

Annual Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2015

The SMS annual meeting was attended by 30 swimmers in the Crawfish Aquatic's team room following the SCY Championship events on Saturday during lunch. Ellen Hall, Vice-Chair, called the 2015 Annual Meeting of SMS to order at 12:30 PM. In attendance were Rob Cambias, Treasurer, Pat Arnold, Sanctions Chair, Doug Holmes, Secretary, Vicki Buccino, Top Ten Records Chair, Ellen Hall, Vice Chair, Doug Kopp, Registrar, Edina Pou, Co-Editor, and Nan Fontenot, Communications Chair and Coaches Chair. Absent were Chris Frederic, SMS Chair, Barbara Aguirre, Mississippi board member-at-large, and Scott Fleming, Open Water and Distance Chair.

Thanks to Chairperson Chris Frederic's organization and written reports by Treasurer, Registrar, Top Ten, and Sanction chairpersons the need for extended discussion was reduced. Elections were not necessary since officers were elected last year for a two year term and all agreed to serve another year (names and positions listed above). Ellen conducted elections for the 2015 delegates to the USMS convention (Chris Frederic and Doug Holmes). Chris hopes to appoint an Auditor, and a Competition Chair, who would be responsible for planning and getting pools for our three SMS Championships, promoting one day sanctioned meets and other events like stroke clinics, distance events in pools, open water swim in SMS area, and putting them on the calendars of SMS, USMS, Dixie Zone and in *Lane Lines* with least six months lead time.

Ellen thanked Crawfish Masters Aquatics for hosting another great meet, including Meet Director Nan Fontenot, Entry and Timing Director Jeff Maynor (whose wife just had a new baby), the two meet officials, the on deck breakfast, the catered pasta and catfish lunch, swimmers who brought desserts, and the High School girls from Saint Joseph's Academy for being timers.

Minutes of the March 2014 SMS Annual Meeting by SMS Secretary Doug Holmes were approved as they appear on SMS website. He promoted the unsanctioned Open Water Swim in Ocean Springs on May 2, 2015.

Doug Kopp's Registrar's report was submitted and approved including the following highlights: SMS boasted 752 members in 2014 (10 % increase over last year) and 550 SMS members registered to date in 2015. SMS had 18 independent clubs in 2014 plus nine workout groups with the SMS regional club with about 50% of the SMS members. Nine of the clubs are from Mississippi totaling about 100 swimmers including unattached SMS members.

Pat Arnold's Sanction report was submitted and approved. She reported six sanctioned meets (three SMS Championship Meets, and three one day meets) and two recognized meets in 2014 being the two La. Senior Olympic meets in N. O. Pat emphasized the importance of meet directors contacting her before and after filling out the sanction form so she can walk them through the sanctioning, the new liability release form, and pool measuring process.

Rob Cambias, SMS Treasurer, in his 2014 Financial Statement reported \$30,197 in the checking account at the end of 2014, being \$4668 more than the beginning balance of \$25,529. Income from 752 USMS registrations (\$11 each is returned to SMS) and from the SCM Championships that SMS collects entry fees for was \$10,500 income less expenses of USMS convention (\$1566), Club Assistant charges (\$345), caps and awards (\$650), coaches and national meet incentives (\$310). Report was approved.

The primary business conducted by Ellen at the 2015 annual meeting was the approval of SMS Bylaw changes which were distributed by email, posted, pasted around, and discussed. They bring the SMS in line with USMS national standards and requirements. Chris, Ellen and Pat worked on the revisions. Bylaws were last revised in 2006. Bylaw changes and additions were approved (see footnote below) and can be read in detail at the SMS website under Administration/Bylaws.

Vicki Buccino, Top Ten and SMS Records Chair, thanked Ellen Hall for measuring the movable bulkhead in the pool, and announced the Outstanding 2014 SMS Female Swimmer (Pat Arnold, age 75, with 48 points) and the 2015 Outstanding Male Swimmer (Bob Seagrave, age 58, with five points). Nan Fontenot presented them with their awards and the Southern Master Swimmers who placed in the USMS Top Ten in at least one event (ten women with 41 Top Tens and three men with 11 Top Tens).

Ann Walton awarded **Nan Fontenot, a plaque as Outstanding SMS Coach of the Decade, for her support of SMS** as SMS Chair for three years, and Coaches Chair and Webmaster since then. Nan has coordinated the last eight SCY Championships for SMS as Meet Director with the help of the Crawfish Aquatics Masters swimmers which she coaches. She ran another efficient and successful meet this year with a recent **record of 61 master swimmers**. Ann surprised Nan with the award after finally stopping Nan who ran in and out of the meeting as the 1650 swim was finishing. Ann presented her with a crystal award that Chris purchased. Ann read "What it means to be a Masters Coach" which epitomized Nan's great contributions to Southern Master's Swimming and the Crawfish Aquatics which Nan humbly accepted giving the glory to God.

Additional new business included some discussion on how to improve attendance at our SMS Championship meets. Chris is working on the 2015 LCM Championships would be held at Nichols State in June, the 2015 SCM Championships will probably be held at UNO in December, and a possible swim clinic on a Saturday in August, 2015.

Ellen thanked everyone for coming and meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Holmes, SMS Secretary & Lane Lines Editor

Footnote: The following list summarizes the changes made to the SMS Bylaws.

1. Updated language to reflect new definition of "club" and "workout group(s)", versus previous use of "team(s)"

2. Updated Registration Chair duties to reflect on-line registration and USMS national office requirements
 3. Added position of Vice Chair
 4. Updated Top 10/Records Chair duties to reflect new pool measurement activities required by USMS national office
 5. Added the following committees as required by USMS national office: Coaches Committee, Officials Committee, Open Water Committee. Note: SMS Board has these committee chairman on the Board already; By Laws now reflect them as actual board members
 6. Updated Athlete Registration to reflect actual practice of on-line registration, versus previous paper registration
 7. Updated timing of annual reports to reflect USMS national standards
 8. Updated Membership Reports to reflect actual practice with on-line registration versus previous paper registration
 9. Minor grammatical errors though out
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