

USMS Convention—Anaheim, California 2007

Committee Name:	USMS Endowment Fund Board of Governors	Session #:	1	Report #:	2
Committee Chair:	Rob Copeland (in Doug Church's absence)				
Minutes recorded by:	Meg Smath	Date/time of meeting:	9/27/07 11:00 a.m.		

Action Items: Proposed Expenditures

1. MSA to grant \$2000 to Conrad Johnson for his proposal with the caveat that he include a how-to guide for running this type of clinic for other Masters organizations.

Number of committee members present:	10	Absent:	7	Number of other delegates present:	10
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Rob Copeland, Meg Smath, Tom Boak, Michael Heather, Jody Welborn, June Krauser, Jim Miller, Nancy Ridout, Patty Miller, Nancy Ridout.					

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m.

1. Jody presented a proposal from Conrad Johnson seeking \$2000 to fund a workshop on Pilates for Masters swimmers in the Metropolitan LMSC. The committee asked if this proposal fits the mission of the fund, and in the absence of Chair Doug Church was unsure of the exact wording of the mission of the Endowment Fund. The committee felt that projects it funds should benefit all of USMS, and suggested that this proposal would achieve that if the workshop helped train its participants on how to teach Pilates. There was wide agreement that Pilates is beneficial for swimming because it strengthens core muscle groups. Conrad proposed offering an article about the workshop, accompanied by photographs, to *USMS Swimmer* magazine or other swimming magazines, and perhaps to *Pilates World* as well. An article in *Pilates World* would provide good exposure of USMS to nonmembers. So that the workshop would benefit as many USMS members as possible, the committee would like to see it also generate a checklist of how to establish a Pilates workshop for Masters swimming in other areas. The committee also wanted the workshop to emphasize the benefit of Pilates to swimming performance, using someone like Jenny Thompson or Carolyn Boak as an example. MSA to grant \$2000 to Conrad Johnson for his proposal, with the caveat that he include a how-to guide for running this type of clinic for other Masters organizations.
2. The committee discussed why this was the only grant proposal that it received. Clearly the word is not getting out that this is a source of funding. Patty suggested that we choose some organizations that would be likely to conduct research or programs of benefit to USMS members and write them letters to let them know that funds are available. We should also make information about the Endowment Fund available on our website. The committee also favors changing the balance of the type of grants it makes, as in the past grants have been strictly for sports medicine research. Rob clarified that USMS should fund its own national initiatives, and not use money from the Endowment Fund for this purpose, but clubs and LMSCs are eligible to apply for grants from the Endowment Fund. The missions and objectives of the Endowment Fund should be better publicized, and it should be made a less burdensome process to apply for a grant. Also, those wishing to make proposals should be able to submit them and have them evaluated throughout the year, not just at convention. Doug Church will be asked to define the mission, objectives and goals for the Endowment Fund.
3. Mark asked if we received feedback from grantees to evaluate the return on investment of the grant, and the answer was no. Doug will be asked to establish a mechanism for feedback. Every year when this board meets at convention, it should review what was granted and what the result was.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Send letters to organizations likely to conduct research or programs of benefit to USMS members to inform them that money is available through the Endowment Fund.
2. Define the mission, objectives and goals for the Endowment Fund.
3. Establish a feedback mechanism to track the return on investment of grants made by the Endowment Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.
