

## U.S. Masters Swimming

<b>Committee Name:</b> Northwest Zone	<b>Session #:</b> n/a
<b>Committee Chair:</b> Aaron Norton	
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b> Sally Dillon	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b> 6 pm Mountain

### Actions Taken:

1. MSA to approve the the March 13, 2022 meeting minutes via email.

<b>Number of committee members present:</b> 14	<b>Absent:</b> n/a	<b>Guests:</b> none
<b>Committee members present:</b> Ken Winterberger (AK), Matt Bronson, Paige Buehler, David Cabrey (IW), Donn Livoni (MT); Christina Fox, Sandi Rousseau, Tim Waud (OR), Linda Chapman, Sally Dillon, Steve Peterson (PN), Jim Clemmons (SR), and Bruce Schroeder, Jerry Treiman, Aaron Norton (UT).		

### Minutes

NW Zone Chair Aaron Norton called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm Mountain time.

1. Zone Chatter: Aaron thanked Christina Fox for taking ownership of the newsletter. She's doing a great job and it's nice to have it distributed prior to our meetings.
2. Actions taken between meetings:
  - a. The March 13 meeting minutes were approved by the LMSC chairs via email. They are posted on the Zone and USMS websites.
  - b. IW LMSC member, Dave Cabrey, volunteered to serve as the Zone webmaster. It's great to have him onboard. Hugh Moore has asked to be removed from the zone mailing list.
3. Standing Reports:
  - a. Chair: Aaron reported on his trip to San Antonio for Spring Nationals. He was very impressed with how well the meet was run and enjoyed seeing other zone members there. Aaron served as a coach and about half of his Utah team were attending their first national meet. The 2023 Spring Nationals will be held on the west coast in April; the meet host has not been officially announced. Aaron also noted that the USMS Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 16-18 in Denver, CO. Attending virtually will be an option but many are interested in going to Denver.
  - b. Treasurer: Ken Winterberger said the only expense was for cost of shipping Zone ribbons to the SCY Zone meet in Oregon (\$10.55). Sally was reimbursed by the National Office. Resulting balance is \$5123.42.
  - c. Secretary: Sally thanked chairs for informing her when there are changes to leadership teams.
  - d. Webmaster: David Cabrey has posted the Chatter.
  - e. Records: Steve Darnell has records up to date since the spring nationals.
  - f. Awards: Sally sent ribbons to Tim Waud for the Zone meet. Unused awards were returned.
  - g. NW At-Large Director: Paige reported that in Quarter 2, the USMS Board has focused on how to communicate the updated Strategic Priorities to the national and local volunteer base. CEO Dawson Hughes and Board President Peter Guadagni gave a webinar on May 31<sup>st</sup> focused on the Strategic Priorities and the proposed changes to Standing Committees. Board members began on June 1 holding communication meetings with LMSC leaders within each Zone to gather feedback. Paige led the Breadbasket Zone meeting; other BOD members attended. Chris Campbell will lead a meeting with our zone. Paige suggested we propose a date. Topics of focus are in the May 31<sup>st</sup> webinar. Links to the webinar recording and presentation can be found here:

<https://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/index.php?GROUPID=30&EVENTID=>

#### Updates from the national level:

- College Club Swimming National Championships held April 8-10 in Atlanta, GA had 2000+ participants and were very successful.
- Spring Nationals in San Antonio was on pace with registrations at 1800+ compared to the meet held in 2015 (1888).
- Gary Keehner was hired as USMS's new controller with Susan Kuhlman Parker retiring at the end of June. He will not be the CFO. Susan offered to come back and consult as needed

- Inflation and wage pressures are affecting National Office operations. It's on our radar that member fees may need to go up to keep a balanced budget. Sally asked about the promise to not raise fees once the unified fee went into effect. Sandi said during a recent BOD meeting there was also no commitment to keeping the 20% level that goes to LMSCs. Donn said that during his time on the board there was no guarantee that the fees would stay the same for any given time.

- Confidence is high that this fall (membership year 2023) we may be able to choose multi-year and/or auto-renewing memberships. Aaron asked about dual memberships; Sandi noted that it was a selling point for the unified fees, yet it still hasn't happened. Aaron and Paige both shared that it was reasonable for staff to get raises.

4. Old Business:

- a. Zone Policies: Minor revisions were made at the March meeting and a revised version was distributed with the meeting agenda.

5. New Business

- a. Zone Annual Meeting: Paige suggested that the Zone consider holding its own face-to-face annual meeting if USMS ends in-person conventions. It would give us an opportunity to meet and discuss LMSC and Zone business. Ideas included associating it with a swim meet (e.g., zone championship) an activity based event (e.g., swim clinic). It would be business driven and worthy of spending LMSC funds to support attendance. If we can't meet at convention, we want to meet at another location. Sally mentioned her concerns about the recent USMS messages encouraging LMSCs to not use funds to send delegates to the Annual Meeting. Paige said the board can only afford to have one Annual Meeting and they want to support the Volunteer Relay event. Sandi noted that supporting USMS delegates to attend the Annual Meeting was one of the selling points for the unified fee because USMS was going to pay for hotel costs. No decision was made regarding the Zone holding its own meeting, but the suggestion was well received. We'll revisit the idea later in the year, or in 2023.

- b. Zone awards: Linda shared concerns about a lack of distribution of zone awards at the recent SCY championship meet. Several PNA swimmers attending the meet reported that:

- Award labels for Zone placings were not generated at the meet
- Thus, non-OMS swimmers didn't receive Zone ribbons for their events
- The only award labels generated at the meet were for the OMS Champs
- Labels for OMS Champs placings were placed on Zone ribbons

It was Linda's observation that our Zone Policies don't adequately address the need to provide Zone placements in results and thus awards at our championship meets. Policy 4.6 is rather vague about the requirement.

Tim explained at length the problems hosting a meet that is both an LMSC championship and zone championship. There were several glitches in addition to this, that made the meet very complicated. Linda explained the methods that PNA has developed using HyTek, to avoid these problems when we host Zone champs. It was suggested that the bid document include wording that makes it clear that zone ribbons and results should be made available to all participants and that wording in the policies be amended to clarify the situation for the future. Linda and Sally volunteered to bring suggested changes to the next meeting.

- c. Zone "call" with USMS BOD members: As discussed above, LMSC chairs will be invited to meet with Chris Campbell and possibly, other board members. Interested members from the zone can participate as well. Aaron will notify everyone when a date/time is set.
- d. Other business: Sandi reported that Oregon is hosting a weekend event on October 29/30 in Hood River that will include a USMS Level 3 Coach Certification Clinic and an opportunity for coaches to participate in a swim clinic. There will also be an ALTS instructor training. Specifics will be distributed to the zone leadership teams when available from USMS.

6. LMSC Reports: The Chatter was distributed last week and there were no additional reports.

It was MSA to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 Mountain time.