and Records Repository:** Meegan Wilson informed the attendees that the Henning Library at the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) has been demolished. Skip visited ISHOF after the 2023 Summer Nationals. ISHOF is in the process of building a new library, has stored library contents, and is not accepting any donations at this time. Meegan is storing 10-15 file boxes containing USMS archives that will need to be archived at the Henning Library. She continues to receive new donated items, scan documents, store the information on her computer, and prepare the hard copies for archiving at the library.

Meegan outlined the background of Masters history documentation. Ham Anderson was Masters Historian from at least 1971 – 1993 with help from his wife Mildred. Joan Smith took over as Historian from 1994 -1998, and Edie Gruender was the historian in 1999. During the Historian meeting at convention in 1999 chaired by Edie, it was determined that a History and Archives Committee was needed, as noted in an excerpt from the meeting minutes, "USMS history and documentation are of vital significance to our organization and our members." Meegan wholeheartedly agrees with this statement. President Nancy Ridout created the Ad-Hoc History & Archives Committee in 2000, and it became a standing committee in 2002. Besides digitizing the All Stars, All Americans and Top Tens for years prior to the computerization of this process, as well as writing stories about Masters swimmers, one of the H&A accomplishments from 2000-2001 was to establish a relationship with the International

Swimming Hall of Fame that enabled the archiving of USMS historical documents and items in the Henning Library. It is vital to have an accessible place to store hard copies and items. Many people have donated to the US Masters Swimming archives at the library.

In the early years, scrapbook photo albums were created and brought to convention each year for the members to enjoy. Meegan has scanned and saved over 9 of the albums on her computer. The originals are currently in storage at ISHOF. She encouraged members to visit the library once it re-opens and look at them. Meegan stated that Living History is not a new project – early on, the History and Archives Committee encouraged LMSCs to document their history, but with websites and social media, it is easier to do that now.

H&A needs a place on the USMS website to post ALL digital archives so that they are accessible to our members. At present, the June Krauser *Swim-Masters* are scanned and posted, and all have been indexed. Other big accomplishments have been locating and scanning National Pool and Long Distance Championship results and the subsequent posting on the USMS website. H&A continues to search for the missing Long Distance Championships. More legible copies of early pool championships need to be located, scanned, and posted.

In 2012 H&A contributed a presentation, “*Forty Years of USMS*,” to the International Aquatic History Symposium and Film Festival. This document is posted on the History and Archives section of the USMS website. The Bluebooks and Bluebook supplements are not posted, but they are scanned and saved on Meegan’s computer. At the request of the National Office, Meegan created a document that gives a history of USMS publications from 1971 – 2019, but the document remains to be posted along with other publications which need to be posted. There are numerous documents. An accessible digital research library on the USMS website is needed. Kirk reiterated the need for a place to archive Masters Swimming history and documents on the USMS website so that members can access the documents for research, viewing, etc.

- g. **USMS Rule Book Project:** Skip Thompson reported that the Rule Book project started about three years ago. H&A worked with the Rules Committee and made a decision to post all of Masters rule books on the USMS website so that members have access to them. The first USMS rule book was published in 1989. So far, full rule books are posted for 1997, 1999, and 2001 – 2023; only 1998 and 2000 are missing. Digital copies of Masters rules are needed from 1972-1996. The rules from 1972-1980 appeared in the AAU Rule books, and rules from 1981 – 1988 appeared in the USA Swimming Rule Books. US Swimming has all their rule books posted from 1981 – 1988. These can be cross-referenced with *Swim-Masters* because June Krauser used to put all of our rules there. Once we get digital copies from 1972-1989 plus 1998 and 2000 posted, the project will be completed.
- h. **Updating & Maintaining Olympian List:** Anna Lea stated that the History and Archives USMS page contains a link to a list with well over 300 names of Olympians who have been a Masters member and includes Olympians from all countries and sports. Anna Lea does most of the updating on the list which includes the year and event. People send her information, and Daniel Paulling has found many resulting from his involvement with National Championship events. Anna Lea researches submitted names to confirm that they are an Olympian before adding the name to the list. She and Barbara have spent a lot of time confirming names and resolving misunderstandings. Anna Lea encouraged everyone to send her names which will be added to the list once confirmed. Kirk noted that H&A reviewed the Olympian list several years ago for accuracy. Now, it is in a maintenance and update phase.
- i. **Review History Page on USMS Website:** Kirk Clear screen-shared the History and Archives page and noted periodic updating reviews. He asked those attending the meeting to send him any suggestions about the page.

4. Other Items/New Topics:

- a. **Task Force:** Kirk provided an update on the task force that was established to study the H&A committee, its current projects, and come up with thoughts for maintaining the committee structure or recommend other ways to do the work involved. There are H&A representatives on the task force and involved with these discussions. The first H&A task force meeting took place in August with monthly meetings scheduled. Any recommendation to sunset the H&A committee requires House of Delegates approval.
- b. Skip asked about updating stories on the website; he has received requests for updates. At one time, the History and Archives Committee had the ability to write, upload, and update stories, but these functions have been taken over by the National Office. Bob noted that the stories were not ongoing bios but were stories written at a specific time. When swimmers ask to have their story updated, some think that it is an ongoing accounting of accomplishments. [The link to stories on the H&A page is confusingly titled “Swimmer Biographies.”] Kirk and Anna Lea agreed that a clarification needs to be posted on the website.
- c. Ed Coates thanked all attendees and all the work that has been done. He reminded attendees of the other meetings coming up. Anna Lea thanked those who attended the Summer Nationals in Sarasota

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Continuation of all ongoing projects.
2. Engage with the task force studying the H&A committee.

The motion (Barbara Dunbar, second Anna Lea Matysek) to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 EDT passed unanimously.
