

U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name: Recognition & Awards

Committee Chair: Elizabeth Nymeyer

Minutes recorded by: Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: July 16, 2023; 6 pm, CST.

Actions taken: None

Number of committee members present: 9

Absent: 1

Guests: 1

Present: Rich Burns, Hill Carrow, Sally Dillon, Michael Hillegonds, Nancy Kryka, Michael Moore, Ray Novitske, Elizabeth Nymeyer, Nancy Ridout, and VPLO Ed Coates.

Absent: Mary Jurey

Guest: Crystie McGrail

Beth Nymeyer called the meeting to order at 6:06 Central Time. She announced that Vice Chair Stacy Abrams has resigned from the committee due to personal reasons.

A. General Business

1. Meeting minutes: The June 4, 2023, minutes were approved via email and posted on the USMS website.
2. Next meeting: Sunday, August 20, 2023, at 7 pm Eastern. This will be the R&A committee's "Annual Meeting". Attendees must register through the USMS Annual Meeting site, using SCHED.
3. Executive Committee Update: Ed had nothing to share from the BOD perspective. He noted that the Awards presentation will take place Friday evening. It is the last item on the HOD agenda. The "In Memoriam" event will take place Saturday morning, prior to the HOD meeting. Ed said the board is not too concerned about the award video length; but he will follow up with Ray on that to confirm. The board will provide guidelines for the RJA and Coaches award presentations. Beth asked if this year's RJA award recipient, Barbara Dunbar, will be attending; Ed did not have that information.

B. Standing Committee reports

1. Ransom J. Arthur award: Michael M is continuing to work on documenting the award procedures.
2. June Krauser Communications award: Nancy R reported that 3 nominations have been received and due to a conflict of interest, Mary Jurey is unable to serve on the selection committee. Rich Burns volunteered and Nancy will complete the committee with volunteers from other USMS committees. The selection will be made by August 1.
3. Dorothy Donnelly Service award: Beth reported that 23 USMS volunteers were nominated, and she was the only member of the selection committee who had not yet voted. Beth also said that she wants to develop a rubric and point system for voting. Nancy R asked that Beth clarify and save the information for future use by other award subcommittees and Sally suggested that the entire committee should have a chance to provide input into the rubric system before it is adopted.
4. Club of the Year award: Mike H reported that 3 nominations were submitted, and the subcommittee was in the process of voting. He will order the banners once a decision is made. Sally noted that the interactive forms weren't working. She thought the online nomination documents had been tested and was surprised that they were not yet available on the website. Beth offered to ask Stacy Abrams to provide what has been done so it can be used for next year.
5. Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame award: Although voting took place in March, the International Hall of Fame has not released the names of the 2023 MISHOF honorees. They have also not determined when and where a presentation will take place and are considering numerous ideas, which might include selecting honorees every 2 years. Rich said they are also considering presenting at the World Championships. There was discussion about how MISHOF honorees are selected. Our committee nominated Nadine Day for the Contributor award. If Nadine is not selected this year, we will nominate her again. R&A can also nominate in the Pioneer and Coach categories. We do not nominate for the Athlete (swimmer) category. Nominees are determined by a point

system that includes national and world records, rankings, and finishes. A threshold is required and once reached, the athlete goes on a list of eligible honorees. The decision as to which swimmers are honored falls to a large selection committee, most of whom have been inductees themselves.

C. Committee projects

1. Social media outreach: Beth's goal was accomplished, and the number of nominees has increased. She used Instagram liberally.
2. Outreach/email effort: Ray reported that he did not see anyone other than him and Nancy K entering activity on the shared Google sheet. Nancy R said she was not able to access it at all. She requested and received "permission" but still could not use the document. Ray asked Beth to get the information from Nancy so it can be entered. Ray also reported that due to his "local" efforts, there were 5 nominations from the 10 LMSCs in the Colonies zone. He also mentioned that Jeff Commings has someone selected who received the award last year. Beth will contact Jeff about this. Finally, Ray noted that Stacy had volunteered to work on the annual video, so in her absence from the committee, he will need someone else to be mentored. Michael M and Beth volunteered. Nancy R suggested we keep the narrative within the committee, so we have a personal connection with the award process. Ray noted that doing the voiceover in a closet makes for good sound.
3. Awards presentation at Houston, and virtually: The deadline to submit the video to USMS is September 1. Hill volunteered to write poems for the DDSA awards. Beth suggested we talk with Jeff Commings if we need help with voiceovers because he has professional experience. Rich said there is an App that can help enhance speaker's voices. Award-giving committees need to seek speakers who have "pleasant speaking voices" for their recordings.
4. Award bios: Ray said the bios from other committees are trickling in. Sally suggested that she, Ray, and Nancy K attend meetings of the committees whose award stories are missing, and ask to be on the agenda so they can speak about the issue. Beth is willing to help with this as well.

MSA to adjourn at 7:03 pm CST.