

USMS Convention — Atlanta, Georgia 2016

Committee Name: Colonies Zone	Session #: 1
Committee Chair: Natalie Taylor	Vice Chair: Rand Vaillancourt
Minutes recorded by: Mollie Grover	Date/time of meeting: Thursday, 9/22/2016 9:45 am

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. None.

Motions Passed:

1. MSA to remove requirement to provide Zone awards, in order to award a Zone championship meet to host clubs.
2. MSA to certify David Diehl as the nominee for Colonies Zone At-large director.

Number of committee members present: 47

Absent: N/A

Number of other delegates present: 0

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Natalie Taylor, Rand Vaillancourt, Jeff Strahota, Laurie Hug, Tom Patterson, Michael Fanelli, Kim Inverso, Bob Singer, Bob Kolonkowski, Charles Leroy Smith, RC Saint-Amour, Jayne Saint-Amour, Greg Danner, Brooks Howard, Erin Matthews, Jen Masqueiler, Mary Judge, Crystie McGrail, Douglas Sayles, Laszlo Egen, Rick Osterberg, Tim Lecrone, Bill Meier, Charles Cockrell, Betsy Durant, Shirley Loftus-Charley, Jim Miller, MD; Leo Letendre, Jeff Roddin, Ceclia McCloskey, Colleen Driscoll, Sally Kleeman, Marie Vellucci, Susan Kirk, Charlie Tupitza, Heather Stevenson, Chris Stevenson, Ed Tsuzuki, Chris McGiffin, Elaine Howley, Alana Aubin, Mollie Grover, Paul Sweeney, David Diehl, Ray Novitske, Ally Sega, Wyatt Bradbury

Committee Members Absent: N/A

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 am.

1. Natalie welcomed the delegates to the meeting and turned the floor over to Patty Miller to welcome the Zone members to the 2016 convention.
2. Natalie went over the agenda for the meeting.
3. Natalie presented the Colonies Zone Dot Donnelly Award to Jeff Sargent (CONN).
4. 2015 -2016 Zone Championship Recaps
 - a. Natalie turned the floor over to Doug Sayles to talk about the 2015 SCM Zone championship meet at WPI. The change of venue from BU did not hinder attendance at the meet and they will be again holding a SCM meet in December 2016. Doug mentioned there were some hiccups with the college student volunteers, but they have a punch list of things to improve for this year's meet. This year's meet will be December 9-11 and the 800 free will be offered (no 1500). Doug reached out to Alford (the 2015 meet director) regarding the volunteers from 2015 and was told that Alford has reached out to local USA-S teams for volunteers for the 2016 meet.
 - b. Natalie asked if anyone had anything to talk about regarding the 2016 SCY Zone Championships, held at George Mason University. Jeff Strahota mentioned that the attendance this year had ticked down from the last few years. Jeff also mentioned that entries again opened at a time inconvenient to triathletes, and that the meet host expanded the cap for distance events, so the two distance events did not fill up this year.
 - c. Jeff then talked about the 2016 LCM Zone Championships held at the University of Maryland. The meet was around 130 swimmers, which allowed the meet host to insert breaks throughout the timeline. Jeff also mentioned that there were 6 USMS and World records set at the meet. Doug Sayles mentioned that NE-LMSC ran an LCM meet in the summer and that the team at Wesleyan was looking into hosting the meet again this year, but it would be in August (after Nationals). Wyatt suggested offering both distance events and spreading it across 3 days to potentially make the meet a mini-vacation. Tracy Grilli brought up that the meet would probably end up being the weekend after USMS Nationals, and potentially the same time as FINA Masters Worlds. She did not think this would be problematic, but wanted folks to know. Natalie stated that there seemed to be interest in the meet at the Wesleyan and Ally Sega said she would be willing to submit a bid.

- d. Chris Stevenson mentioned that he maintains the Zone championship records and meet directors can email him for the file with the records.
 - e. Jeff Roddin mentioned that there used to be a requirement for providing Zone awards in order to award a meet the Zone Championship. Natalie asked if the committee would be willing to remove the requirement to provide Zone awards. MSA (Rand Vaillancourt/Heather Stevenson) to remove requirement.
 - f. Erin Matthews asked when Zone bids are due to the chair. Natalie said the deadline has passed but would continue to accept bids until October 15, 2016.
5. Natalie then turned the floor over to Bill Brenner. He talked about a new educational opportunity for coaches. This opportunity is to teach coaches how to better conduct stroke clinics. There will be a dry side and a wet side component to the program. This will supplement the already available opportunities from the National Office. Wyatt asked if folks would be interested in a set-up where meets would happen in the morning and then a clinic piggybacked onto it in the afternoon. The overall feeling is that it would not be popular, as evidenced by teams that have tried it, with little success. Various similar ideas have been tried throughout the Zone, such as video taping during races or having a well-known coach giving a talk after a meet. Natalie asked if anyone who had ideas or successes with this idea to hang back after the meeting and have a discussion for future implementation.
6. Natalie then plugged the LMSC Workshops and asked people to please go to them. She then also talked about the volunteer roundtable and the peer-to-peer teleconferences that occur throughout the year. Natalie mentioned the peer-to-peer schedule is posted or she can be emailed to get the schedule.
7. Natalie went over the updated LMSC Standards and talked about the updated remediation process. The new standards are divided into Mandatory and Target. Non-compliance with the Mandatory standards will trigger the remediation process. Non-compliance with the Target standards will not trigger remediation, as it is believed that Target standard non-compliance is easily corrected. The former Suggested standards have been renamed "Best Practices" in order to clarify the requirements. Chris Stevenson mentioned where the current standards can be found on the USMS website.
8. Natalie brought the two bids (2016 SCM and 2017 SCY) MSA(Leo Letendre/Rand Vaillancourt) to accept the two submitted bids. Rand asked for the dates (SCM = December 9-11; SCY = April 7-9, 2017) and locations (2016 SCM = Worcester Polytechnic Institute' 2017 SCY = George Mason University). Natalie again mentioned she will accept bids for 2017 LCM until October 15, 2016.
9. Natalie asked for ideas to drive increased membership in the age groups under 30. Tim Lecrone mentioned that his LMSC has reached out to college club teams. Charles Leroy Smith suggested looking to college-aged swimmers who do not know how to swim as a potential source of members (eventually). Wyatt mentioned that at the University of Maryland the beginning swimmer classes in the kinesiology department are filled and that colleges could reach out the ALTS programs in the area or truly partner with the ALTS program. Bill Brenner mentioned that ALTS provides a curriculum for instructors to follow, which allows for the ALTS instructors to customize their lessons, based on the swimmer. Jeff Strahota then brought up that it seems the college club programs are not always well organized or have decent coaches. His idea would pair up USMS teams and college club teams to give the college club programs access to better organized workouts, which would then increase the awareness of USMS to college-aged swimmer. Charles mentioned that marathoners and CrossFitters are started in embrace deep water running, which could be a source of new members as well. Doug Sayles then suggested simply talking to college club swimmers to present USMS in an organized way to those swimmers. He asked if the National Office had any kind of presentation for that, and Bill said they would be willing to provide materials. Jen Masqueiler also mentioned that reaching out to community college students are an untapped source of members. Her team reached out to Harford CC and have already had 11 students join their team. The students mentioned to her that the inclusiveness of USMS was appealing. Jeff Strahota then mentioned that it appears, based on this meeting's attendance, that about 25% of the Zone delegates are under ~40 (and most of those delegates are under 35). Ed Tsuzuki then mentioned that there is an initiative at the national level to help college club programs flourish. Ed mentioned that they do not really want to join USMS, but are extremely interested in the infrastructure (registration, rankings, sanctions, etc.) that USMS has and could provide to the college club system. He also mentioned that the program has not started officially yet (there is a line item in budget to start the program in 2017). Wyatt then mentioned that the cost for some younger swimmers can be prohibitive and that is something that needs to be investigated. Crystie McGrail mentioned that some teams pair up older and younger swimmers and the older swimmer would pay for the younger swimmer. Leo Letendre mentioned that a similar set up to the SSLF goggle drive could be a solution. Jeff Strahota then mentioned that this discussion continues to get into a circular discussion about who should be the driving force behind resolving some of this issue and that it would be helpful if something came down from USMS. Wyatt then stated that the Futures task force identified that cost is a high concern for the younger age groups. Jeff Roddin mentioned that we should also look into helping out older swimmers who have encountered hardships as well. Natalie then suggested that using the USMS Forums to continue this discussion after convention to come up with more ideas.
10. Natalie turned the floor over to David Diehl, in order for him to introduce himself to the Colonies Zone delegate. He is running for Colonies Zone At-large director this year. MSA (Ray Novitske/Rand Vaillancourt) to certify David Diehl as the nominee for Colonies Zone At-large director.

11. Natalie then opened the floor for event announcements:

- a. Bob Kolonkowski (Metro) – possible SCM or SCY meet at Nassau County Aquatic Center
- b. Betsy Durant (Virginia) – SCM meet in Virginia Beach
- c. Heather (Virginia) – SCY meet in Richmond in February 2017
- d. Rand (Maryland) – SCY swim series, one meet per month , October – March
- e. Jeff Sargent sent a message thanking everyone for the Dot Donnelly award.
- f. Doug Sayles introduced Rick Osterberg and plugged the NE-LMSC spring meet (SCY).
- g. Ray mentioned that he aggregates all Colonies Zone events on the zone website and can do push notifications to members, if asked.
- h. Bill Brenner mentioned the following events:
 - i. ALTS in October (NYC)
 - ii. Level 3 certification in November (NYC)
 - iii. Level 1/2 certification in November (Baltimore)
- i. Crystie McGrail mentioned the National Coaches Clinic in California (October). She talked about what their LMSC is doing to encourage their coaches who attend to spread the information through the LMSC.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. None.