

USMS Liaisons & Special Assignments

CONTROLLER Margaret Bayless

On-going routine activities, to include weekly check runs, monthly payroll review, monthly bank reconciliations, monthly financial statement preparations with commentary, various analyses, and quarterly budget spending report distributions continue without exception.

During May and June, Clifton and Gunderson LLP, our external auditors, have been auditing the 2004 financial records, which were presented to them in March. Throughout this process, I have prepared various write-ups and analyses, and have provided various invoices and other supporting documents to be audited. As of this writing, the auditors have stated that the audited financial statements and tax return will be completed and available for presentation and review at Convention.

2005 has seen a couple changes in the Controller's activities. First, relates to the magazine: in the past, USMS's cost for the magazine was \$8.00 per registrant per year, which was paid based on the registration numbers. Currently, with the new publication, USMS pays each and every bill presented, including postage, publication costs, etc. for each publication. Second relates to the new merchant account. The Controller must reconcile the merchant account receipts to the bank statement and insure that the party for whom the funds are collected through the merchant account receives the correct proceeds in a timely manner.

FINA REPRESENTATIVE June Krauser

At our 2004 FINA Masters Committee Meeting in Riccione in June, the chairman declared that there would be no meeting of the committee in 2005. The sub-committee preparing the text for a FINA Masters Rule Book had not finished the work and I have heard nothing since Riccione.

We have had one E-mail vote on accepting Walt's Time Standards for Stanford. Have not received the results of that vote.

Had a request from the Press Commission for some World Record information. Prepared the Recognized World Masters Records for the six months of May through October 2004, and those were printed in the December issue of FINA Aquatics World. Prepared the Masters World Records for LCM, those were printed in the January issue, and then the SCM Masters World Records, that were printed in the February issue.

Since the Mid-Year report I have prepared the Recognized World Records for the six months of November 2004 through April 2005 and they were printed in the June issue of FINA Aquatics World. I also prepared the World Records for LCM and have sent them on to the FINA Office.

This being my last report, I wish to thank everyone for the experience of being involved on the International level. I am looking forward to Stanford!

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IGLA LIAISON Mark Wussler

The primary purpose of the USMS Liaison to IGLA is to keep the House of Delegates apprised of events involving USMS-registered Masters Swimmers who represent USMS/IGLA clubs at sanctioned or recognized Masters Swimming events hosted by La Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur (FINA), its National Governing Bodies (NGBs) that have jurisdiction over Masters Swimming, e.g., USMS, Swim Natacion Canada (SNC), AUSSI Masters Swimming, etc., and IGLA & its member clubs. The secondary purpose is to ensure a flow of information between USMS and IGLA for the mutual benefit and furtherance of Masters Swimming in the United States.

The 2005 IGLA Championships were a big success. The Atlanta Rainbow Trout hosted the event at the site of the 1992 Summer Olympic Games, the Georgia Tech Aquatic facility July 21-25. There were over 700 participants in the 5 Aquatic events including Swimming, Diving, Water Polo, Synchronized Swimming and Open Water. The District of Columbia Aquatics Club won the large team swimming competition and West Hollywood Aquatics garnered yet another IGLA water polo title.

Preparations have begun for the Gay athletic communities big event, the VII quadrennial Gay Games.

This multi-sport and cultural festival will be held July 22-29, 2006 in Chicago, IL. The meet director will be Mark Gill who ran the successful 2003 SCY Championships in Tempe, AZ.

The IGLA Board of Directors have awarded Paris, France with the honor of hosting the 2007 IGLA Championships in late May.

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ISHOF LIAISON June Krauser

The International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held on January 5, 2005 in the International Swimming Hall of Fame. The inductees were:

Flora Connolly (GBR)	Honor Swimmer
John Deiningger (USA)	Honor Diver
Burwell Jones (USA)	Honor Swimmer
Betsey Jordan (USA)	Honor Swimmer
William McAlister (USA)	Honor Diver
Sandy Neilson-Bell (USA)	Honor Swimmer
Tod Spieker (USA)	Honor Swimmer
Richard Reinstaedtler (GER)	Honor Swimmer
Phil Whitten (USA)	Honor Contributor

The evening and dinner was a huge success. Each Honoree had a video clip presentation, a neck sash placed on them by an IMSHOF honoree, and a medal hung around their neck. Their Thank-You words were most inspiring.

Before the dinner and ceremonies the first 12 Masters Swimming Pioneers were announced and presented with a plaque. **THE MASTERS SWIMMING PIONEER PROGRAM** was established in November, 2005 by the United States Water Fitness Association. Everyone attending the ceremonies received a nice IMSHOF Program and in that program were two sheets of paper. The white sheet contained all the information on the Pioneer Program, who they were, selection of the winners and how people were nominated and selected. The other sheet named the 12 awards and the names of the 2005 award winners.

The CEO of ISHOF, Sam Freas, has resigned. The Board has a Selection Committee headed by Eldon Godfrey of Canada. I believe their list of applications has been cut to two. No word as to the outcome as yet.

Since the Mid-Year Report I attended the ISHOF Honors Recognition May 12-14, 2005. Yoshiko Osaki (JPN) was the Honor Masters Swimmer. The ISHOF International Congress meeting was held at the Riverside Hotel on May 13th. The confirmation of the new CEO took place – Bruce Wigo. At the Board Meeting on Saturday, during a conference call with Dennis Carey, a consultant for the executive search firm Spencer Stuart, Carey convinced the hall's directors that they needed to step down. Bruce Wigo was given 120 days to form a new Board of Directors. Mark Spitz was named Chairman of the new Board with members Carey, Donna De Varona and Tod Spieker selected so far. Several very positive articles have appeared in several News Papers. Carey sent the ISHOF \$15,000 to buy back medals and other Olympic memorabilia stolen and sold in December. We wish Bruce good luck!

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USMS NATIONAL PUBLICATION EDITOR

Bill Volckening, Editor

Executive Liaison: Lynn Hazlewood

Editorial Board members: Bill Volckening (National Publication Editor), Lynn Hazlewood (E.C. Liaison), Hugh Moore (Communications), Jim Matysek (Webmaster), Meg Smath (Publications / Rule Book Coordinator), Doug Garcia (Marketing), Virginia Sowers (ex-officio, Managing Editor, Douglas Murphy Communications)

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

This year is the sixth year I have served as USMS National Publication Editor for the USMS National Publication. Following the September, 2004 Convention, USMS set out to create its own magazine. During the last year, we transitioned from our former National Publication (SWIM Magazine), and completely created the new publication (USMS SWIMMER). In the process, we restructured and reinforced internal communications, established a solid working relationship with the new publishers (Douglas Murphy Communications), created and reviewed a working balance of Editorial content, integrated the publication development with the USMS web site, and created editorial policies and procedures. In addition, we attended to all other miscellaneous business regarding the planning, development, production, and distribution of the publication.

DISCUSSIONS

There have been numerous lengthy discussions regarding the transition and the start-up of the new magazine. In general, we have grouped our discussions as follows:

1. Transition Team: We conducted several conference calls among the Transition Team regarding start-up of the new magazine, philosophical direction, specific planning, and policies and procedures. The Transition Team was dissolved after the first issue of the magazine, and the Editorial Board was created.
2. Editorial Board: We conducted monthly conference calls with the Editorial Board, which have included magazine progress and status reports, new business, discussion about policies and procedures, and discussion about philosophical direction of the magazine, and other miscellaneous business.
3. Editors: We conducted several periodic conference calls between the USMS Editor and the Managing Editor Virginia Sowers of Douglas Murphy Communications regarding annual planning for the 2006 Editorial Calendar. An annual planning meeting was scheduled to take place in Richmond, Virginia at Douglas Murphy Communications on July 15, 2005.
4. USMS Communications: We conducted several periodic telephone discussions between the USMS Editor and Executive Committee Liaison Lynn Hazlewood regarding magazine planning and progress. We also conducted periodic telephone discussions between the USMS Editor and Communications Committee Chair Hugh Moore, as well as frequent telephone discussions between the USMS Editor and the USMS National Office Administrator, Tracy Grilli. Other internal discussions took place between the USMS Editor and Contributing Editors Jody Welborn, Rich Abrahams, Jessica Seaton, and Jacki Hirsty.
5. E-mail Discussions: Daily e-mail communication was conducted regarding a wide variety of issues relevant to the publication.
6. Committee Discussions: The USMS Editor and Editorial Board engaged in miscellaneous discussions with various committees regarding business items and editorial contributions of those committees. One conference call was conducted between members of the Editorial Board, the USMS Executive Committee, web operations, and the USMS History and Archives Committee regarding procedures and budgeting for magazine materials to be archived on the web.

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ACTION ITEMS

1. A Transition Team was created to guide USMS through the transition from former National Publication (SWIM Magazine) to the new publication.
2. A Content Proofing Team was created to review all content in the first issue of the new magazine.
3. The Transition Team was dissolved in January and the Editorial Board was created.
4. The Editorial Board voted to dissolve the Content Proofing Team after the first issue of the magazine.
5. A Mid-Year report was distributed to the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, House of Delegates, and Communications Committee.
6. The Editorial Board voted to add a Finance Committee representative to the Board.
7. Annual Planning was scheduled at Douglas Murphy Communications in Richmond, Virginia on July 15, 2005.

AGENDA FOR CONVENTION

The USMS National Publication Editor plans to network and participate in as many meetings as possible during the convention, including: Communications Committee and History & Archives Committee. Members of the Editorial Board will participate in meetings of the Communications Committee, Marketing Committee, Publications Committee (Rule Book Coordinator), Finance Committee, and several other committees. Publishing representatives from Douglas Murphy Communications will be present at the convention to network and meet delegates.

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USMS NATIONAL SPONSOR LIAISON

Mel Goldstein

The USMS National Sponsor Program continues to do very well. We were able to renew all of the expiring agreements with exception of one (H2O Velocity), however we were able to sign two new USMS National Sponsors. Revenue generated from this program by years end should exceed estimated budget by 10 % (Approximately \$60,000 in monetary contributions plus \$15,000 in product and services to USMS).

Amino Vital one of our new sponsors is from Japan and is looking to break into the US market. Amino Vital has a range of products designed to supporting athletic performance with the nutrition and energy your body needs. Additionally, in an effort to get sponsors outside of the swimming community I have been able to work with a pharmaceutical company "Pill Free Vitamins", who will be our second new USMS National Sponsor this year. "Pill Free Vitamins" has been manufacturing liquid vitamins, calcium, weight loss products, and other nutritional supplements for nearly two decades. With each USMS National Sponsors I try to find a "niche" where they can have a little exclusivity. USMS Fitness Committee sponsors three events and "Pill Free Vitamins" will help support and sponsor these events as part of their agreement with USMS.

As part of the NIKE / USMS National Sponsor Agreement, NIKE provides a \$1500 Grant to a Club / LMSC to help defray operating costs, i.e. pool rental, coaching, and or send a delegate to convention. In addition to the grant NIKE swimwear will host a swim clinic at the recipients LMSC or Club. Clubs or LMSC were instructed to write how the grant and clinic will benefit their club or LMSC and what the Club or LMSC is doing to promote USMS in their area. The Grant notice was published in "USMS Swimmer" magazine, we received 8 requests all with very compelling stories. The NIKE / USMS Selection Committee picked "Bozeman Masters Swim Club" of Bozeman, Montana as the first recipient of the 2005 NIKE Grant. Any one of the eight Clubs or LMSC's who submitted requests could have been chosen. This is proof positive there is a need on the part of USMS to help and provide assistance to Clubs and LMSC's throughout the United States.

As the USMS National Sponsor Liaison I have had the opportunity to attend several aquatic conferences to not only seek out additional sponsors, but to promote USMS. At the National Park and Recreation Associations National Aquatic Conference in Las Vegas I was able to provide a workshop on "Building A Masters Program". The workshop was well attended and the interest in Masters swimming as an additional revenue source had many facilities looking to put in programs. In addition to the NRPA I attended the YMCA Expo and was able to talk to many YMCA Aquatic and Executive Directors. I believe the YMCA's will look to Masters as an additional adult aquatic program if approached properly. The YMCA of the USA as the result of the exposure we had at the YMCA Expo in Orlando published in their "Program Notes" , which goes to 2500 YMCA's nation wide, the benefits of an adult aquatic fitness program. In addition to educating facilities about Masters swimming it is also important to educate coaches. I will be attendance at the American Swim Coaches Association (ASCA) in Ft Lauderdale and will be on the Masters Speakers Track speaking on "How To Build A Masters Swim Program".

In addition to my other activities I have been working closely with USMS Swimmer Magazine developing a USMS National Sponsor and USMS Swimmer advertisement package. This will be very important as we go forward with our new alignment as provided by the Governance Task Force.

The job of USMS National Sponsor Liaison initially was to promote USMS and to secure National Sponsors. However, the job seems to be evolving into a program that not only promotes USMS and seeks National Sponsors, but one that educates facilities and administrators on the benefits of an adult aquatic fitness program like USMS. In addition to these responsibilities I have been called on to put on Club Mentoring programs throughout the United States. USMS needs to do more in the area of mentoring and providing assistance to clubs

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USA SWIMMING LIAISON Ted Haartz

The USA Swimming Board of Directors have met three times since the 2004 Convention in Orlando, FL. The November 2004 meeting was held in New York City. (Reported on in the mid-year report) Meetings in January and May 2005 were held at USA Swimming headquarters in Colorado Springs, CO.

Of interest to USMS is the fact that the Flume and flume building have become obsolete. The Flume will be removed and sold for scrap while the building is to be reconfigured for more office space and storage. Jan.2, 2006 is the decommissioning date hence the end of the flume camps by USMS.

USA Swimming currently has ad-hoc task force committees in place studying committees, House of Delegates and the Board of Directors in line with policy to continue to improve the governance and operation of the organization. Another driving force is the document issued by the USOC the day before the Board meeting in April of the five areas that the USOC will consider in allotting funds to the NGBs. These are; 1) Athlete Performance, Medals & the Athlete Pipeline 2) Governance 3) Management 4) Income Generation and 5) Operational Systems. The USOC also issued an 11 page document of what the governance for its 45 NGBs should look like under #2 above. This information was forwarded to the president and planning.

While not an issue for USMS as yet, Sarbanes-Oxley compliance for non-profits is a concern, especially for some of the country's largest non-profits. (I did read recently that Congress had directed the IRS to issue guidelines for smaller non-profits and businesses to make that compliance less burdensome and expensive than what audit firms are currently demanding of larger businesses.)

The next meeting of the USA Swimming Board of Directors will be at the annual convention, September 13, 2005 in Greensboro, NC.

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USA TRIATHLON LIAISON Cindy Hawkinson

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

USAT has gone through significant changes this past year. A new executive director was elected, Skip Gilbert. I have attempted to schedule a meeting with Skip and, as of this writing, have been unsuccessful. Obviously, he had many in-house items on his agenda. I expect to report at convention on an introductory meeting. I have worked with the USMS Coaches Committee in an effort to encourage coaches to promote the benefits of masters swimming to the triathletes they encounter at their pools. The world of triathlon has recently had an important change with USAT no longer sanctioning the Ironman races. There is another governing body that will be handling this race series. As this does not take effect until next year, it has yet to be seen what effects it will have on USAT and their membership. As for how this affects Masters Swimming, I will be in contact with the new group to promote Masters Swimming once a contact is found.

ACTION ITEMS

- To meet with the new Executive Director of USAT.
- To continue working with the USMS Coaches Committee.
- To make contact with the Ironman governing body.

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UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE LIAISON Hill Carrow

On June 1 and 2, 2005, I made my second annual pilgrimage to Colorado Springs, home of the U.S. Olympic Committee, to meet with executives to discuss Masters swimming and related topics.

It turned out to be an excellent trip as I was able to meet with the top three executives at the USOC as well as the CEOs of USA Swimming and the USA Triathlon.

As for the USOC, I met with Jim Scherr, who had been serving the last several years as Interim CEO and who was recently confirmed by the USOC Board as the organization's permanent CEO. Jim used to be Executive Director of USA Wrestling, so he is very familiar with NGBs (national governing bodies) and to a good degree with Masters sports. Needless to say, Masters sports are not a focus for Jim and the USOC, but I took the opportunity to explain how a number of Masters athletes fit in the elite athlete category and qualify for Olympic Trials and, in some instances, for the Olympic Games. We also discussed how adult or parent involvement in sport can positively influence their children's participation and help provide a good support structure (for potential future elite athletes).

Separate meetings also were held with Charlie Huebner, the USOC's new Chief of Staff and Number 2 man, and Jim Grice, Chief Marketing Officer. Similar to Jim Scherr, with their focus on elite athletes and the Olympic medal count, Masters sports are not a priority for these executives, but it was a good opportunity to do some educating about USMS and build nice relationships with top USOC officials.

Skip Gilbert is the new (as of April) Executive Director at USA Triathlon and his main task is to turn around an NGB that has been struggling a bit. Skip used to be Marketing Director for USA Swimming so he comes from a background that is very supportive of the sport of swimming. In his role at USA Triathlon, he is probably in the best position to interact with and be supportive of US Masters athletes.

I also had a very good meeting with Chuck Wielgus, CEO of USA Swimming. Chuck remains very interested in partnering with USMS where it makes sense. He even mentioned the possibility of bringing a USAS Sponsor to Masters Swimming, which I will share with Mel.

After my meeting with Chuck, I spent some time with Pat Hogan and Mick & Sue Nelson of the newly formed USA Swimming facilities group. The focus of this new USAS division is to assist groups throughout the country in building more and better aquatics facilities. While their focus is on USAS clubs, obviously this initiative could have huge positive impact on USMS programs throughout the country. Therefore, I plan to stay in touch with the USAS facilities team and will share information from them whenever appropriate.

With the exception of the Nelsons, I have known all these executives for a number of years and while they do not have in-depth knowledge of USMS, I left them with a better understanding and very positive feelings, I believe, about the organization.

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USA SWIMMING HIGH ALTITUDE TRAINING CAMP LIAISON Nancy Ridout

This year, our 8th camp was enlarged to include 18 athletes. These nine women and nine men came from all over the country to participate. They spent five days learning, being tested, being video taped, practicing new skills, and making new friends. The staff was comprised of Head Coach and Coaches Committee Chair, Bob Bruce (OMS), Coaches Mark Moore (MVN) and Rick Powers (DAM), Flexibility/ROM/Strength & Conditioning Coach, Steve Thompson, MPT, CSCS, Sports Psychology Consultant, Scott Boyle, MA, NCSF, John Walker, USA Swimming, and his staff, and myself as Camp Director. The camp was made possible by the significant donation of The Olympic Club of San Francisco, a notable donation by a former participant, and the support of USA Swimming. The sponsorship of H2O Velocity did not materialize, at the last minute, much to our dismay

Each year the athletes fill out an evaluation form that results in future improvements. This year the schedule was re-worked, new things were added, others discarded, and six additional athletes were accommodated. It was an excellent camp and a once in a lifetime opportunity enjoyed and appreciated by all. Our National Team Athlete was Sheila Taormina, who was also at our very first camp. Sheila has added Triathlon to her Olympic swimming accomplishments and is working hard to make the Modern Pentathlon team for 2008.

A part of being selected to participate in the camp is accepting the responsibility to share the information and skills each athlete gains. This camp's athletes have written articles, conducted local clinics, and shared new ideas with coaches and teammates. Though the actual experience can't be shared, the information, new ideas, and new skills are being disseminated and the value of the experience for a few extends beyond them to a much wider audience and this is the goal of the camp.

We anticipate our 9th Camp will take place in February of 2006 and that it will continue to provide an opportunity for excellence for USMS athletes.

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WEBMASTER/IT DIRECTOR Jim Matysek

2005 ANNUAL REPORT

It has been a very busy year for our web team, with a large number of projects rolled out throughout the year. A list of these projects was included in the recent mid-year report in the Spring issue of *Streamlines*. Highlights include the complete redesign of the USMS web site with a new page layout and navigation system, development of an independent new web site for *USMS Swimmer* magazine, and a wide variety of changes and new offerings on usms.org. Development time for new offerings is prioritized to try to provide the most member benefit, and we have received much positive feedback from our members regarding our new offerings this year.

In addition to the large number of new projects, there is an ever-growing maintenance load dealing with existing web offerings and keeping the server up-to-date and running efficiently. Virtually all new web offerings come with a new administrative interface allowing volunteers from committees to maintain the database-driven areas. This is done to prevent our web staff from becoming a bottleneck through which all changes to the web site and data driving the web site must flow. However, each new offering still adds to our support load for training and assisting the volunteers, answering questions, tracking down problem reports, and providing requested updates. While this support load is much less than what would be required to funnel all changes through the web staff, it is still an ever-increasing load.

Most of the available development time for the remainder of the year will be consumed by two major projects: development of an on line entry system for the multisport World Championships for 2006 and development of an on line registration system for USMS. The Worlds entries are scheduled to be released in January with beta testing beginning in October, and the on line registration system development must be secondary to that. Our hope is to be able to begin releasing parts of the on line registration system some time within the coming registration year.

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YMCA LIAISON Stu Marvin

The 2005 edition of the YMCA Masters National Swimming Meet took place at the IU Natatorium in Indianapolis, April 21-24. The host was the Arthur Jordan YMCA and YMCA Indy Swim Fit, in conjunction with the YMCA Competitive Swimming & Diving Advisory Committee. There were 520 swimmers representing 75 different YMCA's from around the country in attendance. The largest team in the meet was from the Arthur Jordan YMCA with 123 participants. There were 92 individual and 6 relay National YMCA records established from a list of 121 performances that were under the existing records. A total of 11 USMS records were established over the four days; 6 by hall of famer Gail Roper (75) of the Sonoma County Family Y, and 5 by Lois Nochman (80) of the Plymouth Community Family Y. Complete results of the 2005 YMCA National Masters meet can be found www.ymcaswimminganddiving.org

The large team combined champion was Arthur Jordan, IN, followed by Anne Arundel, MD. The small team combined champion was Danville YMCA followed by YMCA of the Suncoast. Swimmers attended a meet social at The Rathskeller, a German beer garden establishment and they were entertained by the PolkaBoy Band. Due to the efforts of the Claudia Multer and Mel Goldstein, the YMCA Masters program proved once again that it is alive and well and still one of the best-kept secrets in masters swimming. If you have never been to a YMCA National Masters Meet, it is a "must do" for any active masters swimmer. They know how to swim fast and have one heck of a good time.

The YMCA Competitive Swimming & Diving Advisory Committee as not yet announced the dates and location of the 2006 YMCA National Masters Meet. Several sites are being considered, including the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex. Meet information will be available at www.ymcaswimminganddiving.org

2006 FINA WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS Michael Moore Anne Cribbs

Report not available at printing. Will be sent out via e-mail at a later date.

**Saturday, September 17th, 9:30-10:45 am
Imperial G & H**