

2019 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — St. Louis, Missouri

Committee Name: Great Lakes Zone

Session #: 1

Committee Chair: C.J. Rushman

Vice Chair:

Minutes recorded by: William Kolb

Date/time of meeting: 9/12/19 @ 9:45 am CST

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. none

Motions Passed:

1. MSA: approve to close nominations for GLZ chair, count ballots, approve Lisa Brown (Indiana) as chair.
2. MSA: approve to close nominations for GLZ vice-chair, approve Ann Marshfield (Lake Erie) as vice-chair by acclamation.

Number of committee members present: 6

Absent: 2

Number of other delegates present: 29

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Committee members present: LMSC chairs: C.J. Rushman (KY), Fares Kesbati (Michigan), Tracy Lord (IL), Jay Definis (LE), Mary Schneider- (WI), Lisa Brown (IN).

Committee Members Absent: Allegheny Mtn. = Katherine Longwell, Ohio = Peter Tarnapoll

Minutes

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

1. CJ Rushman (Kentucky) called the meeting to order. CJ thanked all the attendees and had each attendee introduce themselves and indicate if they were a new delegate. A sign-up sheet was distributed to record attendance. CJ honored members of the USMS community we have lost since the last meeting and victims of the 9/11/01 terrorist attacks with a moment of silence.
2. CJ Rushman (Kentucky) recognized USMS national office staff member Steve Hall, Manager of Membership, who passed out a detailed USMS event calendar and shared information about upcoming events and initiatives.
3. Chairs of respective member LMSC's gave reports on their previous year of operations:
 - a. Allegheny Mountain (no representative present) -- no report, Chris Colburn briefly explained that membership is stable at ~350 and there was one recognized event this year
 - b. Illinois (Tracy Lord) -- there are several Gold Clubs, a 4% decline in membership, Molly Hoover is the vice-chair, Mike Hill (new delegate) is awards and recognition, the board has merged roles for Championship and Sanctions due to a large state meet every year, there has been new focus on the website and the USMS beta model, board is looking to update online communication tools to benefit membership, especially moving into Olympic year
 - c. Indiana (Lisa Brown) -- 35 clubs (6 of them new), membership is down ~300 members, national meet in Indy was largest to date, USMS 2-mile cable swim at Eagle Creek was phenomenal, ALTS programming continues and ALTS certification will be held @ Ball State in November (scholarships available for Indiana LMSC members)
 - d. Kentucky (CJ Rushman) -- 5 gold club, membership and meet schedule, ALTS programming continues to grow, ALTS student and board member Pat Mathison will be giving a keynote presentation with Olympian Josh Davis at convention
 - e. Lake Erie (Jay DeFinis) -- membership is down 30 total members at 525 members total, board has determined a significant amount members are unattached and a survey is being formulated to find out why, there are 2 Gold Clubs, added an ALTS coordinator position on board (Judy Norton), 4 ALTS clinics held with 8 instructors, Lake Erie members get 50% scholarship for ALTS certification class, O*H*I*O Masters will pay other half for their members, board has created additional at-large positions for top 4 clubs in LMSC, signature event -- Chuck Beatty's Brogan Open Water Classic and 2-mile open water national championship will be in Cleveland, OH
 - f. Michigan (Fares Ksebati) -- membership at 965, down 5 individuals or 0.5% (year before down 4.5%), 12 meets over 12 months, moved to independent website with online shop for swag that has raised more than \$1,000 since

July for a scholarship fund, section on website for meet directors with checklists, 97% or more registrations done online, Amazon smile partnership to contribute to scholarship fund, 291 participants in the April state meet, Hosted a swim clinic with Janet Evans including private breakfast and lunch, clinic and speaking engagement at banquet, Elizabeth Biesel scheduled for 2019 event on October 20 and tickets are available at MichiganMasters.com

- g. Ohio (no representative present) -- no formal report (see item #4)
 - h. Wisconsin (Mary Schneider) -- membership sits at 525 now, a 12% drop, in 2018 board really made a push for Indy nationals, hosted 6 SCY, 2 SCM, 1 LCM meet, board revised policies, looked into new website options, looking to host a clinic but trying to get members in rural areas is difficult
4. CJ Rushman (Kentucky) recognized Ron Kontura from Masters Diving. Ron discussed his new role at Kenyon College which involves hosting events and promoting Masters swimming. There will be a LCM meet there in December and a SCY at Kenyon in March. Details will be put on the GLZ social media channels and website.
 5. CJ Rushman (Kentucky) discussed elections.
 6. CJ Rushman (Kentucky) recognized USMS CEO Dawson Hughes who repeated points from his earlier address to the HOD. Dawson indicated that he enjoys hearing what's going on around the country, especially hearing about non-conforming events and ideas that get members active and participating. He encouraged meeting attendees to please share new and working best practices for USMS activities so the national office can amplify our voices for the organization.
 7. CJ Rushman (Kentucky) opened the floor for nominations for Great Lakes Zone Chair. Nadine Day (Indiana) nominated Lisa Brown (Indiana) and Cheryl Gettlefinger (Indiana) seconded. Susan Ehringer (Kentucky) nominated CJ Rushman (Kentucky) and Meg Smath (Kentucky) seconded. Skip Thompson (Michigan) made a motion to close nominations, which was seconded by Bill Tingley (Kentucky). All aye. Chris Colburn (Illinois) asked both nominees if they were prepared to execute the duties of the office. Both nominees indicated they were. Further discussion from meeting attendees ensued. Voting by written ballot ensued. Bill Tingley (Kentucky) counted ballots and announced that the 2019-2021 Great Lakes Zone Chair is Lisa Brown (Indiana).
 8. Old Business: there was much discussion about remediating the relationship the Allegheny Mountain and Ohio LMSCs have with the formal organizational structure of USMS.
 9. Old Business: Ann Marshfield (Lake Erie) noted that many links on the Great Lakes Zone website are still dead and information is outdated or ineffective. William Kolb (Kentucky) offered to meet with Ann between the next meeting to remedy this.
 10. New business: Jay DeFinis and William Kolb gave brief presentations on what the Swimming Saves Lives Foundation is up to and how Great Lakes Zones members can support it. There is an auction running throughout the convention and Jay would like to speak further with anyone looking to contribute to a great cause. William encouraged those who have not been exposed to the story of a beginning swimmer to attend the Josh Davis/Pat Mathison keynote presentation.
 11. Susan Ehringer (Kentucky) made a motion to accept nominations from the floor for a Great Lakes Zone Vice Chair. Pam Luebbe (Kentucky) seconded. All aye. Dan Cox (Lake Erie) nominated Ann Marshfield (Lake Erie) and Chris Colburn (Illinois) seconded. Skip Thompson (Michigan) made a motion to close nominations and vote to approve Ann by acclamation, which was seconded by Chris Colburn (Illinois). All aye.
 12. CJ Rushman (Kentucky) made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Chris Colburn (Illinois) seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:14am.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Mel Goldstein (Indiana) will reach out to Allegheny Mountain LMSC leadership to continue the zone's attempts to better involve them in the organizational structure of USMS.
2. Per Ann Marshfield's (Lake Erie) request, Chuck Beatty's (Ohio) images will be used to enhance the Great Lakes Zone website, which will be updated by William Kolb (Kentucky) to follow the standard USMS.org format

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14am.
