Southern Pacific Masters Swimming
2026 Annual Meeting Minutes
Sunday, November 22, 2026
12:30 PM Pacific Time In-Person

Facilitator: Ken Brisbin

Recorder: Becky Cleavenger

The meeting was called to order by SPMS Chair Ken Brisbin at 12:29 PM Pacific Time.

Attendance: SPMS Members 38, of which 25 are eligible to vote

Ken Brisbin; Robin Smith; Alani Navarro; Andrew Saunders; Anita Cole; Bart Parnes; Beata Konopka; Becky Cleavenger; Bill Marshall; Bill Niemand; Brianda Renteria; Christie Ciraulo; Cory Nguyen; Elizabeth Carlin; Fiona Duncan; Heidi Sheaks; Jaime Balboa; Jeanne Cambra Brungard; Jeff Liu; Jennifer Cooper; Jessica Seaton; Kalani Caldwell; Krish Nishi; Mario Marshall; Mark Buckley; Mary Hull; Mary Jurey; Meghan O'Donnell; Michael Collins; Nancy Kirkpatrick-Reno; Owen Lubow; Patti Lowes; Rebecca Nevitt; Shelly Marshall; Steven Ingram; Veronica Hibben; Virgil Chancy; Wendy Sherwat Ducourneau

MSP to approve the minutes from the SPMS Monthly Meeting on September 17, 2026 and October 15, 2026.

Welcome and Introductions

Ken Brisbin introduced the standing committee chairs and officers and thanked West Hollywood Aquatics for hosting the meeting and clinic as well as the coaches who planned and led the clinic.

Ken also gave a brief overview of SPMS including background, size, and the importance of volunteerism.

Ken reviewed the voting eligibility as denoted on each attendee's name tag.

2026 Year in Review

Membership and club growth: Meghan O'Donnell, Membership Coordinator, shared metrics on membership and club growth, including:

- a static number of clubs and an increase of 25 swimmers over 2026, noting the numbers may not be exact.
- SPMS has 580 unattached members; we will focus on getting them associated with clubs in 2027 so they will have opportunities to swim in relays and a friend group to encourage participation in meets, clinics etc.
- Recruitment and retention opportunities for all members will also be a focus area in 2027.

SPMS Events in 2026: Robin Smith, Vice Chair, reported that SPMS held 26 events in 2026, of which 23 were pool meets (10 SCY, 9 LCM, 4 SCM) and 3 were open water events (2 ocean, 1 lake).

Coaches education and development: Cory Nguyen, Coaches Chair, reported on 2026 accomplishments including:

- held monthly calls for coaches
- USMS level 2/3 certification, coaches clinic, and ALTS Instructor certification April 18-19
- in-water pool and open water clinic for all members November 22

Initiatives for 2027:

- continue monthly coaches' calls
- with USMS, plan an education Weekend to include a stroke clinic, ALTS and Officials training, and more.

SPMS Leadership and operations: Ken reported on ongoing LMSC work, including:

- member and club support
- meets and open water events
- coaches' education and development
- Financial reporting
- Committee work
- Updating Bylaws and Policies and Procedures
- Adoption of USMS updates
- Planning and prioritization

SPMS Proposed Meet Schedule and Championship Meet Bids

Robin Smith, Vice Chair, reviewed the tentative meet schedule for 2027. She cautioned that the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will further challenge already stressed facilities with countries holding staging camps, which could limit SPMS's ability to host meets the next two years. Robin reviewed scheduled meets, tentative meets, and a list of clubs and facilities she is working with to potentially host future meets

MSP SPMS will not host SCY championships due to Irvine Nova Masters hosting 2027 USMS Spring Nationals

MSP SPMS to host LCM championships in Mission Viejo

MSP SPMS SCM championships to be hosted by Long Beach Grunions and serve as Southwest Zone championships.

Presentation of the Proposed 2027 Budget

Ken Brisbin gave an overview of the approach taken with the 2027 budget, the proposed 2027 budget, and the expected deficit of $8970, noting that the deficit is not concerning given the reserves.

MSP to approve the 2027 budget as proposed.

Ken provided an overview of the contractor positions including the plan to vote on new applicants at the January meeting.

Discussion: Mary Hull asked for clarification on the term of the 2027 contracts. Ken explained that will be described in the Policies and Procedures and that the current motion is related only to the extension of existing contracts.

MSP to approve extension of existing contractors' contracts through January 31, 2027

Recognitions and Awards

Anita Cole, Member at Large and Awards Chair, expressed appreciation for West Hollywood Aquatics and the annual meeting planning committee, and presented the following service awards:

- Jim Marcus Appreciation Award: Cory Nguyen, coaches chair and Steve Ingram, webmaster and meet administration
- Steve Schofield Distinguished Service Award: Nancy Kirkpatrick-Reno, head coach and longtime SPMS and USMS volunteer
- Contributor of the Year: Dara Goldsmith, swimmer and member of the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures committee
- Open Water Contributor of the Year: Mark Moore, head coach, former Chair, and host of many successful open water events

Discussion

Ken emphasized the importance of volunteering and encouraged people to get involved by joining the monthly calls and joining a committee of interest.

Robin Smith shared a new initiative for 2027 where officials will be available during warmup at meets to answer any questions related to rules and potential disqualifications.

Mary Jurey shared that the USMS Diversity and Inclusion committee is developing a set of best practices to be rolled out early 2027 and are intended to be guidelines for clubs and LMSCs to welcome and support new

swimmers into their organization. The program is intended to help reach underserved communities where the thought of swimming with USMS may be intimidating. It will also be useful for regular recruitment and outreach. The goal is to increase membership, get more adults in the water, and create a welcoming environment for people who may have previously felt that masters swimming was not for them.

Wendy Sherwat Ducourneau shared a best practice for helping intimidated swimmers: she offers to do a meet walk through for teammates who are intimidated to attend a meet because they've never done so.

New Business

- Nancy Kirkpatrick-Reno recommended that SPMS fill the gap left when FINA became World Aquatics and ceased making World Top Ten patches available. This was favorably received by all present.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:43 PM Pacific Time

Next Meeting: Thursday January 21, 2027 at 7:30 PM Pacific Time, via Zoom.