

**USMS R&A Committee Meeting Notes Feb 1, 7:15 PM ET**  
**2026 Recognition & Awards Committee US Masters Swimming**

Committee Name: Recognition & Awards: Welcome 2026 Meeting Committee Chair: Tara Mack "TMack"      Vice Chair: TBA Minutes recorded by: Zoom AI & TMack      Meeting Date/Time: 02/01/26; 7:30pm ET
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**Actions Taken:** none

<b>Number of committee members present:</b> 14 <b>Absent:</b> 1 <b>Guests:</b> 0  <b>Committee Members Present:</b> Tara Mack "TMack" (Chair); Rich Burns; Hill Carrow; Emily Cook; Sara Dunn; Caitlin Gagnon; Ann Marshfield; Hayley Martin; Jane Moore; Beth Nymeyer; Nancy Ridout; Dan Underbrink; Crystie McGrail (VPLO)  <b>Committee Members Absent:</b> Michael Moore  Daniel Paulling (Ex-Officio) <b>Guests:</b> n/a
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The meeting was called to order at 7:15pm ET

**1 Welcome to the 2026 USMS R&A Committee**

Tara Mack, chair of the R&A committee, welcomed volunteers and provided an overview of the meeting agenda, which included introductions, a general overview of the R&A's activities, and a discussion of what the committee does not handle. Crystie McGrail, the Vice President of Local Operations on the USMS Board of Directors, introduced herself as the liaison to the board and mentioned her role in providing updates and elevating issues from the committee to the board.

**Swimming Highlights and Future Plans**

The meeting introduced committee members from various LMSCs, sharing personal anecdotes, swimming experiences, and favorite interests. Hill highlighted the upcoming World University Games in 2029 in North Carolina, while Nancy Ridout shared her achievement of completing 50 one-hour swims. Hill also recognized Rich's [induction](#) into the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF), and discussions included challenges faced at the Rowdy Gaines meet due to weather conditions. The conversation ended with Tara Mack introducing herself as the Awards and Recognition Chair for New England and thanking everyone for volunteering.

**Recognition & Awards Committee Meeting**

The Recognition & Awards Committee discussed their monthly meeting schedule, which will be held every third Sunday from 7:30-8:30 PM Eastern. Tara "TMack" will chair the committee,

taking over from Beth who announced she is starting graduate school in June. The committee handles several awards including the Ransom J. Arthur Award, Fitness Award, and Club of the Year, while other awards are managed by different groups. Caitlin reported issues with her website credentials that need to be resolved through the volunteer email address. TMack requested that members send their contact information directly to Tara for sharing purposes and looks forward to working with everyone in the upcoming year. Projects include: Updating Awards Descriptions and Forms for Nominations and Bios onto the website to complete the recognition documentation from past years recipients. The February 15th meeting will dive into the specifics involved in the work of each of the subcommittees and set out a plan for the year ahead, especially in preparation for the July 1 nomination deadline. TMack will send a reminder for the upcoming email and include the link in the body of the email. It will be the same Meeting ID and Passcode for the remainder of the meetings in 2026 to reduce confusion and assist in organization.

## **Quick recap**

The Recognition Awards Committee held its initial meeting for 2026, where committee members introduced themselves and discussed the committee's responsibilities, which include the Ransom J. Arthur Award, Fitness Award, June Krauser Communications Award, Dot Donnelly Service Award, Club of the Year, and Masters International Hall of Fame. The group established that future meetings will occur every third Sunday of the month at 7:30 PM Eastern, and Tara Mack (TMack) is the new chair, succeeding Beth Nymeyer. The committee discussed administrative matters including the need to update bios on the website. TMack requested permission to share contact information, and asked members to individually email her with their preferred shared information which she will then disseminate.

## **Next steps**

- TMack will send a reminder email for the next meeting with the Zoom link in the body of the email
- All committee members: Individually email TMack with the specific contact information you consent to have shared with the committee
- Caitlin: email [volunteer@usmastersswimming.org](mailto:volunteer@usmastersswimming.org) to request new credentials for updating 2025 Award Recipients bios on the website
- TMack and 2025 Committee members: Update the minutes from the previous meetings and ensure they are posted to the USMS page.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm ET