

**USAS Convention – Dearborn, Mich., September 13–17, 2006**  
**United States Masters Swimming**  
**House of Delegates – Minutes**

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**Thursday, September 14, 2006**

**9:00–10:00 a.m.**

President Rob Copeland called the meeting of the House of Delegates to order at 9:00 a.m. EDT. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll; new delegates were asked to stand and be recognized.

**Officers Reports.** Rob Copeland, *President*, welcomed everyone, and urged all delegates to conduct their meetings with efficiency and effectiveness. He reminded everyone that the theme for this year's convention is "Thinking Outside the Pool."

Michael Heather, *Vice President of Community Services*, listed the committees in his division: Fitness, Marketing, Planning and Sports Medicine, Health and Safety, in addition to the National Senior Games, IGLA, USA Triathlon, YMCA and national corporate partner liaisons.

Julie Heather, *Vice President of Local Operations*, listed the committees in her division: Zone and Records and Tabulation; she also works with the LMSCs.

Leo Letendre, *Vice President of National Operations*, listed the committees in his division: Registration, Finance, Long Distance, Rules, Legislation and Officials. He announced that he has been involved in the Our Kids Initiative, in which representatives from 10 aquatic governing bodies and associations are attempting to standardize the rules of competition. USMS hosts the initiative's website ([www.ourkidsinitiative.org](http://www.ourkidsinitiative.org)).

Tom Boak, *Treasurer*, introduced the USMS financial team: Jeff Moxie (chair of the Finance Committee), Margaret Bayless (Controller) and Tracy Grilli (who, as National Office administrator, receives and deposits the organization's funds). He was happy to report we are in good financial position.

Meg Smath, *Secretary*, had nothing to add to her written report.

Mark Gill, *Vice President of Member Services*, listed the committees in his division: Championship, Coaches, Communications, History and Archives, Editorial and Ad Hoc ISHOF Nominating; he also chairs several task forces and was the Executive Committee's liaison to the XI FINA World Masters Championships.

Patty Miller, *Legal Counsel*, encouraged members to come to her if they have legal questions.

Jim Miller, *Immediate Past President*, said that he functions as the "conscience of USMS."

**MSA (moved, seconded, approved) the officers' reports.**

**Convention Coordinator's Report.** Victor Buehler asked that delegates pass on any recommendations or suggestions for next year's convention. He thanked the Michigan volunteers for all their help in putting on this convention.

**Parliamentarian's Report.** Bill Tingley reviewed parliamentary procedures and went over the HOD rules: delegates may only speak at one of two microphones in the room, and only if recognized by the chair. Voting cards are used to vote on all issues. Delegates are limited to speaking on an issue for two minutes, and are allowed only one trip to the microphone per issue. Finally, delegates need their credentials for roll call votes.

**Task Forces Reports.** Laura Winslow reported for the *Executive Director Search Task Force*. She said that interviews with candidates are continuing.

Laura also reported that the *Membership Dues Task Force* has proposed increasing dues by \$5.

Michael Heather reminded delegates that *Premium Web Pages Task Force's* written report was sent via email. He added that the Board of Directors is recommending that a Technology Services Task Force be established so we can reorganize our IT functions more effectively.

Betsy Durrant said the goal of the *Policy Manual Task Force* is to put all USMS policies and procedures in one document. The task force is not creating new policies, but may find that policies are needed in a particular area, in which case they will request a proposal from the appropriate committee. The task force plans to present a draft at next year's convention.

Mark Gill and Leo Letendre reminded delegates that there will be an unopposed meeting of the *Online Registration Task Force* later in the day. Progress is being made, but not as quickly as we would like. They hope to have it implemented in the near future.

## **MSA task force reports.**

**Employees and Contractors' Reports.** Tracy Grilli had nothing to add to her *National Office Administrator's* report. **MSA the report.**

*Webmaster/IT Director* Jim Matysek announced that committees will need to follow the proper procedure for requesting web work. They will need to fill out web request forms and turn them in to Mark Gill. Work for the World Championships caused a backlog, so tasks will have to be prioritized. **MSA the report.** Mark Gill emphasized there is no intent to delay needed work, but the web staff needs to make sure they understand each task and the requestors need to understand what they're requesting, so that the proper amount of time for each task can be estimated.

*Controller* Margaret Bayless announced that our 2005 financial statements have been reviewed and compiled by our auditors; she has copies for anyone interested. We are in excellent financial shape, and revenues are enough to cover expenses. **MSA the report.**

*National Corporate Partner Liaison* Mel Goldstein congratulated our membership for doing a good job of supporting our corporate partners this past year. He complimented June Hussey (Arizona) and Bob Hopkins (New Jersey), who have used our trade show display extensively. Mel also thanked Legal Counsel Patty Miller for devising the template for dealing with sponsors. **MSA the report.**

*National Publication Editor* Bill Volckening stressed the importance of members contributing to the magazine. He is circulating a flyer that contains contact information and deadlines. He also noted that all input from contributors during the last year has been documented. **MSA the report.**

The meeting was recessed at 10:03 a.m.

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**Friday, September 15, 2006**

**8:00–9:15 a.m.**

President Copeland reconvened the meeting at 8:03 a.m. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll for those who had not yet answered.

President Copeland honored those who have been coming to this convention for many years, especially Ted Haartz and June Krauser, who have attended all 35 USMS annual meetings. He also read a list of names of those in the USMS family who had passed away since last convention: Cynthia Joan Bruce (Florida Gold Coast), Arnie Green (New England), Jane Higdon (Oregon), Russell Davis (Virginia), Julia Dolce (New Jersey), Mary Rose Barr (Kentucky), Gary Eaton (Georgia), Steve Barden, Dick Bennett (Pacific), Jesse Coon, Dee Hollar, Ben Allen, Nancy Clark (Potomac Valley), Eileen McAfee, Anton Cerer (Lake Erie), Henry Reese (Michigan), Lois Barnes (Southeastern), Bill DiMaio (Kentucky) and Jarka Burién (Adirondack). President Copeland asked for a moment of silence for those who had passed away, as well as for those lost on September 11, 2001.

**ISHOF Liaison's Report.** June Krauser had nothing to add to her written report. **MSA the report.**

**IGLA Liaison's Report.** Jessica Seaton reported that the Gay Games in Chicago were a success with over 1,000 registered swimmers; 299 Gay Games records were broken, as well as six USMS records. Mark Gill was the meet director. Nadine Day ran the open water event and assisted during all the pool events. Synchronized swimming was included for the first time, for both men and women. Sean Fitzgerald coordinated water polo, which was very well attended. Diving participants ranged in age from 22 to 63 and, in addition to the springboard events, the platform and synchronized diving events were contested. Washington D.C. was chosen as the host for the IGLA Championships in 2008. Swimming will be conducted at the University of Maryland in June. Updates for the 2007 (Paris) and 2008 (Washington D.C.) IGLA Championships will be found at [www.igla.org](http://www.igla.org) as they become available. **MSA the report.** Mark Gill announced that Jessica was one of five finalists for the Tom Waddell Award, in recognition of her promotion of inclusiveness.

**National Board of Review Chair's Report.** Meg Smath had nothing to add to NBR Chair Jack Geoghegan's written report. **MSA the report.**

**National Senior Games Liaison's Report.** Bill Tingley reported that because the National Senior Games are held every other year, 2006 has been a quiet year. Preparations are on track for the games in Louisville, Ky., next year. Swimming will be held at the new University of Louisville pool. He encouraged LMSCs to get involved with

their local state games, and reminded delegates age 50 and over that they must qualify for the national games in their own state games. **MSA the report.**

**USMS Liaison to USA Swimming's Report.** Ted Haartz reported that USA Swimming has reaffirmed that safety marshals have to be members of USA Swimming. USMS has no equivalent requirement. **MSA the report.**

**U.S. Olympic Committee Liaison's Report.** Hill Carrow announced that the finalists for the U.S. bid to host the 2016 Olympics are Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. It has not yet been decided if the United States will bid; that decision will be made no later than March 2007. **MSA the report.**

**FINA Representative's Report.** Nancy Ridout said it has been an honor and pleasure for her to work on the FINA Masters Technical Committee, and she assured everyone that all on the FINA committee are truly dedicated to Masters swimming.

Nancy was also able to report on the training camp previously held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. She has been looking for a new host, and has had several offers, but nothing was put together before spring, when preparations for the World Championships became all-encompassing. She is hopeful that we will revive the camp in the spring or fall of 2007, and that it will definitely be back by 2008. It will be the same high-caliber camp, but may or may not be at the Olympic Training Center.

**MSA the report.**

**ASUA Representatives' Report.** Jim Miller and Mel Goldstein had nothing to add to their written report, except that they will be attending the International Committee meeting. **MSA the report.**

**Rule Book Coordinator's Report.** Susan Ehringer reported that she is waiting to finalize bids to print the rule book; she has received one complete and one partial bid, and is working on a third bid, as required by FOG. She encouraged all delegates to vote on one of the five cover choices. She will announce the winning cover design and also the dedication later in the convention. **MSA the report.**

**Zone Committee Report.** Julie Heather has received good feedback on the "Take a New Delegate to Lunch" program begun at this convention. The Zone Committee proposed three amendments to the Election Operating Guidelines. EOG1 modifies part 2 to comply with USMS rules. EOG2 moves up the deadline for nominations, and allows nominations to reopen for two weeks if no nominations are received for an office. Nominations will then close on May 31. EOG3 eliminates the requirement for candidates to submit a résumé and adds a "catch all" question to the questionnaire; this prevents redundancy between the two documents. **MSA EOG1 and EOG3. Regarding EOG2, Lynn Hazlewood pointed out that a policy will also need to be changed, in addition to the table referenced in EOG2. MSA to consider changing the policy along with the table housekeeping. MSA EOG2. MSA the report.**

The facilitators of each of the Zone workshops summarized what took place the night before. George Simon reported that at the *Registrars' Roundtable* the registrars gave Leo Letendre their wish list for his software, affectionately known as Leoware. They asked in particular for space to record information on donations. Version 10 of Leoware will be available by the end of the month. **MSA the report.**

Anthony Thompson reported that ideas were shared at the *LMSC Chairmen's Roundtable*. Minutes to the 2004 chairmen's roundtable were also provided. **MSA the report.**

Bill Volckening reported that the *Communications Workshop* gave tips for content and layout of newsletters and websites. Technical considerations and the benefits of a good newsletter and website to an LMSC were highlighted. Bill thanked Jim Matysek and Ray Novitske, who also were presenters at the workshop. **MSA the report.**

Tom Boyd chaired the workshop on *Implementing the Survey Results*. The workshop explained how to use the information from the member survey conducted last spring in order to recruit and retain new members. Six reports on different aspects of the survey are available on the USMS website, under the Administration tab. **MSA the report.** Mark Gill recognized the hard work Tom put into the survey. He did the work quickly, economically and in custom format.

Jim Wheeler characterized the *Building a Relationship with Your Aquatic Facility* workshop as "getting what you deserve or deserving what you get." He gave pointers on how to get along with your local agency and outlined different governance structures, as well as gave strategies for different types of facilities. **MSA the report.**

Julie said the Zone Committee recognizes that many delegates wished they could have attended more than one workshop. They will try to address this at future conventions.

**YMCA Liaison's Report.** Stu Marvin announced that the 2007 YMCA Nationals will be in Indianapolis. **MSA the report.**

**USMS Endowment Fund Board of Governors Report.** Doug Church announced that the fund is now approaching \$200,000. The Board of Governors made several grants this year, and Doug encouraged everyone to use the endowment fund to recognize those in the USMS family. As an example, \$2,000 was contributed in honor of June Krauser's 80th birthday. **MSA the report.**

**Registration Committee Report.** George Simon called attention to the committee's two action items: (1) ask the Board of Directors to formulate a policy to allow registrars and Top 10 recorders to access the USMS registration database on a secure website and (2) ask the Board of Directors to formulate a policy to allow LMSCs to post the name, club, age, city and gender of their members on nonsecure websites. **MSA the report.**

**Fitness Committee Report.** Vice Chair Marcia Anziano chaired the meeting in the absence of Chair Jani Sutherland. Jane Moore (Pacific Northwest) requested a correction to action item 1 (change "Hugh Moore – Federal Way Masters" to "Federal Way Masters") and action item 5 (change "at a cost of \$1,000" to "at a cost of \$1,000 per year"). **MSA to amend the minutes. MSA the report as amended.**

**Planning Committee Report.** Jim Wheeler called attention to action item 1, which recommends that the Board of Directors move forward with a Local Development and Assistance Program, with representation from the Planning Committee. Action item 2 recommends all USMS committees undergo the VVMOST process, to help them figure out strengths and what they should be working on. Pinpointing committees' missions will help avoid duplication of effort. The vice presidents can then sort out which committee should do what if committee missions overlap, or who should be put together in task forces. **MSA the report.**

The meeting was recessed at 9:12 a.m.

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**Friday, September 15, 2006**

**2:00–5:00 p.m.**

President Copeland reconvened the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll for those who had not yet answered.

**World Championships Report.** Michael Moore said he believes we reached our goals with this meet by achieving the best competitive conditions for the athletes. This was the largest international meet ever run in the Western Hemisphere, and the synchronized swimming portion was the largest synchro meet ever. More world and meet records were broken than at any previous championship. Over 170 Olympians competed. Media coverage was outstanding. And we learned much about how to run a big meet. Michael thanked the rest of the local organizing committee, and also thanked Myriam Pero for her help in communicating with the Latin American countries.

**Executive Committee Report.** Rob Copeland noted that the Executive Committee charged the Finance Committee with bringing a balanced budget to the House of Delegates. Action items were (1) to create a task force to explore creating a technology services department and (2) to create a club development initiative. **MSA the report.**

**Board of Directors Report.** Rob reported that as the policy-making arm of USMS, the Board ratified two policies: one on paid time off for employees and one on employee benefits. **MSA the report.**

**History and Archives Committee Report.** Barbara Dunbar asked for help from the membership to find old club files. They would like to create unique club numbers, similar to the permanent ID numbers for swimmers. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) asked how they would handle clubs that at times have split into separate clubs and/or combined several clubs into one. Barbara said there would be separate numbers for the original club, the split clubs and the combined club. Old LMSC Handbooks or club lists from old handbooks would be very helpful. **MSA the report.**

**Coaches Committee Report.** Bob Bruce noted that this committee does most of its work between conventions. **MSA the report.**

**Records and Tabulation Committee Report.** Mary Beth Windrath had nothing to add to her committee's written report. Sally Dillon (Pacific Northwest) asked what the Pool Measurement Subcommittee would do about the LMSCs who did not respond to their survey. Mary Beth said the subcommittee will continue to work toward a complete response. **MSA the report.**

**Recognition and Awards Committee Report.** Kelly Crandell noted her committee's action item, which called for a distinction between USMS-presented awards and awards presented by other organizations. They would like to clearly differentiate between these awards in the rule book, and also direct that the Editorial Committee allow them to review articles about awards for accuracy and content. Maria Anderson (Metropolitan; Editorial Committee) said it was not the purview of the Editorial Committee to edit articles in *USMS Swimmer*; that is the function of the publishers. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) questioned whether the David Yorzyk Award, which is presented by a private individual, is an official USMS award. Kathy Casey (Pacific Northwest; previous chair of Recognition and Awards) clarified that the award was established during Mike Laux's presidency, and was approved at the time as a USMS award, even though it is presented and funded by USMS member Manny Sanguily. Michael Heather (Southern Pacific) felt it was not appropriate for one committee to direct another committee to do something, and suggested amending the action item by deleting the first "the" and the words "Editorial Committee" in the second line, so that it would read "However, we recommend that USMS clearly differentiate between USMS awards and awards given by outside organizations." Leo Letendre (Ozark) suggested the Recognition and Awards Committee should request that the Executive Committee take the appropriate action to rectify the lack of differentiation and ensure that the Recognition and Awards Committee has the ability to review as appropriate any articles. **MSA to table the action item.**

Kelly and Vice Chair Hill Carrow announced the recipients of the 2006 Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award. Wayne McCauley (Southern Pacific) explained that this award is so important because it recognizes volunteers across USMS, at both the local and national level. Dot Donnelly was at every national and world meet, was an avid participant in the administration of USMS, and embodies this award. The winners were: Marcia Benjamin, Connie Barrett, Kathy Casey, Tom Boyd, Mo Chambers, Debbie Cavanaugh, Randy Crutchfield, Sue Haugh, Laura Kessler, Fritz Lehman, Hugh Moore, Jon Steiner, Mary Pohlmann, Patricia Tullman and Walt Reid.

Kelly presented the inaugural Club of the Year Award to YMCA Indy SwimFit. The award was accepted by club president Mel Goldstein.

Hill Carrow and George Simon presented the Raleigh Area Masters National Championship Award to Michael Moore. Michael thanked all the other volunteers on the local organizing committee for making it possible for him to win this award.

The meeting was recessed at 3:39 p.m.

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**Friday, September 15, 2006**

**5:00–6:00 p.m.**

Vice President of Member Services Mark Gill reconvened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

**Amendment to Recognition and Awards Committee Report.** **MSA to remove action item 1 from the Recognition and Awards Committee's report from the table. Kelly Crandell moved that the following language be substituted for action item 1: "The Recognition and Awards Committee encourages the recognition of USMS members and the committee recommends that USMS clearly differentiate in official USMS publications between USMS recognized awards and awards given by outside organizations." The motion was seconded.** Both the Editorial and Recognition and Awards Committees agreed to this language. Mark Gill, the liaison to both committees, will make sure this recommendation is implemented. **The motion passed.**

**Championship Bids.** The meeting was then turned over to the Championship Committee for presentation of bids for 2008 championships. The University of Texas–Austin presented a bid for the SC championships. **MSA to accept the bid.** Representatives from Mount Hood Community College, Oregon, and Mission Viejo, Calif., presented bids for the LC championships.

The meeting was recessed at 5:59 p.m.

President Copeland reconvened the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll for those who had not yet answered.

**Announcements.** Nancy Ridout announced that she spoke to Chuck Wielgus, Executive Director of USA Swimming, and we are well on our way to reinstating the high-altitude training camp at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. We had been grandfathered in under the National Team Division, and clearly we didn't fit this division's mission. Our USA Swimming Liaison, Rowdy Gaines, has offered to take us under the Alumni Foundation, which is a much better fit. Nancy said that if we can work out the details by December, we will have a camp in 2007; if not by then, the camp will be in 2008. She will accept applications by email; the form is on the USMS website. She will also consider the applications she has on file from last year. Nancy thanked USA Swimming and Rowdy for making this possible. President Copeland thanked Nancy for putting everything together in the first place, and for her lobbying efforts to reinstate the camp.

Rule Book Coordinator Susan Ehringer returned to the podium to announce that a cover designed by Bill Volckening had won the cover design competition. She also announced that the 2007 rule book would be dedicated to the local organizing committee for the XI FINA World Masters Championships. Susan asked any members of the local organizing committee who were in the House to please stand and receive a well-deserved ovation.

**Officials Committee Report.** Ed Saltzman announced that Bob and Helen Brown, longtime officials at many USMS National Championships, are retiring. He asked that they be kept in mind for awards. **MSA the report.**

**Ad Hoc ISHOF Nominating Committee Report.** Ginger Pierson distinguished between ISHOF (International Swimming Hall of Fame) and IMSHOF (International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame). She noted that much of their meeting was spent with Bruce Wigo, CEO of ISHOF, who clarified several issues. The committee put forth an action item that the IMSHOF induction ceremony be held next year during the USAS convention. They also supported the Recognition and Awards Committee's action item about differentiating between USMS and non-USMS awards. Another action item asked for access to the USMS registration database to ensure the information in the ISHOF Committee's database of national and world records is correct. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) asked who would be given the access: the whole committee or Ginger. Ginger said the intent was that whoever maintains the database have that access, and that she would consider this a friendly amendment. Ginger said there were no USMS members inducted into ISHOF for 2007 (Karlyn Pipes-Neilsen was the USMS nominee), but several would be inducted into IMSHOF, including Jean Durston, Karlyn Pipes-Neilsen, Suzanne Heim-Bowen, Woodrow Bowersock, Sandy Gellatly, Ronald Johnson and Tom Hairbedian. Ginger presented the inductees to IMSHOF and ISHOF who were present in the House of Delegates: Phil Whitten, IMSHOF; Paul Hutinger (represented by his wife, Margie), IMSHOF; June Krauser, IMSHOF and ISHOF; Graham Johnston, IMSHOF and ISHOF; Barbara Dunbar, IMSHOF and ISHOF. Sally Dillon (Pacific Northwest) asked if the USAS Convention Committee had been consulted about their action item to have the IMSHOF induction ceremony at next year's convention. Ginger responded that her committee will work with the Convention Committee to plan the ceremony. Sally suggested that the action item should say that the committee *recommends* that the banquet be held during convention, rather than stating that the banquet *will be held* during convention. President Copeland clarified that he has talked to USAS President Dale Neuburger, Bruce Wigo and others, and all are in favor; all that remains is to coordinate the event. The IMSHOF banquet will most likely occur on Thursday evening at the same hotel in which the convention is held. Ginger accepted Sally's suggestion as a friendly amendment. **MSA the report as amended.**

**Insurance Coordinator's Report.** Colleen Driscoll reported that 2006 has been an uneventful insurance year, with the normal amount of secondary accident claims. As far as she knows, no big liability claims are looming. She met with the USMS webmaster/IT director, USMS national publication editor and our insurance broker regarding professional media liability. Our broker will also be looking into media liability insurance for LMSC websites, but is not sure if we can get it. Colleen conducted an insurance workshop the previous evening, along with our insurance broker. **MSA the report.**

**Championship Committee Report.** Mark Moore went over the committee's action items. In their first session the committee voted to: increase the surcharge by \$5 for the 2007 SC Nationals to help the meet host with pool rental costs; approve logos and medal designs for both of next year's championships; loosen the NQTs for the 2007 SC Nationals; form a subcommittee to establish a Championship policy that meet bidders include surcharge and per-

entry fees in their bids, along with rationale for the amounts. The committee supports the Rules proposal to mandate two timing buttons per lane, but will maintain a Championship policy of two watches and two buttons.

In their second session the committee voted to: follow USA Swimming's guidelines about swimmers wearing watches during competition; approve NQTs for 2007 LC Nationals; approve and certify the University of Texas–Austin's bid for the 2008 SC Nationals; certify both bids for 2008 LC Nationals; establish a graduated scale for meet surcharge for 2007 LC Nationals (\$40 for entering seven weeks or longer beforehand, \$45 for entering between five and seven weeks before, and \$80 for entering between four and five weeks before). Maria Anderson (Metropolitan) expressed concern that the surcharge for SC Nationals had already been increased last year when the bid was accepted, and wondered if the hosts were doing all they could to pursue sponsorships to make the increase unnecessary. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) responded that the hosts did not ask for the increase (it was Championship's idea) and they were pursuing sponsorships. Mark Gill (Kentucky) noted that the Federal Way pool is a first-class facility, and we want to continue having national championships in this type of facility. But the Championship Committee felt it had to act to offset the potential loss of \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Joan Campbell (Florida) commented that she understood that a rule on watches was already made by USA Swimming. Mark said they were simply stating that we are staying in line with USA Swimming.

Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) said that Championship realizes it is not the best practice to change once a bid has been accepted, but believes they have a solution with bidders specifying how much surcharge they will charge.

#### **MSA the report.**

Vice Chair Jeff Roddin took over for Chair Mark Moore, because Mark was one of the bidders for the 2008 LC Championships. Jeff summarized the key aspects of both bids. Tom Boak offered a point of information: Mount Hood has a construction schedule, their plans are finished, they have their permits and will begin construction within six weeks, with a fixed date of April 2007 for completion of renovations. Phil Dodson (Illinois) asked what the altitude is at Mount Hood. Jeff answered that the pool is at sea level. A roll call vote was conducted to choose the location of the 2008 LC championships. The appointed tellers left the room to count the votes.

**David Yorzyk Memorial Award.** Kelly Crandell presented the David Yorzyk Memorial Award to Charlotte Davis, from Pacific Northwest LMSC. This award is named for the son of a Masters swimmer who died at a young age. It is presented to the person who has performed the best 400 IM at SC Nationals each year.

**Sports Medicine, Health and Safety Committee Report.** Jody Welborn announced that because of the success of their lecture series at the World Championships, they will be setting up a similar lecture series at 2007 SC Nationals in Federal Way. **MSA the report.**

**Communications Committee Report.** Hugh Moore recognized his vice chair, Ray Novitske, who performed a web audit this year, Tom Lyndon, who led the formulation of the communication plan, and Jeanne Seidler, who took over maintenance of the Top Times database from Mel Dyck. Hugh reminded meet directors to submit their results; so far, over 400,000 splashes have been recorded. Hugh drew attention to their action item, which requests that the Executive Committee set up a task force to develop the requirements for a sanctions database, no later than the end of this year. **MSA the report.**

Kelly Crandell presented the 2006 TYR Newsletter of the Year Award to Dan Adams, editor of the West Hollywood Aquatics newsletter. The award was accepted by Errol Graham, who noted the newsletter can be downloaded from [www.wh2o.org](http://www.wh2o.org).

Hugh presented the 2006 June Krauser USMS Communication Award to Lynn Hazlewood.

**Announcements.** President Copeland announced that Mount Hood had been chosen as the site for 2008 LC Nationals. **MSA to destroy the ballots.**

Nancy Ridout and Michael Moore thanked Rule Book Coordinator Susan Ehringer for dedicating the 2007 rule book to the local organizing committee for the XI FINA World Masters Championships.

Julie Heather (Vice President of Local Operations) gave an update on an impromptu Board of Directors meeting. She explained that we need to appoint an election committee, which has historically been the Zone Committee, of which Julie is chair. But Julie can't chair this election committee because she plans to run for reelection. The Zone Committee therefore recommended that Debbie Morrin-Nordlund chair the committee, and that the remainder of the Zone Committee comprise the election committee. The Board of Directors approved this recommendation. **MSA the recommendation of the Board of Directors.**

**Editorial Committee Report.** Lynn Hazlewood came to the podium to deliver the committee's report, but Joy Stover (Missouri Valley) noted that the written report had not yet been distributed. **MSA to table the Editorial Committee's report until their written report has been distributed.**

**International Committee Report.** Mary Pohlmann reported that the committee is reviewing its core objectives in order to look to the future. Both action items from the committee's report were pulled for discussion. **MSA the remainder of the report.**

Patty Miller (Virginia) said she had concerns about the lack of specificity in action item 1 (to invite representatives from other countries' Masters organizations to attend our annual meeting), citing potential confusion over who issues invitations, and to whom, and why. She noted our meeting was already crowded, and wondered if the visitors would be given voice. Nancy Ridout (Pacific; FINA Representative) responded that many representatives from other countries who attended the World Championships were asking questions about our programs, and to promote goodwill among different federations the International Committee recommended extending invitations to one or two foreign federations to come and see how we work. **MSA action item 1.**

Action item 2 requests that the Executive Committee take action regarding FINA's threat of sanction against Masters swimmers participating in events hosted by certain organizations. Mark Gill (Kentucky) said he supports the idea behind the action item, but not the process. He would like to see swimming in the Americas move forward and build strong relationships with other federations in the Americas, and foster a positive environment, ultimately leading to a strong Pan American championship meet. He reminded everyone that we, as a member of USAS, could harm opportunities for other USAS members if we directly approach FINA in a confrontational manner. This could affect other potential meets in the United States, and not just Masters meets. We have channels in place – our representatives on the ASUA Masters Technical Committee (Mel Goldstein and Jim Miller) – to address this issue, since ASUA is the FINA-recognized governing body in the Americas. Mary clarified that the action item says “through appropriate USAS channels”; although the action item doesn't specify ASUA, she recognized that ASUA is the appropriate channel. Mark said that if the motion specifies to go through the ASUA representatives, then he believes it is appropriate.

Carolyn Boak (Gulf) said that LATyCAR is a longstanding organization dedicated to fostering Masters swimming, and we should not accept sanctioning of our athletes for participating in an event put on by such an organization. She feels that LATyCAR has been singled out.

Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) said she thought new delegates had no idea what this issue is about. She explained that USMS is a member of FINA through USAS. Currently there is a message on the FINA website that says any member federation, any member of a member federation or any individual member that has any relationship with LATyCAR may be sanctioned with a one- to two-year suspension from FINA events. This notice has been on the website since last October. No action or negotiations have taken place since then. She feels this threat singles out a particular organization whose purpose is to foster Masters swimming. She believes if we don't pursue this, we're condoning this action. She believes the affected parties should get together and discuss the situation, but that won't happen unless USMS directs the action.

Scott Campbell (Gulf) asked for clarification as to whether “Masters” in the action item referred just to members of USMS or to Masters swimmers throughout the world. Mary clarified it means Masters swimmers throughout the world.

Rob Copeland (Georgia) said he would be interested in the perspective of our ASUA representatives. Rob believes our first responsibility is to the safety and security of our organization, and is concerned about naming individual groups that have been sanctioned and could lead to FINA penalty.

Jim Miller (Virginia; ASUA Representative) said that FINA and ASUA deal with all aquatic sports, not just Masters swimming. This is the only action ever taken by FINA against another Masters organization. We're hearing just one side of the story. There has been a dialogue between FINA and LATyCAR, but we have only heard one side. We should be suspicious that there's more to this than meets the eye. If we go forward, our action would be viewed as action by all of USAS, not just USMS. We could jeopardize the other NGBs' events.

Mel Goldstein (Indiana; ASUA Representative) pointed out that USMS is an anomaly by being self-governing. Regardless of that fact, any action by us will fall back on the other USAS sports. He would accept a directive to act through ASUA, but feels we would antagonize FINA if we go directly to them.

Tom Boak (Gulf) said there are two issues. The first is what is right and what is wrong. The second issue is what is the appropriate way to move forward. We should go through our ASUA representatives.

Patty Miller (Virginia) asked why we're spending time on this issue when it doesn't affect our members.

Michael Moore (Pacific) said he has worked with FINA for three years, and learned that it is necessary to be diplomatic and follow the proper channels when dealing with international organizations.



Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) said he is concerned about doing nothing. **He moved that we replace “FINA executive director” with “ASUA” in both occurrences in the second action item. His motion was seconded.**

Nancy Ridout (Pacific; FINA Representative) said she is against this amendment. She has heard from our members that they are frustrated that this issue hasn't died. Because she doesn't want to have to deal with it again, we need to ease this frustration, and gain trust that USMS is trying to express our members' feelings.

Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) offered a point of information: ASUA stands for Amateur Swimming Union of the Americas. She also noted that the International Committee would have directed that ASUA be our contact about this issue if there had been any ASUA meetings since the last convention, or if any action had been taken by our representatives. She pointed out that one of our ASUA representatives stated that we shouldn't even be discussing this issue. Sandi would support approaching ASUA if both representatives pledge that they will look into this immediately, bargain on behalf of all organizations, try to figure out why this happened and involve all parties. She would like this resolved in a reasonable amount of time. The situation with LATyCAR does affect our members, because some of our members compete in these events and have dual affiliation.

Doug Garcia (Inland Northwest) asked if Hugh Moore's amendment would affect action item 1 too, which had already been approved. The answer was that it would not. **Doug then called the question on the amendment. His motion was seconded. The motion to call the question on the amendment passed. The amendment, to replace “FINA executive director” with “ASUA” in two occurrences in action item 2, failed.**

**Phil Dodson (Illinois) called the question on the original action item. His motion was seconded. The motion to call the question failed.**

Myriam Pero (Potomac Valley) said that since the threat first went out, she thought: We're Masters, we pay our own way. She could understand the threat of sanction if countries paid the entry fees, but we as Masters should be able to swim wherever we want. She noted that FINA once supported LATyCAR, prior to the current ASUA president taking office. She also said that FINA is all of us, and will be what we want it to be. This is the second time she's heard that people are afraid if they don't do what FINA says, then bids will be jeopardized, but she feels we shouldn't be afraid. This situation affects all Masters swimmers, who are not being given the opportunity to participate in a great meet.

**The original motion to approve action item 2 failed.**

**Tom Boak (Gulf) moved that we replace action item 2 with the following language: “that the USMS House of Delegates directs its president and two ASUA representatives to express to U.S. Aquatic Sports our concern about the continuing threat of sanction currently posted on the FINA website.” The motion was seconded and approved.**

**Introduction of Guest.** President Copeland recognized Chris Smith, president of Masters Swimming Canada. Chris addressed the House of Delegates, noting that this is the third USAS convention he has attended since he was first invited by Past President Jim Miller. He stated that USMS is a model for Masters organizations of the world. Many want to become more like USMS. By coming to convention, representatives of other Masters organizations understand the issues that a national Masters organization has to deal with. He said they realize in Canada that: (1) They are an undemocratic organization and have no capability of governing Masters in their country. (2) They need to build the structure to serve Masters in Canada. (3) They have to change their relationship with their national aquatic federation and national swimming organization. They have now adopted a model much closer to USMS's and have begun building their organization. One thing he noticed in the House is that there is so much talent. His country needs to build their structure, then take over the governance of Masters in their country. Observing USMS has given him a checklist of things to do, and has been incredibly helpful. He said we not only give him the list, we often give him the solution. Eventually he hopes to reciprocate with ideas. One thing he believes Canadian Masters are better at is in the area of fitness, with their Million Meter Challenge (adopted from the Australians), and he encouraged USMS to offer a similar challenge. He is glad to give back something to USMS. Mark Gill noted that Chris completed his million meters while competing at the World Championships!

**Marketing Committee Report.** Vice Chair Tom Boyd, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Chair Connie Barrett, noted a correction to item 14 in their minutes. It should read: “Doug Garcia made the following motion, to reduce allocation for planner to \$2000, motion failed.” The committee proposed expenditures to join three organizations that will help us achieve our strategic goals of increasing membership and awareness of USMS, and they have identified persons to act as liaisons to those organizations. A subcommittee will look at the planner and try to improve its content and make it into a marketing tool as well as a member benefit, as well as improve distribution. Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) asked if the proposed expenditures were intended for the 2006 or 2007 budget.

Tom explained that they originally intended the expenditures for 2006, but after meeting with the Finance Committee they submitted the expenditures for 2007. **Jeanne moved to amend the proposed expenditure to read “2007” instead of “2006.” The motion was seconded.** Nadine Day (Illinois) clarified that the committee will also need to request an overbudget expense for 2006 for these dues, because these organizations’ dues are on a 12-month basis, not an annual basis. Therefore they will need to pay dues for both 2006 and 2007. **MSA the amendment. MSA proposed expenditures 1 and 2 as amended. MSA the report.**

**Editorial Committee Report. MSA to remove the report of the Editorial Committee from the table.** Lynn Hazlewood had nothing to add to her written report. **MSA the report.**

**Legislation Committee Report.** Sean Fitzgerald reminded the delegates that because this is not a Legislation year, approval of the amendments recommended by the Legislation Committee will require a 90 percent majority. **MSA L01 as amended. MSA L02. MSA the report.**

**Long Distance Committee Report.** Marcia Cleveland noted that USMS conducts 10 Long Distance National Championships annually, and the committee reviewed and awarded bids during their Thursday meeting. They will now honor Long Distance Relay All-Americans, which they hope will boost participation. They developed an ISHOF nomination form, and will post it on the web. They developed a new scoring system for the 5K, 10K, 3K and 6K events; the new system will include all participating swimmers in the scoring. They will award certificates to long distance record holders. They have developed a quality scoring category for the One Hour Postal Swim, which will determine the most yards per swimmer, in order to recognize small teams. They will be reviewing their manuals in order to determine what is policy. LD 4 was pulled for discussion. **MSA to accept the recommendation of the Long Distance Committee on the remaining rule changes.** Tom Boak asked why the report lists two LD4’s. Marcia explained that this was an error, and the first version should be deleted. The committee’s intention with LD4 is that competitors may wear watches. This proposal will add 303.6.6, which specifies that watches are allowed. **MSA to approve LD4. MSA the rest of the report.**

**Masters Aquatics Roundtable Report.** Mark Gill reported on a meeting held with representatives of the other Masters aquatic disciplines. The excitement generated by the World Championships provided the opportunity for Masters swimmers to meet other Masters aquatic athletes. The meeting explored the synergies between the organizations, and the hope is to have more regular meetings and dialogues, in order to promote each other’s sports and to join each other’s organizations. This could provide opportunities for interesting cross training. Mark recognized the USMS Fighting Flamingos, winners of the bronze medal in water polo in the women’s 40+ division at the XI FINA World Championships. Flamingos captain Tracy Grilli presented a slide show of the team’s activities, and announced that in 2007 the team will register as an official USA Water Polo team. Other team members, and coaches Cav Cavanaugh and Michael Heather, were recognized.

**Rules Committee Report.** Kathy Casey asked delegates to pull rules proposals they wished to discuss. R3 and R4 were pulled from the list of recommended proposals. **MSA the rest of the recommended proposals.** No proposals were pulled from the list of proposals recommended as amended. **MSA all proposals recommended as amended.** R1 was pulled from the list of proposals not recommended. **MSA the recommendation of the Rules Committee for the rest of the proposals not recommended.** No proposals were pulled from the list of housekeeping proposals. **MSA the housekeeping proposals.**

**MSA R3,** which was pulled by mistake.

Michael Heather (Southern Pacific), speaking to R4 (which lists options for schedules for Nationals for the next four years), asked why the 200 fly is not on the second day on any of the schedules. No answer was forthcoming. Greg Smith (Arizona) asked if the Rules Committee recommended any particular schedule. Kathy responded that there was no recommendation. Jeff Roddin proposed the following voting method: each delegate will circle his or her three favorite choices; then the three choices with the most votes will be the schedules chosen. Anna Lea Roof (Missouri Valley) clarified that delegates will not have to rank their choices. Chris Colburn (Illinois) asked if delegates could make fewer than three choices. The answer was yes. A roll call vote was conducted, and the appointed tellers left the room to count the ballots.

Steve Schofield (Southern Pacific), speaking to R1, encouraged young people to think forward until when they’re 75 years old. He said that he can’t swim a 200 fly anymore, but he can swim a 25, and would like to see the results of other swimmers 75 years and older for the 25 fly. He said he could live without records being kept, but would like to see a Top 10 maintained for 25 yard/meter events. Margie Hutinger (Florida) said she was speaking

for her 81-year-old husband. As a sprinter, he would love to swim 25s, but as an exercise physiologist, he feels it is not a good idea, because it would put too much stress on the heart while holding the breath. Wayne McCauley (Southern Pacific) pointed out that the USMS mission statement says we should encourage and promote physical fitness. He believes adding 25s fits our mission statement. His only complaint with the proposal is that he would like to see it for all age groups. He added that this proposal also fits with USMS's core objectives. Joanie Campbell (Florida) commented that she would rather swim a relaxed 200 fly than sprint a 25. Tom Lyndon (New England) said he has always been a sprinter, and he's still alive. His cardiologist did not discourage him from swimming sprints. Jody Welborn (Oregon), who is a cardiologist, said a swimmer has a better chance of dying in the last 25 of a 200 than in a 25. Her opinion was that there is not prohibitive risk to racing 25s. Richard Smith (Pacific) proclaimed himself a distance swimmer, but he has not been able to swim since having a stroke earlier in the year. He said we won't see him back in the pool until he can swim a 1650, not a 25. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) pointed out that a 25 can be offered now, although no records or Top 10 are maintained for these distances. Part 2 of our rule book has a provision for offering nonstandard events. **Phil Dodson (Illinois) called the question. His motion was seconded.** There was general debate as to whether the second has to be made at a microphone. The president ruled that a second does not have to be made at a microphone. **The motion to call the question was approved.** The parliamentarian announced that a two-thirds majority would be required to overturn the recommendation of the Rules Committee (whose recommendation was *not* to approve the proposal). The parliamentarian also clarified that to avoid confusion, a "yes" vote would be to approve R1, and a "no" vote would be to defeat R1. **The motion to approve R1 failed.** Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) commented that she thought at past conventions, after a motion to call the question, people already at the microphone were still allowed to speak.

Kathy announced that USA Swimming had released an interpretation of the "watch rule" on June 2, 2006, which stated that not all watches are pacing devices, therefore each case will be decided on its own merits. USA Swimming will *not* automatically disqualify swimmers for wearing a watch while competing. Marcia Cleveland (Illinois) said this issue was discussed in the Long Distance meetings, and they felt that eventually an earplug device will be developed that will allow pacing with a watch during a race, but that technology is not available now, so Long Distance declined to disallow wearing watches at this time. Kathy noted that the FINA rule will still be in effect at FINA meets. She also noted that USA Swimming *does* allow in-the-water starts.

USA Swimming passed several rule changes that affect us. The Rules Committee recommended accepting all except UR4. The Rules Committee accepted the wording of UR4, but did not want to move the rule from the Starter section to the Starts section, as USA Swimming will do. Mike Laux (Connecticut) asked if UR15 would mean that swimmers would not find out their time if they were disqualified immediately after a false start. The answer was no. Marilyn Fink (San Diego-Imperial) asked if this new wording would mean that officials don't have to notify swimmers of their disqualification. The answer was no, because notification is addressed elsewhere, in another rule. David Diehl (Potomac Valley) explained that the new wording was to recognize that sometimes officials are unable to locate swimmers after a race to notify them of their disqualification; the intent of the new wording is to make clear that the disqualification stands, even if the swimmer is not notified. Lucy Johnson (Southern Pacific) pointed out that this is the current rule, that swimmers are disqualified after a false start, without recall. Charlie Cockrell (Virginia) confirmed that officials have a responsibility to notify swimmers if possible. **MSA to accept all USA Swimming proposals but UR4.** Tom Boak (Gulf) asked how we will deal with UR4. Kathy said we should accept the language, but leave our rule where it is. **MSA to accept the language in UR4, but leave the rule in section 103.8.1.** Jim Miller (Virginia) asked if this would be confusing to officials. Kathy responded that this has long been an exception in our rule book, to split starters and starts. Jim asked if the rule would be in the same place in the mini-rule book, and the answer was yes. David Diehl (Potomac Valley) said that in reality, the new rule will remain in both places until the Rules Committee fully reviews this and determines the proper location.

Kathy thanked the committee members, especially Charlie Cockrell (vice chair) and Kris Wingenroth (secretary). She then announced that the schedules of events for Nationals chosen by the delegates were 1, 3 and 4. **MSA the report.**

**Finance Committee Report.** Jeff Moxie summarized the committee's activities in their four sessions. Their first session approved last year's minutes. Their second session considered an overbudget request, which failed. They passed an action item that recommends that the Board of Directors, Finance Committee and Legislation Committee jointly review the role of and need for an internal auditor. They established a subcommittee to study our reserve policies, with a goal of bringing a recommendation to the 2007 convention.

Also in their second session, they approved the Financial Operating Guidelines, as amended. Jeff highlighted the changes to FOG:

1. The executive director should provide a budget.

2. Defined a cost center and cost center head.
3. Codified the approval process for reimbursement requests and who should submit.
4. Combined sections 1 and 2 under Convention Expenses.
5. Defined lodging (providing an extra night at convention for the Executive Committee and the controller).
6. Stated that a substitute committee chair may be reimbursed.
7. Added a rental car provision for volunteers. Colleen Driscoll (Metropolitan; Insurance Coordinator) pointed out that our current insurance policy covers the executive director and employees for liability and physical damage, but there is no coverage for volunteers. **MSA to strike this language from FOG.** Nancy Ridout (Pacific) asked if covering the extra day at convention would be retroactive, in consideration of the West Coast delegates who had to leave Tuesday in order to arrive in time for meetings on Wednesday. Jeff responded that it was not intended to be retroactive, but the president could put forth an overbudget request.
8. Mileage will now be reimbursed at the IRS business rate rather than the nonprofit rate. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) asked if the rental car provision for employees was intended to remain. The answer was yes, because employees are covered by our insurance. Betsy Durrant (Virginia) asked if convention expenses will be paid for all past presidents. The answer was yes.
9. Special assignments and liaisons were added for reimbursement.
10. USMS now has a credit card, but it is only being used to pay for conference calls.
11. The controller now has authority to approve overbudget amounts from \$500 to \$1,000.
12. Added insurance for an executive director.
13. U.S. bond mutual funds were removed as acceptable investments.
14. Cost center heads must submit inventory reports to the controller for inventoriable items.
15. USMS reserves the right to inspect financial records of any LMSC upon reasonable notice.
16. Changed allowance for meals for VIPs from \$25 to \$75.

**MSA to approve FOG as amended.**

Treasurer Tom Boak gave an update on finances for the World Championships. We don't have full accounting yet; we're still waiting for some bills and income from the main vendor and hotels. The deficit should be between \$40,000 and \$80,000, probably about \$53,000. Tom reminded the delegates that we knew we were taking a risk when we approved financing the championships. We felt the opportunity to bring this meet to the United States was well worthwhile. We are suspending payment of bills to see if we can negotiate any reductions in payments, and will continue to try to reduce the deficit. Marilyn Fink (San Diego-Imperial) asked if the \$53,000 includes all revenue and expenses. The answer was yes. Marilyn then asked if this is reflected in the 2007 budget. The answer was no; it will be reflected in the final financials for 2006. Tom noted that we are projecting a \$35,000 excess, which will help balance the loss from Worlds.

The budget was considered in the last report of the committee. Jeff drew attention to their proposed expenditures. A motion to eliminate funding for the planner failed. A motion to increase the controller's contract to \$32,000, effective with renewal of her contract next year, was approved. For action items, they approved including \$50,000 in sponsor income to be raised by the executive director, and recommend to the Executive Committee that this be part of the executive director's contract. They approved imposing a transaction fee of \$2/person for online registration. They asked that the Club Development Task Force submit a spending plan to the Finance Committee prior to disbursement of any funds. They asked that a budget be submitted for web contractor funds prior to disbursement. They deferred the proposed \$5 dues increase to 2008, and will use reserves to balance the budget in 2007. (The dues increase is in the submitted budget, but later there will be a motion to amend the budget.)

Jeff went through the budget, and asked delegates to pull line items they wished to discuss. Line items 4010, 4040, 4160, 4431, 5283 and 5685 were pulled. **MSA to approve the line items not pulled.**

*Line item 4010.* Phil Dodson (Illinois) moved to defer the dues increase to 2008, then withdrew the motion. Jim Miller (Virginia) asked why the increase should be postponed. Doug Church (Indiana) explained that the Finance Committee was directed by the Executive Committee to present a balanced budget, leaving them with the options of cutting expenses or increasing dues. Although a \$5 dues increase would balance the budget, we have large reserves, and we also usually make more money than our budget anticipates. In consideration of our registrars, for whom it is a hardship for dues to be raised in September just as they are trying to send out renewals, the committee proposed amending the budget to be unbalanced, and draw upon our reserves to cause the expense line to be brought into balance. **Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) moved to adjust line 4010 so that the dues increase is deferred to 2008. The motion was seconded.** Leo Letendre (Ozark) noted that the Dues Task Force, after much consideration, recommended the increase of \$5, in order to fund expanding services. He was unsure if our reserves

are adequate to balance the budget. He has heard recommendations that reserves for nonprofits should be one to two times yearly operating expenses, so by that measure, we don't have such huge reserves. Laura Winslow (Arizona) suggested we table line 4010 until all other pulled items are decided, since those outcomes could have an impact on how to deal with 4010. **MSA to table line item 4010.**

*Line item 4040.* Leo Letendre (Ozark) felt we would do a disservice to our members if we pass on a transaction fee for online registration. Laura Winslow (Arizona) agreed with Leo, saying online registration should be a benefit for our members. Stephen Darnell (Oregon) also agreed; our long-term view should be to encourage online registration. Phil Dodson (Illinois) pointed out that it is common practice to impose this fee, and that the convenience for most members would outweigh the transaction fee. Mo Chambers (Southern Pacific) said that she handles registrations for another organization she's involved in, and once that group began online registration, it was so much easier for her that she wanted to give a discount for online registration. She did note, though, that we would have to pay for credit card transactions. Jeff said they have budgeted for the transactions. Mark Gill (Kentucky) said we should make it easier for members to join. Currently, potential members can't join from our website. He anticipates that new members we would attract by offering online registration would offset the cost to us. **MSA to delete line item 4040, \$20,000 online registration fee.**

*Line item 4160.* Patty Miller (Virginia) noted that this is a new line item, whose purpose seems to be to segregate sponsorship income directly attributable to the executive director, separate from line item 4171. She did not think it appropriate to split the sponsor income. President Copeland explained that he had asked the Finance Committee to provide some budget relief for the dues increase, and he did anticipate extra income from the executive director. **Patty moved to remove line 4160 and amend line 4171 by adding \$50,000. The motion was seconded.** Tom Boak (Gulf) pointed out that the intention of this motion was not to increase the responsibility of the national corporate partner liaison. Tom Lyndon (New England) said that he found the title for line 4171 confusing, and suggested changing it. Jeff said he would consider that housekeeping. **The motion was approved.**

*Line item 4431.* Laura Winslow (Arizona) said that with the potential for a training camp renewed, the budget should reflect revenue and expenses for it. Jeff responded that when Nancy Ridout has numbers for the training camp, she will report them, and the budget will be adjusted. **MSA line item 4431.**

*Line item 5283.* **MSA for same reason as above.**

*Line item 5685.* Mark Gill (Kentucky) pointed out that managing of web contractors to help with the backlog of IT projects will be by the executive director. This year, management has been carried out by the Executive Committee. Mark's objection was not to the dollar amount, but to the action item requiring oversight by the Finance Committee. **MSA to approve the dollar amount in line item 5685. Mark moved to strike action item 2 from session 3. The motion was seconded.** Phil Dodson (Illinois) said this was an issue of accountability, that as projects are defined and associated cost determined, the Finance Committee would like to be able to review the projects in order to have proper financial controls. Mark said there is already oversight by the Executive Committee, and he was not sure oversight by the Finance Committee would add to that. Rob Copeland (Georgia) agreed that there is already oversight and a process in place. Also, the Executive Committee will need latitude for establishing priorities. Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) said she would like to know who will do the work, and who will be paid. **The motion to strike action item 2 from the minutes of session 3 was approved.**

**MSA to remove line item 4010 from the table.** Doug Church (Indiana) responded to Leo Letendre's question about sufficient reserves, and noted that a task force is being established to review our reserves. He said there are many rules of thumb. The task force will make a specific recommendation about what will be sufficient in the event of a disaster, and then establish an investment policy that recognizes long-term reserves. Our reserves have been increasing through a combination of not spending budgeted expenses and higher than anticipated revenue. Based on the amendments to the budget, we would need to draw \$160,000 from our reserves to fund the deficit. Lucy Johnson (Southern Pacific) offered a point of information: There has not yet been a motion to allow the Finance Committee to pull from the reserves. Parliamentarian Bill Tingley clarified that the motion on the floor is to remove \$215,000 from our budget. Doug Garcia (Inland Northwest) said it is apparent there will be a dues increase either this year or next, but he does not believe we are offering significant benefit for the increase. Phil Dodson (Illinois) said we have prefunded the deficit over the last four years, and we should give the dollars back to the membership. Anna Lea Roof (Missouri Valley) spoke in favor of giving one year's notice to registrars, so they can plan for a dues increase. Tom Lyndon (New England) said he foresees significant expenses over the next three to five years, and would rather see a smaller increase in 2007, and continue to increase in increments. Betsy Durrant (Virginia) noted that Finance did fund all projects because they felt it would be easier to sell the increase if we have new things we can point to. And she said the Finance Committee is conservative, and doesn't recommend spending money unless we can afford it. Lisa Watson (Georgia) pointed out we just had an increase three years ago. CJ Rushman (Ohio) asked if we could have a graduated increase over the next several years. Jeff answered that the Dues Task

Force discussed this option and rejected it for several reasons. **Jim Wheeler (Pacific) called the question. The motion was seconded. The motion to call the question was approved. The motion to remove the dues increase from the budget was approved.**

**David Diehl (Potomac Valley) moved to reinstate line item 5850** (which does not appear in the submitted budget), which would contain \$900 for the National Aquatics Coalition. David did not know if the money would be needed. **The motion was seconded.** Betsy Durrant (Virginia) asked what the money is for. David responded that NAC is an organization of aquatics-related activities, and the \$900 would be for travel and membership. Membership is \$85. If the organization's meeting is in the Washington D.C. area, as it has been in the past, travel would be virtually nothing, since David lives in that area. Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) said Finance had received no budget request, was unsure who to contact, so didn't include it in the budget. Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley) said participating with NAC fits the theme of this convention, and thought it was a good idea to affiliate with other aquatics organizations. Lucy Johnson (Southern Pacific) said from a prudent financial standpoint, we should not add "just in case" funds; the process is to plan prior to convention. **The motion failed.**

**Doug Church moved to fund the deficit budget by drawing upon unrestricted reserves of the corporation as necessary. The motion was seconded and approved. MSA to increase dues by \$5 in 2008.**

**MSA to accept the budget as amended.**

**MSA to accept the report of the Finance Committee in its entirety, as amended.**

Jeff thanked the Finance Committee for doing a great job. He especially thanked Margaret Bayless and Jeanne Ensign for putting in 18-hour days at the convention and making Jeff and the Finance Committee look good.

**Executive Director Search.** Doug Church requested a more complete explanation of the status of the process to find an executive director. President Copeland summarized: At the midyear meeting of the Board of Directors, Anderson & Associates was chosen as our search firm. They received and reviewed more than 300 résumés, and presented 20 candidates to us. Interviews were conducted at SC Nationals, the World Championships and this convention. Rob said he is not at liberty to disclose names, but the search committee has identified a candidate that they will be recommending to the Board of Directors at their meeting on Sunday. He hopes to have a name to announce in the next couple of months.

**Concluding Remarks.** President Copeland thanked everyone at the convention for the work they put in for USMS, and urged everyone to continue thinking outside the pool.

Jerry Clark (North Carolina) thanked Convention Coordinator Victor Buehler and our Michigan hosts.

**Adjournment. MSA to adjourn at 6:04 p.m. EDT.**

Meg Smath, Secretary, United States Masters Swimming