

## U.S. Masters Swimming

**Committee Name:** Recognition & Awards

**Committee Chair:** Elizabeth Nymeyer

**Minutes recorded by:** Sally Dillon

**Date/time of meeting:** November 3, 2024, 6 pm CST

**Actions taken:** none

**Number of committee members present:** 12

**Absent:** 5

**Guests:** none

**Present:** Rich Burns, Hill Carrow, Sally Dillon, Sara Dunn, Caitlin Gagnon, Tara Mack, Ann Marshfield, Michael Moore, Ray Novitske, Beth Nymeyer, Nancy Ridout, USMS VPLO Crystie McGrail

**Absent:** Jessie Feng, Teresa Frias, Nancy Nevid, Sonny Nguyen, Daniel Paulling

**Guest:** None

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm Central.

- A. **VPLO report:** Crystie noted the USMS Board “leadership office hours” that would take place on Monday. The focus will be on the 2025 budget plan. She also noted that 2025 USMS registration opened on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Ann said the “coach” option does not pop during the registration.
- B. **Approval of meeting minutes:** The August 11, 2024, Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved via email and are posted on the USMS Website.
- C. **Set date for next meeting:** Beth will survey the committee members via email.
- D. **Subcommittee reports:**
  1. Ransom J. Arthur MD Award (RJA): The dates referenced on the forms and online need to be updated to reflect the change to July 1 as the nomination deadline. Michael reported that the subcommittee has been working on the subcommittee chair’s responsibility summary. The lists of eligible voters need to be clarified. He noted that Ross Wales has never been a member. Sally noted that Ross’s story is on the RJA award website.
  2. Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame (MISHOF): Sally reported that R&A’s nominee, Nadine Day, was inducted into MISHOF last month. The event took place at the Hall of Fame in Florida and was held in conjunction with the ISHOF presentation. Walt Reid told Sally that it was an outstanding event, and that Nadine gave a terrific presentation. Family members came from Hawaii to celebrate her induction. The 2024 MISHOF honorees have been announced and Jim Matysek was not selected for the Contributor award. As we’ve traditionally done, we’ll make sure Jim is on the list for next year. The award will go to Barbara McNamee from USA Artistic Swimming. Sally had heard that the 2024 and 2025 recipients would be honored in Singapore next August. Rich said that he had spoken with Meg Marvin at the HOF, who told him the presentation won’t likely be in Singapore after all. It’s expected to take place with the ISHOF presentation.
  3. Fitness Award (FIT): Ann noted a conversation she had with Mike Hamm and Tom Moore at the USMS Relay event. There was a question whether ALTS contributions are appropriate for the Fitness Award. It was noted by others that ALTS participants are learning to swim so they can be safe exercising in the water; there is no push that they become competitive swimmers. It was also noted that ALTS folks have received the DDSA and Kerry O’Brien awards for their efforts. Others noted that the FIT award is the logical place for recognizing ALTS contributors. Ann will reach out to coaches and teams to inform them that the FIT award is appropriate. Tara suggested the nomination form include ALTS language.
  4. June Krauser Communication Award (JKC): Nancy reported that this year there were questions not answered, making it difficult to compare nominations. The subcommittee will look to revise the information to avoid misinterpretation. Tara suggested we use online forms. They can be more “user friendly”. She suggested a program like Jot Form forces answers into spaces – which won’t allow someone to skip an answer. The end results provide a clear arrangement of information in PDF format. Michael suggested we use this type of form for all our awards. Beth will follow up on this topic. Tara said there might be a fee, but a 50% discount is available for non-profits.

5. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award (DDSA): Beth said it went this year. Hill noted that a DDSA recipient also received a Kerry O'Brien Coaches award. He thought this was unusual and suggested we find a way to work with other award giving committees to prevent it from happening in the future. Hill noted that many nominations were lacking in substance, making it a challenge when writing the DDSA poem. Ray suggested we improve the DDSA nomination and require more specific information. The previous discussion about Jot Forms would apply to the DDSA as well. Tara emphasized that the forms need to be clear and consistent. Caitlin doesn't object to someone being nomination for more than one award, but we should communicate with other award giving committees to avoid duplication. The Best Practices document needs to be competed.
  6. Club of the Year Award (COYA): Sara thanked her subcommittee, and she supported a revised form. This year's submissions were not entirely complete. Tara expects the information to be complete when submitted, and we shouldn't have to chase the submitters down to get the missing information. If the nomination is submitted early, it's OK to ask for missing information. But not after the deadline. The Jot Form would make sure they have addressed every question.
  7. Award bios/stories: Ray reported that Nancy N and Sally have been writing the stories. Sally will do Kris Wingenroth's RJA story, and that will complete this year's R&A award responsibilities. Ray has asked the other award-giving committees to send him their stories (or at least the nominations); he's not received any so far.
  8. Social Media and Direct Outreach: Caitlin said we didn't end up developing a way for LMSCs to post their award recipients on their social media pages. Next year – we need to put photos in Google Drive and pass the links on to the National Office and/or LMSCs. She suggested we could put this year's photos in a file and share it with the LMSCs.
  9. Annual Meeting Award Video: Ray was thanked for another great video presentation. He commented that he thought it was a bit "jerky" and he heard some "beeps" that shouldn't have been there. He thinks that whoever was sending the video was doing something else in the background on their computer. He also noted that the video was longer due to a few unexpected things: One committee gave out 10 awards (way more than usual), and some of the recorded videos went well past the given time limits. He thanked Hill for a great job with the DDSA poem/presentation. And he noted that the process was a bit difficult with the animation. Finally, the Officials Committee was very late with their award again this year. Caitlin has volunteered to take on the video production next year.
  10. Policy Review: Sally noted the need to review the R&A Committee Policy document. She proposed changes last winter, which were not addressed. It's important that they are kept current and since we have added an award to our list of responsibilities and changed some procedures, it's important to codify those decisions. She offered to work with the chairs of the award subcommittees and provide revisions for the committee to approve at the next meeting.
- E. **Finishing 2024 Projects**: Online Forms and Best Practice documents, Historical Document filing – Beth said we would save these until 2025.
- F. **Other business**: Ray mentioned that he found the RJA award plaque that had been used when the award was presented at the USAS banquet. It's a "dummy" because the real plaque has always been presented prior to the annual meeting. Sally noted that there won't be a use for it going forward. Crystie asked Ray to send it to the National Office.

MSA to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm Central.