

2026 Great Lakes Zone Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2025
7PM EST

Allegheny Mountain: Matthew Harris, Wynne Kirchner **Illinois:** Phil Dodson, Molly Hoover, Camille Tan, Nadine Day **Indiana:** Cheryl Gettelfinger, Mel Goldstein **Kentucky:** Susan Ehringer, Bill Tingley **Lake Erie:** Ann Marshfield, Andrea Hahn-Lawson **Michigan:** Barbara Church, Parick Weiss, Kevin Doak **Ohio:** Caitlin Gagnon, CJ Rushman **Wisconsin:** Elyce Dilworth, Mary Schneider **USMS:** Ed Coates

Summary: LMSCs gave recaps, discussion on potential of long course and short course meters zone championships, discussion of USMS finances related to GUS and CCS.

Call Meeting To Order

2025 Meeting Minutes Approved

Motion by CJ Rushman, Unanimously voted to approved

Zone Recap

Discussion of Zone Championships has taken place offline for several months this year.

LMSC Highlights

- Allegheny Mountain
 - New website launch, team unify SEO has been an issue
 - Tri State Long Course Meet, cancelled due to low sign ups
 - 5K event
- Illinois
 - Some turnover and new faces on the board, membership coordinator took over newsletter
 - State Meet was in Illinois, over 600 entries
- Indiana
 - Membership decreased slightly from 1188 to 1078
 - Indiana held 5 meets: 3 SCY: 11/25, Munster; 2/26 Indy Aquatics at the Nat and 4/26 State Meet in Elkhart, IN who was a new host. There was a SCM Meet in 11/25 and a LCM Meet in 6/26, both at the Nat and both hosted by Indy Aquatics.
 - A Coaches Clinic was held last November with many attendees.
 - In the month before, USMS was not a host; however, many USMS locals attended the first stop of the SCM World Cup for USA Swimming held in Carmel, IN. The next two stops were Westmont, IL and then Toronto.

- Goals are to host more meets and to host a zone championship meet in November of 2027.

- Kentucky

- 9 meets sanctioned, 2 cancelled
- Supporting officials by paying them
- Sanction changeover issues because the sanctions chair can't edit so changes mean starting from scratch
- USA Swimming wants to dual sanction an open water swim on October 1

- Lake Erie

- Total Membership: 468 as of 8/11/26 – a decrease of 11 from 2025
- How many clubs: 8
- Swim Meets: 1 SCM, 1 LCM, 3 SCY, 1 Open Water Swim
- One SCY meet was cancelled due to winter weather
- LE LMSC pays for pool rental and coaches for continued outdoor practices at the Avon Aquatic Center during September. All USMS registered members are welcome. Cost is
- \$10 drop in. Practices are Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- Financial health: LE LMSC has deficit of \$2000 for 2025.
- The LMSC has \$30,000+ in the bank.
- Relay 2026 & NCC : We will send 3 to Relay and 1 to NCC.
- LE LMSC updated its Governing By-Laws, awaiting approval from the membership for revised
- Code of Regulations.
- One after meet social – rescheduled due to meet cancellation.

Michigan

- 14 meets
- Up 20 swimmers
- 23 workout groups
- 2 clubs
- Scheduled for 4 meets in the fall
- EMU shutting down pool so they're cramming in two more meets

Ohio

- 3 meets, 2 more coming in the fall
- Grown up swimming huge, will translate to USMS membership

- Wisconsin

- In the past year we had about 560 members, which is a stabilization of our member numbers over the last few years.
- Our finances are stable, with no unforeseen spending, and careful monitoring of our spending to budget.
- Wisconsin had 8 short course yard meets, 1 short course meter meet, 1 fitness event, 1 virtual meet, 1 long course meter meet, and 1 Recognized meet. One of the short course meets was a first time host. The meets were well attended, and most of them featured either individual or relay “fun” (non-conforming) events, or both individual and relay “fun” events.
- We had good participation at USMS short course nationals, and finished second among Regional teams. We also had swimmers attend the middle distance open water event in Minnesota, and long course USMS Nationals.
- Our methods of communication are our website, a monthly email sent to all members stressing upcoming events and important dates, and our bi-monthly newsletter.
- A number of our current board members have all served multiple years, but we were successful in recruiting several new members. We still need to involve additional members and mentor them to take over leadership positions.

Update from Ed

Ed thanked volunteers for their hard work.

New Business and Discussion

Discussion on Zone Championship Meets

Due to historically low travel numbers, Kevin Doak proposed the idea of a virtual championship. This was unanimously agreed as a possibility to explore.

Discussion of GUS and CCS financials

Mel Goldstein asked if USMS was financially supporting GUS and CCS. He was given information about when GUS will be financially even and told to attend the finance committee meeting.

Discussion of new LMSC platform

Kevin Doak talked about new platform that LMSCs can use for records and volunteer management: swimteamer