

# USMS Convention—Anaheim, California 2007

<b>Committee Name:</b> Long Distance	<b>Session #:</b> 2	<b>Report #:</b> 24
<b>Committee Chair:</b> Marcia Cleveland	<b>Vice Chair:</b> Ann Svenson	
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b> Susan Kirk	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b> Sept 29, 2007 8-10AM	

## Action Items: Proposed Expenditures

1. MSA to offer the 25K OW Event \$1000 as seed money.

## Action Items:

1. Marcia Cleveland and Jill Wright will receive the historical files Paul Wrangell has for Long Distance and start to work on his projects.
2. Jill Wright is working with Jim Matysek to align the record format with the national database format.
3. The LDC is working with Recognition and Awards in order to continue with the thorough ISHOF nomination process.
4. A 25K OW Event has been developed and will be offered on July 19, 2008, in Noblesville, Ind.
5. The LDC will work with the Officials Committee to better educate USMS Officials about OW.
6. The LDC needs to educate the membership about the signs and symptoms of hypothermia and what to do.
7. The LDC will work with, mentor, offer all tools and talents needed to whatever committee selected to receive the Postal Events, if that is a decision that the USMS Executive Board wishes to follow through on for this coming year.
8. The LDC will accept a name change and organizational restructuring to reflect the emphasis on Open water, if that is a decision that the USMS Executive Board wishes to follow through on for this coming year.

**Number of committee members present:** 15      **Absent:** 3      **Number of other delegates present:** 26

**Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):** Marcia Cleveland (Chair), Ann Svenson (Vice Chair), Marcia Benjamin, Bob Bruce, Laura Colette, Jill Gellatly, Bruce Hopson, Susan Kirk, Randy Nutt, Jennie Quill, Janet Renner, Gerry Rodrigues, Dick Sidner, Jill Wright, Robert Zeitner, Leo Letendre (Ex-Officio)

Absent: Heather Hagadorn, Danielle Ogier (AM), Tom Spence, Susan Ehringer (Ex-Officio)

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM.

### I. Reports:

- A. Robert Zeitner: Awards
  1. To date, all races have returned awards this year, two races have not yet been sent out.
  2. Bids will be solicited next year, for blocks of two years.
- B. Paul Wrangell: Historian (by Marcia Cleveland)
  1. Paul will be stepping down from his position due to personal time issues. His OW works spans back to races from the 1970s. USMS wholly thanks Paul for his commitment and work.
  2. The next phase for this project includes recovering Relays of Postal and OW swims, both for individual names and teams.
  3. We are also looking for results from Southern California and as Paul indicates, "Back East."
  4. Marcia Cleveland and Jill Wright will receive the files Paul has for Long Distance and start to work on his projects.
- C. Jennie Quill and Tom Spence: All-Americans
  1. Tom is recording the Men AA and Jennie is recording the Women, with each cross-checking the other's work. Accuracy is the key.
  2. The standardized AA and Result forms have made compilation more efficient and accurate, especially when submitting information to the USMS site.
  3. LD Relay All-Americans were awarded this year for the first time ever. The LDC is hoping to generate more interest in the team events at National Championships and other races with this new opportunity.
- D. Jill Wright: Records
  1. Last year, there were 14 men's records, 8 women's records, and 18 Relay records (7 W, 6 M, 5 Mx) set.

2. We have been working on adding the FULL NAMES of relay record setters to the records site. This information will be compiled for as far back as we have records for.
  3. We will add PERMANENT IDs to the relay record sites, where available.
  4. Jill is working with Jim Matysek to align the record format with the national database format.
- E. Marcia Benjamin: All Star Tabulation
1. Up-to-date on tabulations.
  2. The new formatting (LD10 & LD11) has made tabulations much easier.
  3. Lent assistance with Postal Series
  4. The total points for All Stars for all eligible individual swimmers will be available.
- F. Randy Nutt & Ann Svenson: All Updated LD Manuals
1. Randy and Ann made numerous requests to Race Directors throughout the year that have been incorporated into the updated LDC Manuals.
  2. This ongoing process to review and update these manuals is due to the 'fluidity' of our sport and situations and experiences that arise to bring new issues to light.
  3. All details are on the right track and available on the website.
- G. Randy Nutt: OW/LD Tab on USMS Site
1. The LDC recognizes its major role in the growth of USMS. Open water/LD events are high profile. With this in mind, we would like to measure our visibility on the USMS website with a tab on the front page, labeled "Open Water."
- H. Marcia Cleveland and Danielle Ogier: ISHOF Nominations
1. Due to the dissolution of the ISHOF committee as its own committee and rolled into the R&A committee, Danielle Ogier and the LD Chair fully nominated a candidate, including pool and LD/OW credentials for the ISHOF class of 2009.
  2. To date, the LDC has had success for each ISHOF candidate it has either submitted or assisted to nominate.
  3. The LD Chair is working with the Recognition & Awards Chair in order to continue with the thorough nomination process.
  4. When recommending a candidate, it is critical to consider his/her pool **AND** OW performances.
  5. Develop spreadsheet for potential nominees in order to have a running list of potential candidates.
- I. Susan Kirk: Standardized Forms: Events and Results
1. A great effort has been made to get all Postal entry forms into one standard format which will be used starting in 2008. This enhances ease of use for our members, allows more efficient use of time for the Entry Form subcommittee, and allows *USMS Swimmer* to more readily produce the entries. The OW events are too variable in location and conditions to have a rigid standardized form but there is a detailed template available in the OW Manual.
  2. The Results Form for Postal and OW has also been standardized to better facilitate compilation of All-Star and All-American tabulations. By capturing USMS numbers, we are also creating a better historical database. With some minor adjustments, this form may be easily loaded onto the USMS site.
- J. Ann Svenson: Evaluation Forms
1. All LD Evaluation Forms are now in Excel format.
  2. A subcommittee established a broader range of points for evaluations to make events more accurately assessed, and events safer and more fun.
- K. Ann Svenson: All-American and Record Certificates (Relays), All-Star Awards
1. The project for All-American Certificates is completed and being fulfilled by the national office.
  2. The Record Certificates should be done shortly.
  3. Ann is working with Mel Goldstein to produce an All Star award for all recipients.
- L. Dick Sidner: 25K Update – **MSA** (Jennie Quill, Bruce Hopson )
1. A reservoir in Noblesville, Ind., has been selected to run the first ever USMS 25K event.
  2. A tentative date of July 19, 2008, has been set.
  3. It will be a 5K loop course, allowing for races of shorter distances to be conducted so that competitors can aspire to races of longer length if they are so inclined.
  4. All necessary permits and liabilities have been secured.
  5. Dick offered an extensive preview of the course and details that have been considered, plus those that will need to be worked out.
  6. An entry form will be developed this fall and available through the Long Distance Chair.
  7. This event could be awarded the next bid for the 6+Mile OW Championship.
  8. Randy Nutt successfully proposed to the Finance Committee that USMS offer this event \$1000 as seed money to cover start up costs.
  9. Dick asked for volunteers to assist with running the event and was quickly supported.
  10. Both the LDC and the delegates in attendance were very enthusiastic about this event.
- M. Dick Sidner (with Laura Colette): Editorial Updates and Coverage of Events in *USMS Swimmer*

1. After each LD National Event, a story and pictures about the event is obtained either from the event host or a swimmer who attended.
2. This has made coverage for LD National events turnkey in the magazine and helped to widen the membership's awareness of our annual 10 national events.

N. Heather Hagadorn: LD Web (Ann Svenson reported due to Heather's conflict with the Editorial Meeting)

1. Updates are made monthly.
2. All LD Championships are available on the web.
3. All LD Manuals have been proofed by Heather.

O. Bob Bruce: New Postal Scoring System

1. Rule 305.9.1B was developed and was implemented this year in the 5K/10K and 3000/6000 Yard events. The purpose of this rule allows all who swim the event to count in their team scoring.
2. This new system has been included in the updated Postal Manual
3. Bob has worked with the Event Hosts to incorporate this new scoring system.

## II. Old Business:

- A. The LDC will continue to look for results from events held in the 1970s and 1980s, especially those held in Southern California and on the East Coast. Anyone who has information on any of these events should contact the LD Chair.
- B. Continue work on the OHP Progression of Individual Records and Relay Records.
- C. Begin the same process for each of the Postal Events (5K-10K & 3000/6000), the 1 and 2 mile cable OW events.
- D. Update records to include full name of record-holder.
- E. Update the history of the LDC National Championships, for historical purposes.

## III. New Business:

- A. The LDC offered the 1-Mile OW Championship to the Fresno, Calif., bid that coincided with the SC Pool Nationals Championship Event, which will be held in Clovis, Calif., in May 2009. There will need to be several details worked out with the LMSC in order to have this event run successfully.
- B. To reflect the previous offer, the bids/voting process will be tweaked with an eye towards the future.
- C. LD Website reviews and reviewers: It was agreed upon by the committee that the Chair would assign committee members sections of the USMS LD website to periodically review.
- D. Randy and Marcia met with USA-S OW Director Sid Cassidy to discuss the ability to run USMS and USA-S OW races concurrently. (Yes) Our committee will review the USA-S Rules and FINA rules and bring our USMS rules for concurrent races in line with both of these governing bodies.
- E. Separating the Wheat from the Chaff: Once we have more concrete directions in which our Committee is going (OW and Postals), we will then be able to assign committee members the task of deciding which rules may be better placed in our several various procedural manuals. Yes, it will be a big task but we will focus our energies on this wonderful challenge when it is clear.
- F. Due to economic fluctuations and "value" we plan to eliminate a specific dollar amount on entry fees for national championship events, Rule 305.6, and focus on what is offered with a specific fee.
- G. We need to educate officials on how to officiate at OW Events and develop guidelines. Examples of OW "legal" swimming will be available and discussion of "What constitutes an infraction?" will be continued after Convention via email.
  1. Starts at most OW events need to be done better. Use airhorns and visual aids (drop a towel or use a flag) for OW starts.
- H. The chair of the Southeastern LMSC brought up the need for an ABC's guide of Open Water swimming (the OW Manual is available online.) She had had some difficulty in getting the information she needed.
- I. Graham Johnston brought up the very relevant possibility of developing "Top Ten" lists for all postal swims, 1 and 2-mile cable swims.
- J. Put a Postal "Q&A" on the website; and/or run annually in the magazine.
- K. Marcia introduced the video "Lane Lines to Shore Lines" as an excellent instructional video for OW swimming. It is available thru Gary Emich at SFBaySwimmer@sbcglobal.net.
- L. Use "Relay" instead of "Team" when referring to Postal and LD entries in order to clarify what we are referring to. (Relay pertains to the group of 3 or 4 individuals who comprise one joint effort in a single event. Team refers to the sum of all individuals who are participating collectively for the same USMS-registered club.) USMS Rule 302.5 and 302.6 will have adjustments in 2008.
- M. Hypothermia Presentation by Dr. Jim Miller.  
Due to the increasing interest and participation of the USMS membership in OW events, there is also an increase in the number of hypothermia cases. Aside from the most ideal situation, prevention, we need to make the LDC members aware of what to do if they run into a person with hypothermia, either in the water or out of it. In turn, they may educate other USMS members about what to look for and what to do when/if a situation arises. This presentation gave us an excellent overview.

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## Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. We always have a lot of do. These details are highlighted in the minutes above.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 AM.