

USMS Convention — Jacksonville, Florida 2014

Committee Name:	Recognition & Awards	Session #:	1	Report #:	
Committee Chair:	Ray Novitske	Vice Chair:	Sally Dillon		
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	9/18/14 6:45 pm		

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

none

Motions Passed:

none

Number of committee members present:	14	Absent:	0	Number of other delegates present:	11
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Ray Novitske, Sally Dillon, Carolyn Boak, Rich Burns, Maria Elias-Williams, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Heather Howland, Kerry O'Brien, Lori Payne, Walt Reid, Nancy Ridout, Laura Val, Robert Zeitner, Tracy Grilli (Ex Officio), Chris Stevenson (VP Local Operations)					

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 pm by Ray Novitske. Introductions were made by committee members and those in the audience.

Chair's Report

1. Report on reaching 2014 committee goals – Ray reported that we met the three goals that were set for the year. First, we received more nominees for our awards. Second, we surveyed the LMSCs to continue encouraging them to recognize service volunteers. Third, we developed more coordination with other committees and the national office to help publicize and promote our awards. We started promoting the awards more last year beginning with the award presentation at the HOD, and developed press releases of the recipients.

Loose ends going into tomorrow – press releases are ready to go for this year's recipients and Ray requested proofreaders prior to sending these out. Rich offered to prepare press releases prior to tomorrow for the two awards remaining - Club of the Year(COYA) and Communication. Ray plans to send the press releases to the LMSC chairs, and if the chair is the recipient, the vice chair. These will also be sent newsletter editors and webmasters, along with information on how to publicize this information to local media.

Budget Review

2. We received an "automatic" budget request of \$960 for 2015, same as last year's budget. For 2014, we spent \$631 of that amount, including a printing cost for an unbudgeted item.

Annual Projects

3. Captain Ransom Arthur M.D. Award Report - Sally reported that we had three outstanding nominees for the RJA award in 2014: Hill Carrow, Michael Heather, and Michael Moore. Hill was selected as this year's honoree and was presented with the award in North Carolina by USMS President Nadine Day. The official announcement took place in Santa Clara at the National Championship meet. Hill will receive his official pin at the HOD meeting on Friday and will be honored before all of USAS at Saturday's banquet.

Sally noted that a nomination was submitted that she and Ray considered lesser compared to what is typically received. The nomination did not demonstrate depth or breath of experience. The nominator was given the opportunity to improve the nomination document but failed to do so. The nominator was then encouraged to nominate the person for the DDSA instead. Mel Goldstein suggested that in the future, we allow the entire committee to make this decision or change the criteria for the award.

After some discussion, it was suggested that the entire committee need not prequalify nominations, and that minimum criteria be established for acceptance. The committee will discuss the issue further after the convention and arrive at a determination.
[continued]

4. US. Masters Swimming Dorothy Donnelly Service Award – 31 nominations were submitted for 15 awards. We were pleased with quality and quantity of the nominees this year.
5. U.S. Masters Swimming June Krauser Communications Award – Nancy reported that we had two nominees this year. Committee selection was composed of Lori, Rich, Laura, and Betsy Durrant. Initially there was a tie but a revote yielded a unanimous decision.
6. U.S. Masters Swimming Club of the Year Award – There were two regional and four local nominees so we had success in increasing nominations. Subcommittee members were Lori, Chris, Betsy, Nancy, Laura, and Kerry. Scott Bay, from Coaches Committee and Andrea Block from Fitness Committee participated on the committee as well. Heather’s club was nominated so she did not tally the votes, rather Ray did.

Report on Special Projects

7. Increasing Nominations - Nancy lead a subcommittee to encourage more nominations. Subcommittee members Rich, Laura, Carolyn, and Nancy personally contacted LMSCs to encourage nominations for the USMS awards. Rich developed the “Who Do You Know” flyer (soliciting nominations) for the Spring Nationals goodie bag. Nancy noted that we had expected to see its text in Streamlines but it was finalized past the publication deadlines. Ray, Rich, Cheryl, and Sally wrote press releases for 2013 and upcoming 2014 recipients.
8. Promotion of Recognition at the Local Level - Ray, Carolyn, Kerry, Laura, and Sally served on a subcommittee that surveyed LMSCs to determine what type of volunteer recognition is occurring. Sally distributed a three-page spreadsheet with the results, comments, and suggestions from the subcommittee’s survey. The number of LMSCs officially participating in local recognition has increased since the previous 2010 survey.

New Business – Projects for Upcoming Year

9. Recognition at the Local Level – recommendations from the recognition survey (#8 above)
 - a. Distribute this information to multiple LMSC leaders and post it on the USMS website where the previous report is located.
 - b. Reach out to the LMSCs that indicated they would like to do more. Rich suggested we put together guidelines for LMSCs on creating, communicating, selecting recipients, and post on our website. Megan Lassen suggested an award for new swimmers and will send the information to Ray for distribution.
 - c. Work with the NO to develop some “swag” that LMSCs can inexpensively obtain and present to recognize volunteer service. Nancy noted that a Thank-You note was previously available to download and use.
 - d. Reach out in future years to all LMSCs that do not award any recognition and offer encouragement and ‘how-to.’
 - e. Develop downloadable draft applications for award nominations or templates for providing information that will be helpful to the LSMCs.

Kerry suggested continuing with the same committee members for 2015 as we go forward with these projects.
10. Coordination with Other Committee Service Awards - We have been working with the History & Archives committee to record information about our award recipients. This year we worked to coordinate press releases and HOD service award presentations. Ray would like us to continue to coordinate with committees presenting service awards.
11. Annual Awards - Chris suggested referring to previously successful nominations to promote quality of future nominations. Nancy suggested reviewing nomination material and forms for all awards. Nancy will evaluate Communications, Heather for COYA, Ray for DDSA, and Sally for RJA. Ray will send nomination form to the committee to evaluate and ask that input be submitted to the leaders for reach award. Sally encouraged the present committee members, as well as those in the audience, to realize that when they ask to serve on a committee, they should commit to be actively involved in the various activities that the committee is engaged in. “Spectators” are not encouraged to join!
12. IMSHOF – Walt reminded us of tomorrow night’s induction ceremony. The R&A Committee can nominate for the Contributor category only. Our last two honorees, Mel Goldstein and Ted Haartz, were nominated by R&A Committee. There have been many USA contributors (3 in a row including this year’s Diving honoree). Other countries do not promote the contributor nominations as much, so we might consider putting forth another USMS candidate next year. Our U.S. Masters federation is more developed than foreign federations when it comes to contributors.

Audience member David Morrill suggested that we might promote contributor nominations since other countries do not. Ray will solicit the committee for candidates to consider for nomination next year. The deadline is March.

MSA to adjourn (Heather/Robert)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm
