

Niagara LMSC Meeting Minutes

LMSC Name: Niagara

Location: Virtual Teams

Chair: Jason Ellis

Vice Chair: Geoff Wells

Minutes Recorded by: Jordan Goff

Date/Time of Meeting: 10/12/2025

Motions Passed

1. Jason Ellis re-elected as Chair.
 2. Joe Vitthuhn elected Membership Coordinator for 2025.
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Number of Board members present:

Board members present: Jason Ellis (Chair/Communications), Geoff Wells (Vice Chair/Treasurer), Jordan Goff (Secretary), Brandi Bashor (Coaches), Dana Gianniny (Records), Leo Gibbons (Officials), Margaret Diamond (Top Ten), Joe Vitthuhn (Awards/Membership Coordinator), Holly Turner (Sanctions/OME),

Not present: Judy Wolfe (DEI), Anna Jordan (Fitness/ Webmaster)

Guests: None

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am ET.

1. Welcome & Agenda Review / Conflicts of Interest

- Jason Ellis welcomed attendees and reviewed the agenda.

2. Officer Reports

a. Chair (Jason Ellis)

- Tri-State Tidal Wave Meet: Co-hosted with Ohio and Allegheny LMSC at Spire Institute; \$2,500 invested by each LMSC, nearly break-even. Future plans to rotate annually; potential 2026 dates discussed (June 20, 27; July 15, 22; early August). Locations may

include UB or ECC depending on cost.

- Grown-Up Swimming: 2025 season canceled due to lack of interest; refunds issued; limited engagement observed in Western New York.
- Memorial: Vern Hecker, co-founder of Canandaigua Sawbellies Niagara club, passed away September 2025. Recognized for long-term service and award contributions.

b. Treasurer (Geoff Wells)

- Will review during 2025 Budget discussion.

c. Membership Coordinator (Joe Vitthuhn)

- Reported current membership status

d. Secretary (Jordan Goff)

- None
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3. Committee Chair Reports

a. Awards (Joe Vitthuhn)

- FY 2025 budget: \$500 (remaining \$17.19).
- 2024 Recap: Skehan Award (Kay Turner), Coach of the Year (Judy Wolfe), Appreciation Award (Cindy Cotter), 3 ALTS Inspirational Awards.
- 2025: National USMS Fitness Award (Judy Wolfe), Tri-State Tidal Wave awards (1st place LMSC plaque, 1st place club trophy).
- Received data from USMS on swim member recognition. Did not rollout, but can still be recognized on the Niagara website. Will get data from USMS sooner for 2026 and we can potentially do a reward of sorts. Thinking Swim.com gift card, \$5.00?

b. Sanctions & OME (Holly Turner)

- All meet sanctioning processed with proper documentation. No open water events in 2025.

c. Officials (Leo Gibbons)

- Less than 10 certified officials currently available.

- USA/NFHS/YMCA certifications acceptable.
- Officials assigned to Niagara LMSC sanctioned meets.
- Concussion protocol training required; online courses available.

d. Coaches (Brandi Bashor)

- Focus on education, recognition, and networking.
- ALTS Instructor Certification scheduled for Jan 17, 2026; LMSC will subsidize \$50 per successful participant.
- Social event for coaches/swimmers planned Feb 8, 2026; \$25 per person; LMSC covers USMS registered coaches/club contacts.

e. Records (Dana Gianniny)

- Records report reviewed (May 2024 – Aug 2025); several virtual and in-person meets recognized.
- Discussed .pdf file submissions for meets (ESG Sr. Games and Tri-State Tidal Wave).
 - ESG Sr. Games repeatedly submitted incorrect files; not processed. Will not be recognized in the future until data submission is corrected
 - Tri-State Tidal Wave meet processed despite initial lack of file; required for future recognition.
- Action: remind directors to submit properly formatted files to ensure Top Ten recognition.

f. Top Ten Recorder (Margaret Diamond)

- Confirmed all Top Ten submissions verified
- Dana to review meet files prior to Margaret uploading to prevent errors.

g. Communications (Jason Ellis)

- Social media: Facebook (421 followers), Instagram (147).
- Newsletter: 1 edition sent in summer 2025.
- Social campaigns: GUS (3 posts), Share Your Story (1), Tri-State Tidal Wave (4), Upcoming events (2).

4. 2025 Budget (Geoff Wells)

- Reviewed budget allocations for awards, coaching events, and meet support.
- \$25 per coach/club contact proposed for meals; LMSC/USMS to cover remaining costs.

5. Elections

- Chair: Jason Ellis re-elected.
- Membership Coordinator: Joe Vitthuhn elected.

6. USMS Annual Meeting

- No attendees in 2025.
- Joe will attend in 2026 to provide Niagara representation.

8. New Business

a. LMSC Needs / 5-Year Plan

- Discussion on surveying LMSC membership for feedback on programming, engagement, and improvement areas.

b. Tri-State Tidal Wave Meet Recap (Jason & Joe)

- Discussed financial results, future planning, and meet recognition for records purposes.

c. Empire State Senior Games

- Technical difficulties with submissions; ESG may be unrecognized if correct files not submitted in future.

d. Meet Safety & Substitutions (Dana & Margaret)

- Dana reported unsafe warm-up behaviors; hand paddles, diving outside diving lanes, side-by-side swimming.
- Action: Email to meet directors to reinforce safe warm-up procedures.
- Margaret confirmed that Top Ten results reviewed only after verified data; incorrect substitutions must be corrected

e. Upcoming Meets & Calendar Considerations

- Ontario Provincials (Etobicoke, mid-April, short course meters) recommended as high-quality, local meet near Nationals.
 - Brandi to circulate meet details; Jason to post on social media.
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9. Closing Remarks

- Jason Ellis acknowledged accomplishments of the past year, reminded board of ongoing support and availability.
 - Meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm ET.
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Action Items Summary

1. **Brandi Bashor** – Contact UBCCS president regarding potential USMS meet partnership.
2. **Dana Gianniny** – Draft email to meet directors on warm-up safety; review meet files before upload.
3. **Leo Gibbons** – Relay meet safety and verification guidelines to officials.