

South Central Zone Annual Meeting – Thursday, September 24, 2023 (via Zoom)

South Central Zone Committee Members

Nicole Christensen, Chair, Webmaster, Communications

Kirsten Hoffman, All Time Zone Records

Susan Ingraham, Zone Champs Meet Records

Voting Delegates in Attendance

Stacy Abrams (ST), Tom Boak (GU), Nicole Christensen (GU), Ed Coates (ST), Scott Halliburton (AR), Patrick Harrington (GU), Kirsten Hoffman (OK), Jay Leigh (NT), Jacky Merianos (NT), Tim Murphy (ST), Lex Pegues (ST), Maddie Sibilica (OK), David Smith (OK), Alana Wilson (GU), Kris Wingenroth (GU)

Non-Voting Meeting Attendees

Bonnie Adams (AR), Diana Brodeur (NT), Karlene Denby (GU), Stacey Eicks (GU), Peter Guadagni (USMS President), Susan Ingraham (ST), Kendal Jacobson (ST), Andreas Lorenz (GU), Leslie Moon (OK), Alison Moore (NT), Lynn Morrison (NT), Cindy Myer (NT), Carie O'Banion (AR), Bryon Shefchik (AR), Elaine Valdez (ST), Linda Visser (GU), Amy Wagner (ST), Jack Zedlitz (OK)

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

South Central Zone Chair, Nicole Christense, welcomed all meeting attendees. Nicole briefly reviewed the 2023 updates which were:

1. 2023 Short Course Zone Championships were hosted by the North Texas LMSC.
2. 2023 Long Course Zone Championships were hosted by MOST in South Texas LMSC. It was the first LCM Zone Championship meet since 2019
3. This was the second year of the Zone Open Water Grand Prix Challenge. The series will be expanded in 2024 (to be discussed later in the meeting).
4. The 2022 Jesse Coon Award was awarded to Karlene Denby (Gulf LMSC).
5. The Zone has a new communications platform called MailRelay.
6. The Zone website is being continually updated and improved.

Agenda Items

1. **Zone Chair Elections:** The floor was opened for nominations for a new Zone Chair to serve for a two-year term starting at the end of the Annual Meeting on Sept 10, 2023. Zone Chairs are term limited to a maximum of two consecutive terms. Lynn Morrison (NT) nominated Jacky Merianos, currently the North Texas Chair, for the position of South Central Zone Chair. The nomination was seconded by Cindy Myer (NT). As no one offered further nominations, Kris Wingenroth (GU) moved that nomination be closed. This was seconded by Lynn Morrison (NT). Voting ensued and **Jacky Meriano was voted in as new South Central Zone Chair.** Congratulations, Jacky. Jacky has been involved in swimming for over 30 years and specifically with Masters for over five years. She has been part of the North Texas board since 2020, serving first as vice-chair and then chair. Her goal is to assist all the Zone's LMSCs in achieving their goals.

2. **Proposed updates to the Zone Meet Bid Documents:** Three updates have been proposed for the Zone Championships bid documents. (Update 1) “If lanes in the competition pool are set aside for warm up/down, there must be at least one buffer lane between a competition lane and warm up/down lane(s).” Kris Wingenroth (GU) motioned that this update be accepted, and Ed Coates (ST) seconded the motion. Discussion ensued with concern expressed that making this a “must” statement would limit and discourage bids, especially for the LCM meet. Susan Ingraham (ST) made a motion that this be amended to a recommendation, rather than a “must” statement. Ed Coates (ST) seconded the amendment. The update was amended to: “If lanes in the competition pool are set aside for warm up/down, it is recommended that there be at least one buffer lane between a competition lane and warm up/down lane(s).” A vote was taken on accepting the amendment, which passed with a majority of votes (two nay votes were noted). A vote was then taken on the amended update which passed with a majority of votes. (Update 2) “If the facility has access to backstroke ledges, they must be provided at the meet.” Maddie Sebelia (OK) motioned that this update be accepted, and Scott Halliburton (AR) seconded the motion. A lively discussion ensued regarding a facility having a sufficient number of ledges to provide them for all competition lanes, if there was an additional cost to use the ledges who would incur the expense, and should ledges be rented and brought into the facility. The update ended up being tabled due to the complexity of the issue and will be brought forward at a later date. (Update 3) “Meet hosts must offer access to on-line relay entries prior to the meet.” Ed Coates (ST) motioned that this update be accepted, and Tom Boak (GU) seconded the motion. There was limited discussion regarding the update and it was passed with a majority of votes.
3. **Presentation of Zone Expenses:** A proposed division of Zone expenses was brought forward by Nicole Christensen. Total Zone membership as of 8-22-2023 is 3,295. Total Zone expense is \$506.04. It is proposed that each LMSC pay a proportionate share of the annual expenses based upon their membership. Arkansas has 213 members (6.46%) \$32.69. Gulf has 828 members (25.13%) \$127.17. North Texas has 1,026 members (31.14%) \$157.58. Oklahoma has 125 members (3.80%) \$19.23. South Texas has 1,103 members (33.47%) \$169.37. The proposal was positively received by the voting delegates, and it was agreed to share expenses proportionally. All expenses have already been paid by the Gulf LMSC and reimbursement should be sent to the Gulf Treasurer, whose address will be provided to each LMSC by Nicole.
4. **Grand Prix 2024 Preview:** Diane Brodeur (NT) was introduced as the new Zone Open Water Chair. Diane’s goal is to be a resource and provide support to every LMSC for all open water issues. Five open water events have already been locked in for the 2024 race series, beginning in April and ending in October. Each event will offer and short, middle, and long distance options. There are three events in the Gulf LMSC and two events in the North Texas LMSC. Other LMSCs are encouraged to explore other open water event venues as additional events can be added to the 2024 series. The OZ Mile in Arkansas is not a viable option as that event is solely focusing on a one mile distance and cannot accommodate the three distance offerings required for a series event. The Tall Chief Swim in Oklahoma can accommodate a maximum of approximately 160 swimmers due to logistical challenges and is, therefore, not a viable option for addition to the series schedule.
5. **2023 Zone Championship Meets:** Meet expense summaries were provided for both the SCY and LCM meets. Both event directors were offered an opportunity to share additional information. Jacky Merianos (NT) clarified that while the SCY meet is showing a large loss, approximately \$3,000 of that loss went toward the purchase of capital assets which will be now be available for all future North Texas meets. Susan Ingraham (ST) reported that the LCM meet

had a lower number of entrants than anticipated and essentially broke even with a small profit of \$241.

6. **Review of LMSC Reports:** Each LMSC provided a report. Emphasis is placed on coordination of 2024 events and sharing best practices between LMSCs. Nicole encouraged LMSCs to reach out to one another to share ideas.
7. **Zone Champs Meet Committee:** This newly formed committee is tasked with reaching out to potential hosts, reviewing incoming bids, presenting bids for a vote, and providing guidance and support to meet hosts.
8. **Presentation of 2024 Zone Championship Meet Bids:** One bid was received for each course. The SCY meet will be hosted by The Woodlands Masters Swim Team (WMST) and will be held April 26-28 at the Conroe ISD Natatorium in Shenandoah, TX. WMST will be utilizing two 25-yard courses on Friday evening for the distance events. Ed Coates (ST) made a motion to accept WMST's bid, and the motion was seconded by Scott Halliburton (AR). A majority of votes approved the bid. The North Texas and Pegasus Aquatics will be hosting the LCM on August 2-4 at the SMU Robson Lindly Aquatics Center in Dallas, TX. Ed Coates (ST) made a motion that the bid be accepted. The motion was seconded and the motion passed on a majority vote.
9. **2023 Jesse Coon Nominations:** Nicole challenged each LMSC to distribute the nomination criteria among its members and to nominate at least one candidate for this award.
10. **2023 Fall, Winter/2024 Spring, Summer Zone Event Calendar:** Nicole provided a document with confirmed and tentative events for 2023/2024. She requested that LMSCs provide her with additional information as event dates are firmed up.
11. Jackie Meriano thanked Nicole for her two terms of service as Zone Chair.
12. Kris Wingenroth (GU): Next year is an election year for the USMS Board of Directors. Possible candidates from the South Central Zone are encouraged. Kris also noted that for LMSCs that want to pay their clubs' registration fees, a new process to do so is being put in place by the National Office. Also, the National Office will be surveying annual meeting delegates about their meeting experience. Kris encouraged delegates to convey what they view both positively and negatively when filling out the survey.
13. **The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Karlen Denby, Gulf LMSC
August 24, 2023

Addendum:

Meet Bid Document Update # 2 (Proposal, motion, second, and vote all done via email)

This item was tabled during the annual meeting. On September 1, 2023, a proposal was made by Kris Wingenroth (GU) to utilize the following wording for update # 2: "If the meet host has access to backstroke ledges for all competitive lanes, they should be provided at the meet." A motion was made by Alana Wilson (GU) to accept the revised wording, and the motion was seconded by Jacky Merianos (NT), Jill Gellatly (GU), and Scott Halliburton (AR). Upon motion and seconds, the proposal was left open for discussion over the weekend. No further discussion ensued. The email

vote concluded on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 with the motion being passed by a majority of the voting delegates.

Karlene Denby
Gulf LMSC
September 5, 2023