

Lake Erie LMSC Annual Meeting  
October 3 2020 4pm-5:15p  
Virtually Online  
Minutes

Attendance: Chuck Beatty, Kristen Bergmann, Paul Berman, Ashley Braniecki, John Daily, Jay DeFinis, Aaron Foreman, Deane Malakar, Ann Marshfield, Mark Marshfield, Judi Norton, Tom & Diane Spence, Dee Shedlow, Tom Stebel

1. Review of Annual Meeting Minutes 2019 – Minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Officer reports:

**Report from the Chair** – Jay begins by congratulating Ann Marshfield for winning the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award.

He notes that Judi is attending today while recovering from surgery.

Jay thanks the Board of the LMSC. The Lake Erie LMSC was quick to develop and approve a process for clubs to apply for and receive Covid-relief Matching Funds from USMS. Shortly after the process was in place, Shaker Sharks applied for a received a matching grant to Shaker Sharks for \$1062 for their loss of coaching time/pool time. Clubs must have tax ID # to be eligible for a grant & USMS matching funds.

This LMSC was an early adopter of the “unified fee”. (Unified fee was the name given to a standardized individual registration fee for every USMS member). We received only one complaint last year.

Jay extends kudos to Chuck Beatty for his handling of the shut down of the Brogan. There was a lot that had to be “undone”. For instance, registration fees had to be refunded. The LMSC had been looking forward to hosting the Middle Distance Open Water National Championship in 2020. We hope to re-apply to host in the future.

As an LMSC, we have a standards review from USMS, and we succeeded in every category.

Dan Cox was recognized with a staff award for assisting with communications from the national office about Covid relief. Dan has ended his career on the national board.

The Lake Erie has a great board – as chair, Jay appointed 2 new board members Kristen Bergmann and Aaron Foreman, our youngest board member, who is attending from his car. We are (hoping) to be looking forward to summer nationals at Spire in 2021, and in 2022 an open water championship.

**Membership Coordinator’s Report:** Ashley reports the LMSC’s largest club is OHIO Masters, followed by the Shaker Sharks, next are number swimmers who are “Unattached” to a club. Medina and CAQT have the same number of members, Liquid ‘NDurance has 25 swimmers enrolled. There have been some late registrations – some of whom were eligible for membership+. This year there were a lot of requests for membership card printouts. Members can print them out from USMS on their personal member page. One thing Jay mentioned in his report, was our early adoption of the unified fee. At convention this year the unified fee was voted on. Beginning with 2021 registration, all of USMS will now be paying \$60. There had been a question about Lake Erie LMSC expanding to absorb the Allegheny region. We are currently not going to do that. The delegates Allegheny sent to the convention were enthusiastic, and have a lot of interest in their members. Ann notes that Allegheny’s new leadership will be get support at the Zone level. Jay notes that Ashley serves USMS on the History & Archives and also

on the Finance Committees.

**Treasurers Report:** Mark Marshfield reports the LMSC has \$26,183.29. That is an increase of \$6k. Annual income from memberships is essentially \$4k. Expenses because of Covid-19 are limited, mostly to the administrative expenses from the Membership Coordinator duties. Revenue for Top 10 patches, which are mailed by Judi Norton, is up \$3k. Mark speculates coaches are supporting swimmers by ordering patches for their team members when they've been earned. Mark serves on USMS's Rules and Sports Medicine committees.

**Vice Chair's Report:** Ann Marshfield reports that our domain name, LakeErieMastersSwimming.org is now hosted by USMS. It has been updated. You can also find our LMSC website from the USMS home page. If you click on LMSC info, Officers/Resources/Newsletters, you can find our current issue of the newsletter as well as an archive of past issues. If you click on the Officers tab, the current LMSC officers are listed. A point of order was raised. Harry Greenfield is listed as our safety chair. We need to update that.

Several years ago, Dan Cox created the Great Lakes Open Water (GLOW) swim series. It hasn't been held for years. Judi Norton recalls the original GLOW series comprised of Big Shoulders/Wisconsin/Brogan/Erie & a swim at the other end of PA. You got points for swimming in whichever race you chose. GLOW was a way to promote swimming in all of the Great Lakes, not just your own. There was discussion about how to "swim across all of the Great Lakes" - see if you could keep track of your virtual swim miles. At one point Harry Greenfield was talking about having a t-shirt that you could color in as you finished your lakes. The Zone has \$700 in its account to support the series and hopes to offer it again in 2021. They are looking for clubs to host. The bid is due by December. (GLOW series). Chuck interjects that one possibility would be for the Brogan to be the event for 2021. There seemed to be a lot of enthusiasm at the Zone meeting when this was proposed. Ashley asks if the LMSC is putting in the bid or OHIO Masters. There isn't complete clarity if the meet would be club or LMSC hosted.

Last year LELMSC refunded the club registration fee to each club. Ann wonders if we might do that again this year. (80/20 split - \$48/\$12). Club registration is now open. Jay notes that Ann also serves as Vice Chair of the Zone.

3. Committee reports:

**Covid -19 Relief Information/Program** Paul Berman Mark Marshfield/Ashley Braniecki: Mark reports the national office allotted approx \$250k to the program. Only \$19k used. The program clearly favors larger clubs. Lots of discussion about this at national. We really need to help the clubs out. Problems: 1) not having a pool; 2) not having tax ID numbers

**OWS/Brogan 2021 & 2022** Chuck Beatty reports the date for the 2021 Brogan is July 17. We already have the permit from Cleveland Metroparks because it was rolled forward from 2020. Once Covid abates, USMS will start sanctioning again. Chuck is reluctant to open entries until it's more clear the event will take place.

In 2022, the Brogan will also be the Sprint Distance Open Water National Championship. Judi asks if there's anything about open water sanctioning. Ann says sanctioning will open 11/1, but we don't know for what events. USMS is taking things one quarter at a time. 11/1 is the big deal because it coordinates with registration.

**Swimming Saves Lives** – all ALTS programs stopped 2020. Funds raised for ALTS were diverted

to Covid relief. But beginning 11/1 all money starts rolling back to ALTS/clubs and where the money needs to be.

**Fitness:** Ann Marshfield – 11/15-30 Fall Fitness Challenge can be completed in pool/open water. We hope to encourage clubs to rally behind this. Entry fees are different for members vs non-members. There is a one mile option. The Challenge understands not everyone has access to a pool, so there is also a 30 min dry land option. Get creative/have fun. Post about it on social media.

USMS has partnered with the Swim.com platform (app/desktop). Swim.com is linked to your USMS account and offers 7 different kinds of workouts. There is a smart watch component. USMS did virtual championship using this platform. Swimmers found desktop version cumbersome.

**Officials:** Mark Marshfield – continuing to meet to discuss how officials will participate with meets when they resume. More with officials for USA swimming. Is there training for people who want to be officials? USA officials have to wear mask/face shield using electronic whistles.

**ALTS:** Judi Norton says stay tuned.

**Newsletter:** Dee Shedlow reports the newsletter comes out quarterly. Newsletter submissions made by 11/15 in order to have the newsletter out before Thanksgiving. We are seeking human interest stories, spotlight on individuals around the LMSC. News from the clubs. Ashley suggests a Swim.com feature

4. Election of Membership coordinator & treasurer in even years – Mark Marshfield filled in for Harry Greenfield when he resigned. Ashley Braniecki stepped in for Marilyn Douglass. At large members are in their current terms. Mark & Ashley were elected unanimously.
5. Old business – renaming Registrar to Membership Coordinator. Ann asks if we need to change our by-laws. Send notice to amend by-laws at next year's annual meeting.
6. New business – Level 1 Coaches Certification will start in early 2021. There is a monthly webinar for coaches on the USMS site.

Reimburse club fee issue. We want written policy/procedure – or an application to get the club fee reimbursed. Paul suggests email as header “reimbursement” follow up with phone call. Ashley thinks we need to work on this behind the scenes and vote on it next week.

Diane Spence – Sanctions Chair – has gotten only general emails, no specific information about sanctioning meets. Kristen says USA swimming has started sanctioning small events. Her daughter had a meet at Spire with 48 swimmers.

Mark says there has been no report of swimmer to swimmer transfer from Covid from any practices/pools. That is the report from the Sports Medicine Committee meeting.