

## **Iowa Masters Swimming**

**Minutes of 2013 executive committee annual meeting, Saturday, April 6, 2013**

**Grinnell College Pool deck-side classroom, 10 a.m.**

Present: Chair Norm Bower, Treasurer Jack Fritts, Sanctions Coordinator Wayne Huebener, and former board member Rachel Stauffer

Current membership is at 313 members, according to Registrar Marion Johnson. She sent a document showing comparative numbers from previous years. In 2011, we had 300. In 2012 we had 326. This early in the year, it is promising that we will exceed last year's total.

Financial report (attached) submitted by Jack Fritts shows a balance of \$13,262.01. Jack explained that with only a couple of print newsletters per year, our finances are growing with less printing and postage costs. From one-day memberships, IAMS receives \$3. With full-year memberships, IAMS receives \$7. He is going to have the books reviewed by a CPA firm in Cedar Rapids or Grinnell every other year, just to provide the state and national organizations with transparency and to meet our fiduciary responsibility to our own membership. He estimates it will cost between \$200 and \$400 per review. He is also going to review our Web service fees with Mike Savage at UNI, our Web master. This year to avoid a new and higher set of bank fees, he moved our account from Wells Fargo to USBank.

The biggest financial issue facing IAMS is the new surcharge for open water swim events in our state. National has now required an \$1,800 surcharge for extra safety measures. National will underwrite \$800 each time, leaving us with a \$1,000 assessment. The board agreed that we will take half of the charge (\$500) this year, and require the event sponsor to put up the remaining \$500 or apply to USMS under a rebate program. The biggest sanctioned open water swim in Iowa each year is at Saylorville Lake near Des Moines, called "Swim the Bridge." This year it is on July 28 and is chaired by Alex Syhlman. Formerly, there was a big open water swim at Lake Okoboji, but it has not taken place in a few years and was never sanctioned.

New pools in the state are bringing an increased interest in swim programs for all age groups. Rachel reports that the downtown YMCA in Des Moines is going to take over a former convention center at Sixth and Grand, and add a pool by 2015. The old facility has only a four-lane pool and is never used for competitive swimming. Rachel hopes this will re-invigorate the entire DM swim community and help establish a stronger Masters presence.

Luther College in Decorah has a new pool and is hosting an alumni swim meet Oct. 5, 2013. Lance Huber is the swim coach there, and we will contact him about Masters possibilities with students, faculty and the community at large. Simpson College in Indianola (just south of Des Moines) is also building a new pool. No details available at this time. The Walnut Creek YMCA on the west side of Des Moines has a nice facility but with a lot of turnover on the aquatics staff, there has not been coordinated programming for Masters workouts to date. Rachel will talk to the Y director there about meet opportunities. The pool at Grinnell is a year old and one of the best in the state, an amazing facility for a Division III school. Happy to have the state meet there today. The Wellness Center at the University of Iowa has the showcase pool in the state, and hosted the state meet two years ago and a regular meet last December. Wayne Huebener reports that their coaching staff at U of Iowa is very enthusiastic about Masters competition at their facility.

The traditional Kevin Kelley Meet held at Ankeny YMCA has not taken place in the past three years. The Y staff has not been cooperative or supportive of the event. University of Northern Iowa cancelled their meet in March 2012 for lack of early sign-ups. We will ask Mike Savage at UNI to try to pursue the meet in the future. Norm Bower of Davenport is going to try to organize a meet in the Quad Cities in the next 12 months. Jack Fritts is going to work with Justin Jennings at Coe College to try and arrange a meet at their facility in the next 12 months. Council Bluffs is going to host a recognized meet in April. Wayne Huebener says Iowa City (U of I) is not locked into the December meet, but scheduling throughout the winter months is very challenging at a university facility.

To enhance Masters Swimming visibility throughout the state, we are going to print up small banners with our Web address for all host pools, and the banners will include the USMS logo in order to get the national organization to help finance the cost. We committed \$500 to this effort, but hope to make it happen for less with USMS support. Norm will work on this.

The USMS coaching certification clinic is taking place in Grinnell this weekend with 19 people signed up. This is the break-even mark hoped for when we agreed last summer to host the clinic. Melissa Dean from Council Bluffs will send a report about the clinic to Norm for the newsletter. It will be conducted by Bill Brenner, USMS club and coach services director.

Joe Zimsen of Grinnell is a candidate for IAMS newsletter editor. Jack Fritts will approach him about taking this job. Currently Norm Bower is creating them and Marion Johnson is processing them. Norm speculated that he has one or two more years for serving as chair of IAMS, and we will be putting out feelers for getting a new generation of leaders and volunteers for Masters Swimming in Iowa.

#### **Meets in Iowa in the past 12 months:**

1. January 14, 2012 - Coe College Winter Festival Masters Swimming Meet - 32 swimmers (USMS Sanctioned).
2. March 24, 2012 - Iowa Masters Short Course Championships (at Coe College) - 106 swimmers (USMS Sanctioned).
3. June 16, 2012 - Iowa Senior Olympics (at Valley West High School) - 37 swimmers (USMS Recognized).
4. October 20, 2012 - SWIA Masters SCM Fall Meet (at Kirn Pool) - 37 swimmers (USMS Recognized).
5. December 16, 2012 - University of Iowa Masters Swim Meet - 39 swimmers (USMS Sanctioned).

## **Likely meets for 2013-2014**

April 6: State meet at Grinnell

April 20: Council Bluffs

June 15: Senior Olympics meet at Waukee YMCA, near Des Moines

July 20, 21: Iowa Games at Iowa State University, Ames

July 28: open water swim at Saylorville Lake

Oct. 5: Luther College alumni meet

October ?: Quad City meet, Davenport North High?

November: Cedar Rapids, Coe College?

December: University of Iowa Wellness Center

January: Walnut Creek YMCA, West Des Moines?

February?: University of Northern Iowa?

March/April: State Meet Location TBA (U of I)?

Submitted by Norm Bower, IAMS chair, April 8, 2013