

MASTERS Swimming For Life

USMS CONVENTION - MASTERS *Swimming for life* was the theme of the XX Convention held in San Diego, CA September 15-19, 1999. The Convention is held in conjunction with United States Aquatic Sports and there were over 1300 in attendance - 182 were Masters delegates. We all needed to carry a Property Map of the Town and Country Resort Hotel to help find our meeting rooms and it was a little tough. The convention went very well with only one little 'glitch'.

BREAKOUT GROUPS - At the first House of Delegates meeting we separated into five groups - Fun, Leadership, Communications, Public Relations and LMSC Events. Many interesting suggestions came out of these groups.

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE - Surcharge is increased to \$30.00. All swimmers will be required to sign a safety waiver form upon check-in. No copy of USMS card will be required with entry. Meet hosts may eliminate phone call check-in but allow check-in up to the morning of the event. 20% of SC entries and 23% of LC entries were Internet entries. 2001 SCY at Santa Clara, May 17-20 and 2001 LCM at Federal Way, Aug. 16-19. A survey will be made of Top Ten swimmers to help identify possible areas of improvement for Nationals. New designs for the National Championship Patch will be solicited.

COACHES - The Coaches Manual will be available as a PDF file in the USMS website. Will develop a method of registering and identifying coaches and develop a group of LMSC Coach Reps. Still have USMS Mentor Clinics, NIKE Champions Clinics and beginning to offer Open Water clinics. The Olympic Training Center Camp was a huge success and the goal is to run two or three a year. There is a Video Library and a Book Library for rental. The MACA News comes out bi-monthly as an e-mail PDF file. Ron Johnson was the 1999 recipient of the Coach of the Year award. Considering subsidizing a Coach for Munich World Championships.

COMPUTER ON LINE - Technology is moving so fast that everyone should at least have e-mail. Requesting the Executive Committee to draft a privacy statement to place on our web site. Recommend changing the Webmaster position to a contract position. Schedule a web site demonstration for next year. Discontinue offering new personal aliases unless a replacement volunteer can be found. On line database thru Hy-Tek can now be shown on the web site. Missing data on 70% of 3000 All Americans (please help). A registration area is under test that refers the swimmer directly to the LMSC registration web page and a PDF registration form for the LMSC.

CONVENTION - All new delegates should be assigned to the committee. (We need help!) Closing the Hospitality suite during meeting hours next year will depend on the availability of local volunteers.

FINANCE - Cash and cash equivalents as of 9/15/99 are \$785,610. We come out a little ahead each year. Some of the reserves might be used for USMS committee projects, the USMS Endowment Fund or for our insurance reserves. A monthly report will be sent to each registrar as so many are not paid up. An investigation will be

made as to why USMS has not received payment for the past two years.

FITNESS - Currently there are two USMS Fitness events: The Postal Pentathlon and the Check Off Challenge. New events proposed are the Y2K Triathlon and the USMS 500 Swim. The Fitness Committee Quarterly was renamed Fitness Tips. The goal is to send out four a year to the LMSC Newsletter editors.

INSURANCE - The Policies are extended to 1/1/2001 from various dates. Voted to conditionally approve Foreign Accident coverage. Voted to increase policy liability coverage Director and Officer limits from \$500K to \$1M. Secondary Accident Insurance changes effective 1/1/2000: Deductible now \$100 (was \$250); Reduced from \$.60 to \$.55 per swimmer; \$250 per tooth limit eliminated; Chiropractic and Physical therapy limited to a maximum of \$1,000 each.

1998 INTERNAL AUDIT - Research revealed that the 1998 financial records of the organization are in excellent order. Reimbursements are now being made in a timely manner. Advised sending a monthly report to registrars.

INTERNATIONAL - The USMS Executive Secretary to send letters to venues that might be interested in bidding for the 2002 or 2004 World Masters Championships. We have compiled a list of USMS International Contacts and eventually it will be on our web site. We need an article in Swim Magazine on the starting command procedure and false start rule for International meets. The entry book for Munich is available from Tracy Grilli for \$3.

LEGISLATION - All recognition's shall be signed by the LMSC's authorized representative. Entry forms shall contain the language of the liability release as stated but may be modified by naming the sanctioning LMSC, sponsoring USMS club(s) and/or addition insured(s) following "UNITED STATES MASTERS SWIMMING, INC." The Board of Directors of USMS include: each member of the Executive Committee; Each zone rep; Past presidents; the chairmen of all standing committees; the internal auditor; the controller; and the liaison from USA Swimming. All standing committees have been revised. No final report from this committee as yet.

LONG DISTANCE - The One Hour Postal Swim set a new record with 1838 swimmers. LMSC's have the option of recognizing events when a sanction is inappropriate. Championship bids selected as follows:

One Hour Postal	PNA	January
5/10 K Postal	Central Oregon	May 15-Sept
3000/6000 Postal	O*H*I*O*	Sept/Oct
One Mile OW	Empire State	July 14
Two Mile Cable	Greater Ind.	June 23
1-3 Mile OW	Central Oregon	Aug 4
3-6 Mile OW	FGC	April 29
6+ Mile OW	Greater Ind.	Tba

If USMS recognizes an OW event, the USMS swimmers will be fully covered with liability and medical insurance. A non USMS host would not be covered. The 3000/6000 postal swim is restricted to a 25 yard pool.

MARKETING/PUBLICATIONS - The web site has increased our visibility. Please support our sponsors: **ALAMO** - Rent a Car; **Destinations** - nations leading hotel discount program; **Earthlink** - pre pay phone card; **Kast-A-Way Swimwear** - swimwear and swimming

equipment; **MBNA MasterCard** - USMS Preferred and Gold affinity credit card; **Mindspring** - dial up internet service; **NIKE** - active sportswear; **Speedo** - innovative swim suits, apparel and accessories; **The Victor** - swimwear and training accessories; **TYR** - manufacturer of swimwear and accessories; **Ultra Swim** - hair and skin care products; and **VASA Trainer** - versatile sport-specific conditioning equipment for all sports. There is a proposal to be investigated to produce for TV a health program built around swimming and human interest snippets of individuals. It would be used to market USMS as an organization.

OFFICIALS - All certifying bodies rule differences should be added to our Appendix B. Those bodies include: USA, YMCA, CSOA and NFHS. Rule change information should be added to the MACA Newsletter, SWIM Magazine, and sent to LMSC Official's Chairs. Officials Liaisons are appointed to our Championships.

PLANNING - Suggested that a USMS liaison be appointed to the Senior Games and that the LMSC's need to become more involved to make the quality of these games more consistent. It was recommended that USMS have a booth at the Senior Games in Orlando. Also recommended was that the Committee develop a pre-packaged booth and materials display to be used at a wide range of both aquatic and non-aquatic events.

RECORDS AND TABULATION - The "as of November 1, yyyy" date will be placed on the web listed records. There will be written guidelines for Top 10 recorders to generate their Top 10 submissions. The goal is to limit the number of formats used for submission. Lake Erie LMSC will continue with the USMS Top 10 Patches.

REGISTRATION - The Registration software will be updated with all the changes discussed on one update to be mailed to all Registrars hopefully by the end of Oct. (Single sheet or tractor-fed) cards to be mailed in October. The new forms will be two up because of all the information requested. Registrar's portion of the handbook will be mailed at the beginning of October. Each LMSC registration form will be put on the Internet. Reports will be sent each month detailing the transactions that have occurred during the month. All LMSC's are requested to send registration website links or paper forms to Craig Campesi as soon as possible to facilitate registration through the USMS website.

RULE BOOK - Full-size rule books will be distributed to the Board of Directors; members of Rules, Long Distance, Legislation, and Rule Book Committees; and all registered USMS clubs. Both full and mini-rule books will be distributed to all LMSC registrars. Let clubs know about the mini-rule book.

RULES - Adopted the USA Relay Take-Off Judges rule. Referees may prohibit the use of any device that disrupts or interferes. I am not quite sure about the final outcome of the whistle start rule and the new false start rule but if you are swimming in a meet outside of the USA you should be aware of them. They are being used widely around the world.

SAFETY EDUCATION - The committee is going to produce a Club Safety Handbook that should be ready by

2000 convention. Articles are written for SWIM magazine.

SPORTS MEDICINE - The committee's goal is to have articles widely disseminated in national publication. The committee has a strict observance of the editorial process. Many articles are in that process.

ZONE - The guidelines and procedures used for next year's election of the Zone Committee chairman will be the same as those used for this year's election of officers with the exception that there will be a candidates forum at the House of Delegates meeting when championships are voted on.

AD HOC RECOGNITION AND AWARDS - USMS Service Award number of recipients will be left to the discretion of the committee. The Award Ring will be forwarded to the Marketing committee for further evaluation.

AD HOC 1999 LEGAL COUNSELORS - While the law is evolving, at this time a hard copy of the liability release will need to be signed by swimmers who seek membership in USMS and swimmers who want to enter our national championships. A "Want Ad" for USMS member-lawyers will be created and distributed nationally. The committee will research the issue of Privacy and pursue the drafting of a privacy policy for the organization.

AD HOC 1999 USMS HISTORIAN - The committee needs to create a scheme for organizing, cataloguing, documenting and retrieving information. Encourage local Masters members to find and interview Masters pioneers. Much of this information needs to be on the web.

AD HOC 1999 USMS ENDOWMENT FUND - The fund now has \$18,356.35. USMS will increase the matching fund to \$20,000 for the year 2000 and make a 1 to 1 match instead of 50 cents to the dollar. Encourage the members to use the check off on the registration form.

AD HOC 1999 ISHOF NOMINATING - A group of individuals were suggested for consideration for 2000 and 2001. We need to collect the criteria data to determine the nominees. A letter will be sent to the LMSC of the individuals suggested to help gather this information.