

National Office Streamlines

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Spring/Summer 2006



Greetings from the National Office...

Hi All –

Sorry for the delay in getting this newsletter out. Planned on sending it before I left for SC Nationals in Coral Springs, didn't happen. Hoped to get it out after my return, but trying to catch up from being away and then the thousands of Worlds entries delayed it again (which is a good thing!) I've made the executive decision to make this a Spring/Summer combo. Read on...



Next up is the XI FINA Masters World Championships at Stanford in August. Entry information can be found at www.2006finamasters.org. The entry deadline has now passed and it looks like we have over 7,200 competitors at Stanford in August. I am SOOOO excited!

Worlds will be followed by the USAS Convention in September which will be held in Dearborn, MI at the Hyatt. USMS will begin on Wednesday the September 13 with our BOD meeting followed by the Insurance Reception. Registration/hotel information was sent out via e-mail (or snail mail) in April. If you are interested in attending and did not receive this information, please contact me at usms-at-usms-dot-org

With Worlds and Convention on the horizon, we have a number of deadlines coming up. Please be sure to review closely the "Things to Do" section.

One big deadline has passed - April 30th - the due date for LMSCs to submit their 2005 LMSC Annual Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports to the National Office. I have received reports from those LMSCs listed on page 4. If your LMSC is not listed, please get this in to me ASAP.

This is our "bonus" issue which includes the mid year reports from the members of the Board of Directors, National Office, Committee Chairs, Ad Hoc Chairs, Liaisons and Special Assignments. These people/committees have been working very hard since convention. Please take the time to read through these and pass this information on to your membership, we all need to be informed!

I hope all is well with you and your LMSC.
Tracy

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Things to do...

Listed are deadlines from the USMS Working Calendar. Please use this as a reminder. This calendar is posted in its entirety on the USMS website at: www.usms.org under Administration

JULY 1, 2006

- Committee chairs, appointments send their annual report to their EC liaison. Those who will be having a meeting at convention also send their agendas.
- USMS Coach of the Year applications due to Coaches Committee Chair (Bob Bruce – coaches-at-usms-dot-org)
- Preliminary equipment requirements for convention due to Convention Coordinator (Victor Buehler – convention-at-usms-dot-org)

July 10, 2006

- Proposed Rules, Long Distance and Legislation amendments due to respective committee chairs (Rules: Kathy Casey – rules-at-usms-dot-org, Long Distance: Marcia Cleveland – longdistance-at-usms-dot-org, Legislation: Sean Fitzgerald – legislation-at-usms-dot-org)
- SCY Preliminary Top 10 mailed for proofreading

July 14, 2006

- Cost Center Heads send their budget to Finance Chair Jeff Moxie (finance-at-usms-dot-org) and to their EC Liaison

July 15, 2006

- LMSC registrars send registration reports to National Office (electronic files sent to Esther at Registration-at-usms-dot-org, hard copies and checks sent to Tracy at the National Office)
- Executive Committee liaisons send their committees' annual report and agendas to the National Office for publication in the convention packet
- Final cut-off date for requesting a Delegate-at-Large spot for convention
- Coach of the Year selected

July 20, 2006

- President (Rob Copeland – president-at-usms-dot-org) appoints Delegates-at-Large for 2006 convention

Correction

The National Records listed in the 2006 Rule Book were not updated from 2005. The correct records are listed on the USMS website.

July 24, 2006

- Corrections for SCY Top 10 due to Records and Tabulations Chair (Mary Beth Windrath – topten-at-usms-dot-org)

July 30, 2006

- USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Award nominations due to Recognition and Awards Chair (Kelly Crandell – awards-at-usms-dot-org)

AUGUST 1, 2006

- Deadline for USAS for early convention registration and inclusion in USAS Directory
- Bids for fitness events due to Fitness Committee Chair (Jani Sutherland – fitness-at-usms-dot-org)
- Equipment requirements from committee chairs and workshop planners due to Convention Coordinator (Victor Buehler – convention-at-usms-dot-org)
- All proposed rule/code changes from Rules, Long Distance and Legislation due to National Office
- Final SCY Top 10 list sent to printer
- Second quarter financial reports prepared

August 4-17, 2006

- XI FINA World Masters Championships, Stanford University

August 8, 2006

- Zone Reps submit list of events for USMS Swimmer calendar for the November/December issue to VP Local Operations (Julie Heather – vplocaloperations-at-usms-dot-org)

August 15, 2006

- LMSC registrars send registration reports to National Office (electronic files sent to Esther at Registration-at-usms-dot-org, hard copies and checks sent to Tracy at the National Office)
- Editorial materials due to USMS Editor for November/December issue of USMS Swimmer (Bill Volckening – editor-at-usms-dot-org)
- Bids for 2008 Long Course, Short Course and Long Distance National Championships due to appropriate committee chairs

August 31, 2006

- Deadline for submission of ISHOF candidates

Other August Activities

- USAS sends convention registration list to National Office (Tracy Grilli – USMS-at-usms-dot-org). Secretary (Meg Smath – secretary-at-usms-dot-org) notifies LMSCs who have not sent delegate certifications.
- Convention packets mailed to all certified delegates

SEPTEMBER 1, 2006

- Rule book cover submissions and bids to print the rule book due to Rule Book Coordinator (Susan Ehringer – RuleBook-at-usms-dot-org)
- Period for 2006 reduced swimmer registration fee begins
- All LMSCs that have not hosted a Mentor Coach and Swimmer or Open Water Clinic in the past two years will have

until September 1 to submit an application. LMSCs that have hosted within the past two years will not have their applications reviewed until after September 1. This will give priority to those who have not hosted a clinic recently a chance to host.

September 10-17, 2006

- USMS Convention, Dearborn, Mich.

September 15, 2006

- LMSC registrars send registration reports to National Office (electronic files sent to Esther at Registration-at-usms-dot-org, hard copies and checks sent to Tracy at the National Office)

September 30, 2006

- End of Long Course Meters season

Other September Activities

- Registration Committee finalizes design of membership card, printer notified
- Changes, additions, deletions for 2007 Working Calendar due to Secretary from committee chairs, etc. (Meg Smath – secretary-at-usms-dot-org)
- Group Exemption 501(c)(3) status report due to IRS

OCTOBER 8, 2006

- Zone Reps submit list of events for USMS Swimmer calendar for the January/February issue to VP Local Operations (Julie Heather – vplocaloperations-at-usms-dot-org)
- Deadline for Coaches Committee to submit announcements to USMS Swimmer for Mentor Coach and Swimmer Clinics, NIKE Clinics and Coach of the Year Award

October 15, 2006

- LMSC registrars send registration reports to National Office (electronic files sent to Esther at Registration-at-usms-dot-org, hard copies and checks sent to Tracy at the National Office)
- Editorial materials due to USMS Editor for January/February issue of USMS Swimmer (Bill Volckening – editor-at-usms-dot-org)

October 20, 2006

- LMSC LCM Top 10 reports due to Records and Tabulation Chair (Mary Beth Windrath – topten-at-usms-dot-org)

October 25, 2006

- Deadline for submission of information to be included in the fall issue of Streamlines... from the National Office

October 30, 2006

- Fall issue of Streamlines... sent via email or snail mail

October 31, 2006

- End of the 2006 registration year. All registrations after November 1 are for 2007.

Other October Activities

- President makes changes in committee chairs and committee membership if necessary

NOVEMBER 1, 2006

- 2007 registration year begins
- Minutes of House of Delegates, 2007 Budget and FOG mailed to all who attended 2006 convention

November 2, 2006

- Final copies of Rules/Long Distance/Legislation changes to Rule Book Coordinator (Susan Ehringer – rulebook-at-usms-dot-org) from appropriate committee chair (Kathy Casey – rules-at-usms-dot-org, Marcia Cleveland – longdistance-at-usms-dot-org and Sean Fitzgerald – legislation-at-usms-dot-org)

November 9, 2006

- Records and Tabulation Chair (Mary Beth Windrath – topten-at-usms-dot-org) sends national and world records to Rule Book Coordinator (Susan Ehringer – rulebook-at-usms-dot-org)

November 15, 2006

- LMSC registrars send registration reports to National Office (electronic files sent to Esther at Registration-at-usms-dot-org, hard copies and checks sent to Tracy at the National Office)
- 2007 LMSC Handbook section updates due to National Office Administrator (Tracy Grilli – USMS-at-usms-dot-org)

AWARD NOMINATIONS

Inaugural USMS Club of the Year Award

Do you know an outstanding USMS club? Any LMSC, club or club member may nominate a club by submitting a one-page, typed letter detailing the club's unique activities.

Deadline for submissions is July 30, send to:

USMS Club of the Year Award

Kelly Crandell

USMS Recognition and Awards Committee

1642 South Winnifred Street

Tacoma, WA, 98465

or e-mail: Awards-at-usms-dot-org

Communications Award

The Communications Committee is now accepting nominations for 2006 June Krauser USMS Communications Award. Presented annually, the award honors outstanding contribution to communications within USMS.

To submit a nomination, write a one-page letter detailing why the candidate is deserving of the award and send it by July 1 to:

Hugh Moore

2102 N. Vassault

Tacoma, WA 98406

or e-mail swimmoore-at-comcast-dot-net

- National Office Administrator (Tracy Grilli – USMS-at-usms-dot-org) sends rule book Appendix E committees and chairs to Rule Book Coordinator (Susan Ehringer – RuleBook-at-usms-dot-org)

November 16, 2006

- Final proofreading of rule book due to Rule Book Coordinator (Susan Ehringer – RuleBook-at-usms-dot-org)

November 23, 2006

- All camera-ready copy and artwork due to rule book printer

November 30, 2006

- Deadline for 2007 LMSC registrations to be submitted to the National Office

New LMSC Officers and Appointments...

A full list of LMSC Officers can be found at www.usms.org/usms-dirsearch.htm

Florida Gold Coast: Sanctions, Andrea Woodburn – a-dot-woodburn-at-worldnet-dot-att-dot-net

Pacific: Treasurer, Jennifer Zeitler – zeitler-at-berkeley-dot-edu

Potomac Valley: Secretary, Wonkee Moon – wonkee-dot-moon-at-yahoo-dot-com

Editorial Committee

- Heather Hagadorn (Colorado) has been recently appointed to the USMS Editorial Committee. Congratulations Heather!

Contact Updates...

Following are updates received by the National Office after the printing/distribution of the 2006 Rule Book and USMS Directory.

- Joan Alexander (Pacific LMSC) – swmrjoan-at-sbcglobal-dot-net
- Norman Bower (Iowa Chair) – bowernf-at-kjww-dot-com
- Gordon Gillin (Arizona LMSC) – 14117 N Forthcamp Ct, Oro Valley, AZ 85755
- Errol Graham (San Diego-Imperial LMSC) – errolg14-at-hotmail-dot-com
- Phil Hurley (South Dakota Chair) – correct Zip Code is 57006-3131
- Laura Kessler (Lake Erie Chair) – fax 216-445-2536
- David Lamott (San Diego-Imperial LMSC) – dlamott1-at-cox-dot-net
- Janet Lamott (San Diego-Imperial LMSC) – covcron-at-cox-dot-net
- Barbara "Babs" Larsen (Indiana Registrar) – grinswim-at-sbcglobal-dot-net or indybaba-at-sbcglobal-dot-net
- Judy Michel (Maryland LMSC) – swimichel-at-mac-dot-com

continued on next page

- Mark Murphy (New England LMSC) – 27 Highland Ave, Cohasset, MA
- Steve Newman (Metropolitan Chair) – sn100-at-optonline-dot-net
- Alice Phillips (Virginia Top ten) – aphil65-at-comcast-dot-net
- Mary Pohlmann (International Chair) – 405 S Deer Lake Dr E, Carbondale, IL 62901-5253
- Nancy Rosetti (Gulf Chair) – 832-289-4267
- Frank Tillotson (Florida LMSC) – 830 Northshore Dr NE # 7A, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
- Jim Wheeler (Planning Chair) – swimnjim-at-hotmail-dot-com

Records and Record Keeping

(Article 502.7)

Each LMSC shall comply with the financial record keeping and reporting requirements of USMS. The LMSC shall forward to the USMS National Office the minutes of the annual meeting and annual financial reports within 4 months of the end of the LMSCs fiscal year or by April 30, 2006.

2005 Reports Received

Financial: Alaska, Allegheny Mountain, Border, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Florida Gold Coast, Georgia, Gulf, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Lake Erie, Maryland, Metropolitan, Michigan, Montana, New England, New Jersey, Niagara, North Carolina, Pacific Northwest, Potomac Valley, San Diego-Imperial, South Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Annual Meeting Minutes: Adirondack, Alaska, Border, Colorado, Florida, Florida Gold Coast, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Inland Northwest, Kentucky, Lake Erie, Minnesota, New Jersey, Niagara, North Carolina, Ohio, Pacific, Pacific Northwest, South Dakota, South Texas, Southern Pacific, Utah, Virginia, Wyoming

Places To Swim

Attention all LMSCs and Clubs! Have you been to the Places to Swim page on the USMS website? If so, are all the workout groups in your area up to date? Please check this information or appoint someone to work on this project?

Go to the USMS website at www.usms.org and click on Places to Swim. Filter out your LMSC and all the places currently listed will appear. If there is one that is out of date, click on “edit a place to swim”, make the appropriate changes and click “submit” and then the information for that program will be up to date.

Rules Corner...

Proposed Rule Changes-

This is a “Rules Year”. Proposed amendments can be passed by a majority vote of the House of Delegates if the amendments are recommended by the Rules Committee. Information about submitting proposed amendments to Part 1: Swimming Rules and the Glossary can be found in Article 601, pages 101–103 of the 2006 USMS Rule Book.

More detailed information, including examples and a template for your use, can be found in the LMSC Handbook, “Convention” section, pages 2–6, at www.usms.org/admin/lmschb/.

LMSCs wishing to submit proposals must do so in writing (email, fax, or mail) by July 10 to Kathy Casey, rules-at-usms-dot-org, or (253)589-8321 (fax), or 11114 – 111th St. SW, Tacoma, WA, 98498.

FINA World Swimming Championships at Stanford-

USMS competitors will not be swimming according to USMS rules. The meet will be conducted according to FINA masters swimming rules. For information about the differences between FINA rules and USMS rules see pages 141–143 of the 2006 USMS Rule Book.

Where is that rule?

If you have trouble finding a rule reference, don't hesitate to ask for help. Occasionally a rule will not be where you expect to find it. For example, where is the rule allowing a sanctioned event to be conducted in a short pool? Try 107.1.3 on page 51 of the 2006 USMS Rule Book.

For any questions about rules contact Kathy Casey, USMS Rules Chair, rules-at-usms-dot-org



USMS Executive Committee Mid-Year Report

President, Rob Copeland

The first half of the year and the beginning of my first term in office have been extremely productive and gratifying. We had a tremendous midyear Executive/Board Meeting. In case you haven't heard, we have a phenomenal Board of Directors, and I can't say enough about my Executive Committee. We have a great leadership team, and considering this is our first year under our new governance structure, we are well on our way to even bigger and better accomplishments.

The countdown to the 11th FINA Masters World Championships is on. Entries are coming in and it looks like this will likely be the largest aquatics sporting event ever. It should be an amazing event, and I highly recommend it to all members.

And probably the most important aspect of our new governance model is the position of Executive Director. Our search committee and our executive search partner have evaluated dozens of candidates, and if all goes well, we should have an Executive Director in place sometime this summer.

And finally, none of this would have been possible without the dedication and leadership of those who have come before me and without the support of our employees, volunteers and members. So thanks to all of you for making Masters swimming possible!

Vice President of National Operations, Leo Letendre

The committees within the National Operations division have been active during the first half of the year. The details of their work can be found in their individual reports. Several meetings of the chairs of the NO committees have been held. Discussions about their common problems and overlapping concerns have been favorably received by the chairs.

Some of the highlights include the successful running of the One-Hour Postal championship that led to a significant contribution to the Katrina Relief efforts. Look forward to more about this in our national publication.

Personally, I have been active with the effort directed towards providing an on-line registration system. Many fine ideas have been put forward by the member of this task force. We are sorting through them finding that some may not be possible in the short or long term. Discussions with the registrars have also added to the direction we are now pursuing.

Vice President of Member Services, Mark Gill

It has been a busy half year in the area of member services. Much attention has been spent on the development of the World Championship online entry application. The initial work was done in house, but when it became clear this was a much larger job than anticipated, we brought in an outside firm, Bluegrass.Net to help us finish things up. They have been working for 6 weeks on the project so far and have done an excellent job.

Also in the service area, work has started regarding the online membership registration program. This is a long needed option for our members and is scheduled on schedule to soon be available.

USMS has been approached by the US Army to provide programming for the pools on their bases. Teaming up with Mel Goldstein, we have been working on developing a program that can be provided to the military to help them start and successfully run masters swim programs.

In addition to these projects, I have been working with the following committees: Championship, Coaches, Communications, Editorial, History & Archives and the ISHOF ad hoc committee. I am amazed and humbled by the dedication and professionalism the members of these committees provide to USMS. We are truly fortunate to have so many people willing to spend so much time and effort to improve masters swimming.

Vice President of Local Operations, Julie Heather

The majority of the tasks that I have been involved in are included in the Zone Committee report. I have also been working with Records and Tabulation, and on specific problems that have occurred in several LMSCs. I have started gathering examples of policy manuals as a first step in our project of creating a USMS Policy Manual that will consolidate policies that have been put in place in the past, but are scattered among various meeting minutes and other USMS documents

Vice President of Community Services, Michael Heather

In addition to interacting with the chairs and members of the Marketing, Sports Medicine Health and Safety, Fitness and Planning committees, I have also been involved with the Impact task force, charged to develop ways to use the FINA Masters World Championships meet in Palo Alto for future benefit. The force is recommending a massive video recording of the meet in all fields, and will develop stories or angles while in post production and editing.

I have also been helping Sports Medicine lecture series (also at Worlds) with a series of conference calls between the event organizers and the Worlds LOC and Stanford. The series promises to be a remarkable event in and of itself. If anyone has time to attend, they should do so without hesitation.

Finally, I have been in close contact with the new Convention Coordinator to help smooth out the learning curve and make sure the upcoming convention is successful as possible

Secretary, Meg Smath

I've been busy taking minutes of Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings. I have also been keeping track of the USMS calendar and sending out reminders for deadlines (obviously didn't do that one very well!). I also worked with Jim Miller, Julie Heather, and you (?) to set the meeting schedule for convention, then with Victor Buehler as convention Coordinator, as he has been working with Penny Taylor of USAS to make room assignments.

I've sent out the first notice of delegate entitlements to convention and am keeping track of responses. Julie Heather and I are working on the first phase of compiling a USMS policy manual. I've

been scanning archival documents and taking note of policy statements in these documents.

Treasurer, Tom Boak

During the first six months as Treasurer, I spent quite a bit of time learning the process from Doug Church and Margaret Bayless. Although the day to day job of Treasurer does not take an inordinate amount of time, I was unprepared for the amount of time it takes to be part of the Executive Committee.

The process of paying USMS bills is operating smoothly, and we are currently up to date with all payments. Revenue is coming in at a level which does not require dipping into our investments. Also, the upward movement of interest rates will increase our interest income this year. With the completion of the on-line registration program for the 2006 Worlds Championships, revenue has begun coming in, and should end the USMS outflow to the Local Organizing Committee. From a financial standpoint, USMS is in good shape.

A number of projects are underway. During this calendar year, we should complete the Compensation Study, a revision of FOG to adjust for the legislation completed at last years' convention, an analysis of our investment strategy, and a budget which deals with the hiring of an Executive Director.

Immediate Past President, Jim Miller, MD

I have had the opportunity to chair the Impact Task Force whose goal is to increase the impact of the XI FINA World Masters Championships on all aquatic masters sports which would include both exposure and growth. This is a cooperative effort with the meet host and all masters aquatic sports. I also am serving as the contact between the EC and the event host. I also am an ever present conscience to the EC.

USMS Legal Counsel, Patty Miller

Governance changes, the process of hiring an Executive Director, and changes to the USMS sponsorship program, all of which resulted from the 2005 Convention, have continued to catapult USMS forward in professionalism and service to our members. This has affected the legal issues that arise and services that are needed.

On-Line Event Entry

One of the first actions the new Board of Directors took was to approve on-line entry – including electronic signature of the liability release – for the USMS One-Hour Postal Swim. That pilot, as well as continued requests from our event directors for on-line event registration and the recognition that such registration is common practice for many sports, led to the development of a Preliminary Guidance to Sanctions Chairs for on-line event entry. The document, which I created with Board of Directors approval, gives Sanctions Chairs and event directors guidelines to increase the likelihood that liability waivers used in the on-line entry process will be valid and useful if a liability claim arises from a swimming event. The guidance was recently used by the Long Distance Committee to approve the use of on-line event entry for the USMS 10-K national

championship, allowing the meet organizers to use a popular on-line event entry service.

Having the guidelines, which were approved by USMS's insurer, will facilitate the upcoming shift to on-line membership registration, which will involve a requirement that registrants accept the USMS liability release.

Sponsorship Program

The new Board of Directors also finalized adoption of a revised sponsorship program that had been proposed before to Convention. The new sponsor program encourages linkage between sponsorship and advertising in the USMS national publication, and has several levels of sponsorship with specific benefits for sponsors. The adoption of this more defined and uniform program provided me the opportunity to overhaul our sponsor contracts. As a result, it is now much quicker and easier to finalize the sponsorships and renewals that Mel Goldstein so energetically secures.

Executive Director Hiring

I have had the opportunity to participate in and provide legal support for the Executive Director hiring process that has been efficiently and effectively coordinated by Laura Winslow. This has involved issuance of an RFP for a search firm, selection of the firm, negotiation of an engagement letter with the search firm, review of a proposed bonus plan for the Executive Director that Laura drafted, service on the Hiring Committee, and interviewing candidates for the position.

With the anticipated recommendation of a candidate to the Board of Directors, the next step will be the preparation of an employment contract and benefits package for the new Executive Director. Given the importance of this new position to USMS and the amount of compensation, I will work with a USMS member who specializes in employment law and who has offered her time and expertise to USMS on a pro bono (i.e. free) basis. As USMS and its resources grow and important matters such as this arise, I anticipate that there will be increased reliance on outsourced legal services in addition to the volunteer services of the USMS Legal Counsel.

XI FINA Masters World Championships

Most of the legal work for the upcoming XI FINA Masters World Championships has been arranged locally by the Organizing Committee. I did provide input on the liability release for the event, as the release preferred by USMS and the other Masters aquatic sports varied somewhat from that which FINA had proposed. I also prepared a speaker release for the Sports Medicine Lecture Series that will be held at the World Championships. By signing the release, speakers give permission for their lecture and accompanying materials to be used after the event.

Other Legal Matters

I continue to respond to requests from USMS committees, LMSCs, clubs, and event directors for advice on liability releases, insurance (for which I involve the USMS Insurance Coordinator and insur-

ance broker), potential grievances, and safety information. I recently had the opportunity to review model LMSC grievance procedures that were prepared by Mike Lemke and the Zone Committee. The process of registering or re-registering several USMS trademarks is underway, as factual information for the applications has been gathered (thanks to Meg Smath) and transmitted to the intellectual property attorney who has offered to perform registration services pro bono.

I am looking forward to continuing to serve USMS and its members and addressing challenging legal issues as the year progresses.

South Central Zone Director , Carolyn Boak

As South Central Zone Director, I participated in the January mid-year Board meeting and in national conference calls on various issues facing USMS. Currently, I am starting to serve on a subcommittee on national dues. Under the leadership of Mark Gill, I am contacting Masters coaches who have many fitness swimmers who have left USMS in order to ascertain how to better serve and attract these members. I have continued my participation in Gulf LMSC, encouraging clinics in our area. I was clinic director of a November clinic featuring Kerry O'Brien and am participating on the 2007 Masters National Committee in The Woodlands. I was the lead person in establishing a new zone award, the Jesse Coon Award. I continue to coach and swim and "keep my ear to the ground" on issues affecting USMS here in Texas.

National Office Administrator, Tracy Grilli

I've been staying busy with the same day-to-day activities opening mail, answering the phone and responding to e-mails. Participated in the mid year BOD meetings held at The Woodlands, TX. Worked with Leo Letendre, George Simon and the other members of the Registration On Line Task Force. Participated on the 3 information update conference calls with all LMSC Registrars. Handled the paper entries and entry verification for SC Nationals in Coral Springs. Handled the paper entries and assisted with the on line registration questions/problems for World Entries. Looking forward to Worlds at Stanford and Convention in Dearborn, MI.

USMS Database Administrator, Esther Lyman

*Matchmaker, Matchmaker,
Make me a match,
Find me a find,
catch me a catch
Matchmaker, Matchmaker
Look through your book,
And make me a perfect match*

--Sheldon Harnick (from Fiddler on the Roof)

With almost 87,000 permanent IDs assigned to members registering since 2003 or to "legacy" Top Ten or All-Americans posted on the web page, the task of making a correct match is more challenging than ever. We do not have a matchmaker, but we do have a freshly updated list – which of course is out of date the minute it is published, given the distributed nature of our business with 53 "intake points" for registration, plus soon also the online registration function.

Worse yet, we will have thousands of little matchmakers out there whose keyboard skills will hopefully better than some of their handwriting and who will not expect miracles with a small investment of their time and patience. We will, after all, need to verify their entry and payment.

As Leo Letendre has said, implementing this is not optional; there has been a demand for it for a long time. But how it is designed and functions is still a work in progress, a work to which all the LMSCs and their registrars and treasurers have been asked to, and will need to, have input. A series of Registration conference calls is being scheduled around the end of April/beg of May.

As of mid-April, we have booked 31,901 members with registration dates through April 9, or 74.6% of the 2005 year-end total of 42,787 (gross registrations). As always, it is hard to tell because of the transmittal lag, but it seems like we are running safely ahead of this time last year. Perhaps this will be the year we will reach 43,000, aided by Worlds publicity.

For those who are interested in the amount of competition within their age group, this is how the numbers break down for 2006 to date: (Net of external transfers and age calculated as of 12/31/2006, i.e. FINA age)

BORN	Women	Men	2006 YTD	Women	Men
1900-1919	37	56	93	39.8%	60.2%
1920-1929	228	337	565	40.4%	59.6%
1930-1939	497	901	1398	35.6%	64.4%
1940-1949	1306	2506	3812	34.3%	65.7%
1950-1959	3593	5045	8638	41.6%	58.4%
1960-1969	4321	5094	9415	45.9%	54.1%
1970-1979	3016	2724	5740	52.5%	47.5%
1980-1988	1283	778	2061	62.3%	37.7%
2006 YTD	14281	17441	31722	45.0%	55.0%

Or by age group (calculated as of 12/31/2006):

Year-end Age	Women	Men	2006 YTD	Women	Men
85+	65	99	164	39.6%	60.4%
80+	104	154	258	40.3%	59.7%
75+	168	297	465	36.1%	63.9%
70+	233	421	654	35.6%	64.4%
65+	352	645	997	35.3%	64.7%
60+	591	1155	1746	33.8%	66.2%
55+	1042	1843	2885	36.1%	63.9%
50+	1776	2486	4262	41.7%	58.3%
45+	2315	2958	5273	43.9%	56.1%
40+	2252	2617	4869	46.3%	53.7%
35+	1786	2056	3842	46.5%	53.5%
30+	1471	1311	2782	52.9%	47.1%
25+	1401	954	2355	59.5%	40.5%
18+	725	445	1170	62.0%	38.0%
2006 YTD	14281	17441	31722	45.0%	55.0%

If you are interested in breakdowns for your LMSC (or Zone), or how your numbers play out against other LMSCs, please just request additional details from Tracy or Esther. We now have electronic archives going back 12 years and can run the numbers from almost any perspective you might want across that period.

In fact, for those LMSCs seeking grants to build their membership, remember that the national office has detailed statistics available on your LMSC. For example, we can pinpoint by town within 3-digit zip code where you draw your members from. We did such a study recently to help a California club with hard numbers to take to their city council. We have this available ongoing over the past three years but can easily extend it to cover five or even ten years of look-see.

If you break your neck, if you have nothing to eat, if your house is on fire, then you got a problem. Everything else is inconvenience.
-Robert Fulghum

But inconveniences can get overwhelming at times. Since we began to control our own destiny with the magazine last year, we have found information on our members' changes of address much more readily available and more current. Most of the moves are with the college-bound, job-seeking, and nest-building crowd; we catch up to four changes a year for some. We do have our sunbirds and

snowbirds and newly retired, but nothing like in the numbers for the younger groups.

The good news is that Tracy has figured out how to get the address changes/problems in electronic format from the USPS thus saving money on not having the returned labels typed into a document -- with the attendant opportunity for errors. This USPS file is more readily shareable with the registrars and Esther is then able to import these changes into a template which adds the rest of the information for feeding into the main transaction files. Each record still has to be handled to verify the information and re-designate the 'current' record. Can't be avoided.

When I started in this job in 1999 and soon realized that some 80% of the business is consistently booked by May, I wondered what I would be doing the rest of the year. I found out: making changes and maintaining the archives and producing statistics -- pruning, tuning, and evaluating.

The following table shows the address-change activities over the past 3 full years; the increase in 2005 (not counting minor edits to fix an address) represents the availability of more information, not necessarily an increase in moves:

Life is a shipwreck but we must not forget to sing in the lifeboats.

-Voltaire

Year	Changes Y2003	Changes Y2004	Changes Y2005	Y2005 % by	Y2005 % cumulative Group	Y2003 Total Members	7004 Total Members	Y2005 Total Members
18+	141	92	522	11.0%	11.0%	2470	2363	2450
25+	261	178	1072	22.6%	33.7%	4220	3983	3937
30+	314	191	843	17.8%	51.5%	5291	4742	4525
35+	249	187	682	14.4%	65.9%	5927	5594	5633
40+	234	165	537	11.3%	77.2%	6930	6899	6803
45+	135	107	406	8.6%	85.8%	6136	6290	6521
50+	107	90	253	5.3%	91.1%	4412	4724	5037
55+	72	52	159	3.4%	94.5%	2745	3047	3222
60+	47	48	92	1.9%	96.4%	1676	1734	1885
65+	26	32	52	1.1%	97.5%	956	1012	1064
70+	33	28	57	1.2%	98.7%	745	738	713
75+	13	11	28	0.6%	99.3%	477	473	474
80+	14	6	17	0.4%	99.7%	275	289	289
85+	9	8	15	0.3%	100.0%	147	153	143
Total Changes	1655	1195	4735	11.0% overall		42407	42041	42696

Liaisons & Special Assignments

ASUA Representative, Jim Miller, MD

The action item for this year will be the selection of the next location of the Masters Pan American Games as well as the aquatic sports that will be included in the games. These games will be conducted in the Summer of 2007. I anticipate this information to be available following the XI FINA World Masters Championships.

Controller, Margaret Bayless

On-going routine activities, to include weekly check runs, monthly payroll review, monthly bank reconciliations, monthly financial statement preparations, various analysis, and quarterly budget spending report distributions continue without exception.

The 2006 budget has been finalized and uploaded into QuickBooks. It is also on the USMS website.

The 2005 final financial statements with commentary were submitted to the EC and Finance Committee on 2/22/06. The financials and supporting detail have been submitted to Clifton & Gunderson for the financial review and tax return preparation. The bulk of this work is expected to be completed by early May. It must be mostly complete in advance of the 5/15/06 tax filing deadline as USMS may be in a tax-paying position as a result of the SWIMMER advertising commissions. The goal is to have the final financial statements and tax returns completed and available for distribution and discussion at Convention.

Clifton & Gunderson is currently examining USMS's tax reporting requirements in three states: New Hampshire, Ohio and New York.

Initial input from a financial perspective has been provided to the On-Line registration committee by the Controller, Finance Chair and Treasurer. In addition to insuring that the process is adequately documented, internal controls are in place, and back-end reporting is fully developed, this group recommends that the appropriate cash is directed electronically to the LMSC's and to National as a part of the merchant transaction, rather than having all cash being directed to National and then being paid back to the LMSC's after reports are reviewed and analyzed. This approach puts the cash in the hands of the correct parties on a more timely basis and avoids the need for USMS to write monthly (or more frequent) checks to each LMSC after a reconciliation process has taken place. Providing input will be an on-going process as the specifications of this new initiative are developed over the next several months.

In the months leading up to convention, activities in addition to the day-to-day work and special projects include: working with the auditors to finalize the 2005 financial statements and tax returns, working with the Finance Committee to compile and review the 2007 budget information, and preparing a financial presentation for convention.

Convention Coordinator, Victor Buehler

What follows is what I have accomplished thus far this year for the next convention in Dearborn as well as how much of this year's budget has been utilized thus far.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

As you well know, we are still in the process of discussing what pool will be rented for the convention. I have been in steady contact with Skip Thompson about this and several other things: 1. Having someone from his LMSC at the April 22, 2006 meetings with USAS and the other organizations in Dearborn so that they will know the layout of the hospitality room and we can continue to research a pool and transportation if need be. 2. Providing his people with lists of items purchased for the hospitality room the past two years. This also includes suggestions on the number of volunteers need to man the room. 3. Ongoing discussions with Michael Heather on what to anticipate regarding the number of meeting rooms, sources for equipment such as video projectors, and the actual process for pay for such things as the pool rental, buses, and equipment for the meetings. 4. Review of all BOD and EC meeting minutes. 5. Compiling list of supplies and investigating how the last two convention hospitality rooms were manned.

Action items:

I have made arrangements to attend the meetings in Dearborn on April 22, 2006 at the recommendation of Penny Taylor and the recommendation of Michael Heather, although my attendance may not be necessary in future years. I have forwarded to Penny Taylor the USMS schedule of meetings and anticipated needs for setups and number of chairs for committee members and spectators based on the recommendations of the Executive Committee. I have forwarded back to Michael Heather and Meg Smath, Penny Taylor's concerns that we are over planning our needs and will resolve this issue in Dearborn in April.

I have booked my flight and made reservations thru Penny Taylor for a hotel room for two nights: 4/21 & 22/ 06 to attend the planning meetings in Dearborn with USA but have not yet added that to our expenditures until it occurs.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

Tasks ahead include but are not limited to: 1. Attending the meetings in Dearborn on April 21, 2006 and hopefully finalizing the USMS schedule and arrangement of meeting rooms. 2. Making final arrangements on equipment for various meetings, such as the coaches presentation and the house of delegates meetings. This will be done either with the assistance of the Hyatt Regency or with the help of Skip Thompson and/or his designee. 3. Finalizing the pool rental and times for the morning swims and the bus company to be utilized for transportation. There still remains the possibility that we will do something jointly with USA Swimming age group swimmers. 4. Providing Skip Thompson and his staff of volunteers all the information needed to man and supply the hospitality room as well as what his LMSC will be doing regarding either providing a

meal for the delegates one night or a lunch, optional, yet expected.

5. Finalizing my staff of delegate volunteers to continue the high quality of work and services provided during past conventions with the knowledgeable and able assistance of Debbie Cavanaugh, (primarily because it was her's and Micheal's idea I take this job on).
6. Continue to remain in touch and communicate with Michael Heather, Leo Letendre, Meg Smath, Debbie Cavanaugh, Skip Thompson, and Penny Taylor to ensure that no stones rest unturned and this convention meets everyone's needs or at least as close to this goal as humanly possible.

Insurance Coordinator, Colleen Ann Driscoll

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

- Successfully renewed all insurance programs. Responded to numerous questions regarding insurance coverages.
- Tasks for the months leading up to convention:
Continue to respond to questions from members.

ISHOF Liaison, June Krauser

I attended a meeting of the ISHOF Advisory Board on February 23rd. It was a pleasure to hear Bruce Wigo remark that after a year there is more cash than payables! March is Women's History Month. There is to be an Exhibition and Reception on March 22nd of Women's bathing suits and how many great women aquatic athletes have advanced Women's rights.

The International Swimming Hall of Fame Honors weekend will be May 11-14, 2006. Also, the USMS Nationals to be held at Coral Springs and the FINA Grand Prix Diving Championships to be held at Fort Lauderdale that same time period. On the 11th will be the FINA Grand Prix Diving Opening Ceremonies. On the 12th a luncheon with ISHOF awards and in the evening the Paragon Awards plus a few others. On the 13th it is designated Australia Day (50th Anniversary of the 1956 Olympic Games). Also, the 42nd

Annual ISHOF Honoree Induction Dinner will take place on the 13th at the Broward County Convention Center. There will be one Masters swimmer – Jane Asher GBR – being inducted into ISHOF. Jane has already been inducted into IMSHOF.

The 4th International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame Annual Honoree Induction Dinner will be held on Friday, August 4, 2006 at the home of Tod Spieker, Atherton, CA coinciding with the FINA World Masters Championships at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. Being inducted are Katherine Pelton USA, Rita Simonton USA, Lavelle Stoinoff USA, Drury Gallagher USA, Walter Pfeiffer USA, William Specht USA, Nancy Hunt Weiman – Synchro USA, Dr. Floyd Stauffer – Diving USA and Yoshihiko Osaki – Contributor JPN.

To obtain more information, sponsorships and prices for the various functions, please contact Meg Marvin at 954-474-7010 or E-mail: marvingardens840-at-comcast-dot-net

USMS Liaison the USA Swimming, Ted Haartz

The Board of Directors of United States Swimming has met twice since the 2005 annual Aquatics Convention; first in New York City in November and again in Colorado Springs, the 20th & 21st of January.

A major change at USA Swimming has been the hiring of Mark Schubert, head coach of swimming at the University of Southern California, to fill the newly created position of National Team Head Coach & General Manager. The recent departure of Everett Uchiyama, the then current National Team Director, allowed USA Swimming to rethink the scope of the National Team Director position and expand its importance and visibility in the international swimming community.

A major disappointment to USA Swimming and the other Olympic National Governing Bodies was the failure of the Board of Directors of the USOC to even consider discussing or entering into a task force feasibility study with the NCAA on what steps might be taken to sponsor or co-sponsor a charitable foundation to provide support at NCAA institutions that are dropping Olympic sports and thereby thinning the pipeline of Olympic caliber athletes for the future.

The next meeting of the USA Swimming board will be in Colorado Springs April 28 & 29, 2006

USMS Liaison to USA Triathlon, Cindy Hawkinson

Shannon Votruba of USA Triathlon contacted me at the beginning of the year. USAT is putting together 'club in a box' for their member clubs and wanted to include Masters swimming info along with any types of competition that might interest triathletes on the Masters swimming side of the world. I provided her a bit of info and also put her in contact with Bob Bruce, who gave her much more detailed info.

USMS Liaison to US Olympic Training Center, Hill Carrow

The USOC has just had its most successful Winter Olympic Games in history (in terms of medal count) outside the US with the completion of the 20th Winter Games in Torino, Italy. I attended the Games and was able to spend a few minutes at USA House in Torino with the USOC's top brass.

Typically each June, I travel to Colorado Springs to meet with USOC executives at their headquarters to discuss Masters Swimming and related topics. With the Worlds upcoming this summer, it should make for a compelling discussion. In addition, with a number of the NGB's having their headquarters in Colorado Springs, I am usually able to include some good Masters-related conversations with their executives as well.

I will report on this trip and other Olympic matters in my final report for the year prior to Convention.

USMS National Publication Editor, Bill Volckening

This year, USMS formed an Editorial Committee to oversee the planning and development of the magazine and web site. The committee has been very active and productive following the dynamic leadership of committee chair Lynn Hazlewood. Our publishers, Douglas Murphy Communications (DMC), have continued to provide an outstanding level service. With many additional projects, the daily workload has steadily increased. Organizational and planning activities for the magazine are now managed through the USMS Editorial Committee, and because of the new management

structure, details about this year's magazine activities may be found in the Editorial Committee report.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

Since September, we have published three issues of SWIMMER. As you can probably imagine, publishing a magazine involves a tremendous amount of work each day. Daily tasks involve a high-volume of e-mail communication. During the last year, the amount of daily communication about the magazine has steadily increased due to a high volume of reader response and detailed committee discussions. Committee discussion topics have ranged from policies and customer relations to the proposed membership survey.

Action items:

This year, the magazine staff was faced with several important topics concerning the magazine. These topics were discussed among members of the Editorial Committee and representatives from the publishers. Action items were assigned and completed through the Editorial Committee, and more information may be found in the committee report.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

Among the many activities leading up to the convention, we will publish three more issues of the magazine. We will also plan the 2007 Editorial Calendar during the Annual Planning meetings in late June at DMC Headquarters in Richmond, Virginia.

Webmaster/IT Director, Jim Matysek

Things may finally be approaching normalcy again (whatever that is) on the web development front. The release of the on line entry system for the 2006 World Championships has brought great relief to many, but has actually increased the pressure and work schedule a bit. Tracking down reported problems and answering questions about this complex tool has been a full-time job since the release. However, it IS working, as proven by over 1,000 entrants being processed within the first 2 weeks. The pace of incoming entries is only expected to increase as the June 3 entry deadline approaches. While we hope that daily support of the entry process will tail off in the near future, it would not surprise us if this project continues to consume near 100% of available time until some time after the entry period comes to a close. We are hoping that this will not be the case so that some other projects that have been suffering from a lack of attention can be moved forward.

Discussions and projects that have taken place since the last convention:

- Created the on line entry system for the 2006 FINA World Championships.
- Conducted on line entries for the 2006 USMS Short Course Nationals.
- Amidst the push to complete the on line entry system for Worlds, we suffered from several problems related to our aging web server. Beginning with a persistent mail flood attack that overloaded our server, we then proceeded to deal with a hard

drive failure on the server and difficulties getting the replacement hardware working, followed by persistent hacker attacks that ate up lots of time adapting and defending against them. We decided to move the schedule forward on replacing our web server hardware to reduce the possibility of suffering from further hardware failures during the busy on line entry period. While the upgrade to a new server was not without it's difficulties, we did manage to minimize down time during this transition. In addition to being MUCH faster, we've configured the new server with additional tools to enhance security and fight spam.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

- Complete the Worlds on line entry process and deliver the entries to the meet host. Provide on line event check-in services for the distance events.
- Publish all pre-convention materials on the web site.
- Support further development of web projects as time allows and as prioritized by the web management team.

Committees

Championship

Mark Moore, Chair;

Vice Chair, Jeff Roddin

Committee Members: Carolyn Boak, Debbie Cavanaugh, Jerry Clark, Leanne Crittenden, Kim Crouch, Paul Divan, Barry Fasbender, Mel Goldstein, Errol Graham, Heather Hagadorn, Robert Mitchell, Michael Moore, Steve Newman, Barbara Protzman, Sandi Rousseau, C.J. Rushman, Paul Smith, Diane Stowell, Lisa Watson, Jane A. Moore (AM), Mark Gill (ExO), Jim Matysek(ExO)

The Championship Committee's mission continues to serve in an advisory capacity to our national championship meet hosts. This committee shall help make the necessary recommendations and decisions that will enhance the quality of our championship meets. We will actively solicit and receive bid proposals, review bids and make recommendations to the House of Delegates regarding sites for national championship meets.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

National Championship Bid Package:

There was discussion about the current bid package. Several bidders have reported that the package is too detailed and gives the potential bidder a very negative feeling. The task force continues to look at the current bid package and suggest revisions to this committee.

National Meet Information in USMS Swimmer Publication:

USMS Swimmer changed the meet information format for the 2006 National Short Course Championships. Sandi Rousseau chaired the subcommittee that reviewed what was needed to be included in the meet information. Also, to be sure that National Championship information is submitted in a timely manner Sandi Rousseau will be the Championship Committee liaison to the Editorial Committee.

2006 SCY Nationals in Coral Springs, Florida:

The host is working with Mark Gill, meet liaison with on-line entries and will conduct the on site visit within the next few weeks. USMS experienced a problem/delay on posting the on-line entry/registration system on the USMS web site. The host had concerns about the delay and may ask for an extension in the deadline for on-line entries.

2007 SCY Nationals in Federal Way, Washington:

Sandi Rousseau, the meet liaison, is working with the meet host for this meet.

2007 LCM Nationals in Woodlands, Texas:

Mark Moore, the meet liaison, is working with the meet host for this meet.

2008 SCY and LCM Championship Bids:

Early bid packages were sent to Bakersfield, California and Mission Viejo, California for SCY. Also, bid packages were sent to Hawaii, Santa Clarita, California and Portland, Oregon. Jeff Roddin has sent out a letter to major facilities encouraging them to consider bidding in 2008 for either the SCY or LCM Championship.

LCM Qualifying Times:

The qualifying times for Long Course have always been much easier to achieve than those for Short Course. The primary goal of the NQTs has been to limit the size of nationals. An added benefit of NQTs is they provide a set of motivational time standards for all swimmers. 2005 LC we used 3 year average of 5th place + 11% from USMS TT. But, other meets have used 15%. Research continues with the subcommittee over National Qualifying Times.

Short Course Meters National Championship:

The committee is currently reviewing the possibility of having a combined SCM National Championship. Lisa Watson and Paul Smith are working with committee members on the idea of a "tied-together" meet with several Short Course (well established meets) held in different parts of the country with times consolidated.

2008 Bid Ambassadors:

Assign Bid Ambassadors to each potential bidder for 2008. They would help in developing the bid and presenting it at convention.

Rotation of Meet Schedules:

Meet Format Questionnaire Responses and Top Ten Swimmer Preferences will be considered when selecting the 3 meet schedules for the 2008-2010 rotation. A subcommittee has been formed and will give recommendations to the committee.

National Championship Referee Requirements:

A current review is needed regarding USA Swimming meet referee/officials requirements for our national championship meets. This committee will seek advice from the officials/rules committees for clarification on USA Swimming new policy.

Action items:

1. MSA to form a task force to look at the current bid package and suggest revisions to this committee.
2. Set up a subcommittee to discuss the possibility of a SCM National Championship Meet.
3. Set up a subcommittee to review and discuss current LC NQTs and make necessary recommendations to the committee.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

1. Rotation of Meet Schedules
2. Short Course Meters National Championship
3. LCM Qualifying Times
4. National Championship Bid Package
5. National Championship Meet Officials requirements

Coaches

Bob Bruce, Chair

Mo Chambers, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Lisa Bennett, Mike Burgess, Chuck Burr, Lee Carlson, Jim Clemmons, Bill Cleveland, Mike Collins, Steven Fair, Doug Garcia, Cindy Hawkinson, Emmett Hines, Jacki Hirsty, Kris Houchins, Wayne McCauley, Don Mehl, Eric Neilson, Ed Nessel, Dick Pitman, Janet Renner, Eric Shanks, Skip Thompson, Scott Williams, & Robert Zeitner, Mark Gill (ExO)

Report:

This Committee does most of its work in small subcommittees or project teams.

Ongoing projects:

- Clinics (Doug Garcia) – Doug continues to oversee both pool and open water mentor clinics. We have had fewer applications for clinics this year than we have had in recent years, so we are looking at different ways to promote this program that is particularly useful to small LMSCs.
- Olympic Training Center Camp (Nancy Ridout, Liaison to the Olympic Training Center) – This camp was cancelled this year. We would like to be involved in the discussion of the future of this or similar camps, in conjunction with the broader project of a national plan for clinic and camps (see below).
- National Coaches Conference (Mel Goldstein & Bob Bruce) –Working jointly with the American Swimming Coaches Association, we had a great conference in 2005, featuring...
- The USMS information booth—Mel Goldstein.
- Fifteen grants to cover registration fees to help Masters coaches attend this event.
- A panel discussion of Masters issues—Mel Goldstein, Kris Houchins, Scott Rabalais, & Bob Bruce, moderator.
- Six strong presentations on the specific Masters Track—Mel Goldstein, Charlie Houlihan, Kris Houchins, Paul Hutinger, Kerry O'Brien, & Karlyn Pipes-Neilsen.
- The Masters School, an ASCA certification school, held for the first time at the ASCA Clinic since 1999—Bob Bruce
- Social and networking events for masters coaches on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Presenters for the Masters Track and School at the 2006 National Coaches Conference have been selected, USMS booth space has been reserved, and 20 scholarship grants have been arranged & publicized for masters coaches.

- International (Bob Bruce) – We are working on the supporting the 2006 FINA World Masters Championships at Stanford, but have not yet decided upon the form our presence will take at the meet.
- On-Line Workout Posting (Bob Bruce) – Mo Chambers and Robert Strauss completed their posting years in December (four and one years respectively), while the coaching team of Kris Houchins & Mel Goldstein continues for 2006. Two new on-line posting coaches—Lia Oberstar, & Sue Welker—were also selected and are posting practices on the USMS website during 2006. This remains a popular and well-used program.
- On-Deck Coaching (Eric Shanks) – Eric has assumed leadership for this program, and will coordinate the on-deck coaches for the spring National Meet and the Convention practices. Eric assisted me in organizing the practices at the 2005 USAS Convention
- Coach-of-the-Year (Skip Thompson) – Skip continues to oversee the selection process, most of which will occur after the July 1 application deadline. We may also choose to broaden this project team's scope by adding ISHOF coach selection and the former-MACA Lifetime Achievement Award selection to the discussion.
- USMS Swimmer (Jacki Hirsty) – Jacki is leading the effort to broaden the group of active contributors and to develop content for this publication.
- Video Library (Emmett Hines) – Emmett continues to operate the video library, which will now purchase only titles in DVD format. The Committee is working on recommendations for additional titles for purchase.
- Book Library (Ed Nessel) – Ed continues to operate the book rental.
- Snooper Rental (Lee Carlson) – Lee continues to supervise snooper rental and refurbishing of the equipment.

Major Projects:

- Coaches Manual (Robert Zeitner & Wayne McCauley) – We are in the assembly stage of making this manual available primarily as an on-line resource to masters coaches. As we complete this project, I would like to use the materials to rework of the ASCA Masters Certification materials and process in succeeding years.
- Clinics and Camps – We are assembling a project team to develop a comprehensive national plan for clinic and camps.
- Triathlon (Cindy Hawkinson, Liaison to USA-Triathlon) – We continue to discuss avenues for cooperation between USMS and USA-Triathlon. I shared discussion notes earlier this year with Shannon Votruba of the USA-T staff about their “Program in a Box” project with an eye towards a similar program for new USMS local programs.
- LMSC Coaches Reps – We are assembling a project team to revive this dormant project in the coming year.

Communications
Hugh Moore, Chair

Ray Novitske, Vice Chair

Committee members: Rich Barkan, Connie Barrett, Chris Beardsley, Joanne Berven, Tom Boyd, Daniel Cox, Kelly Crandell, Mel Dyck, Susan Ehringer, Lynn Hazlewood, Anne LaBorwit, Raena Latina, Tom Lyndon, Jane Masters, Margot Pettijohn, Carl Saxton, Joshua Urdavin, Bekah Wright, Tracy Grilli, Jim Matysek, Bill Volckening, and Mark Gill (EC Liaison).

The committee has held two conference calls to discuss projects. This has proven to be a cost-effective means of communicating. I recommend that all committees hold periodic conference calls. The following sub-committees are active.

Web Audit. Ray led a team that audited the USMS website to document web content, update frequency and responsibility for the various pages on the site. The goal of the project is to ensure the accuracy and timeliness of maintenance of web content and recommend future development. Other team members included Dan Cox, Rich Barkan, and Chris Beardsley. The audit required scores of hours of work by the team. The results have been submitted to Lynn Hazlewood. The Editorial Committee will now take the lead on creation and implementation of a production schedule and management plan.

Communications Plan. Tom Lyndon is leading a team that is developing a plan for improving communications within USMS. Other team members include Connie Barrett, Ray Novitske and Margot Pettijohn. The team has circulated a first draft to the Communications Committee for comments. Recommendations, including processes for using email to communicate with USMS members, will be made to the Executive Committee.

Calendar of Events Coordinator. I will be working with LMSCs to develop a process to ensure that all sanctioned events are submitted to the calendar of events. I am also acting as the coordinator to make sure that all non-sanctioned events listed on the calendar are approved by the appropriate LMSC.

Meets Results Data Base. The Current Top Times project at USMS (found under the ‘Competition’ tab on the USMS home page: <http://www.usms.org/comp/toptimes.php>) is an attempt to record all swims performed by registered USMS swimmers in recognized and sanctioned meets in the US and abroad. It has been a viable project since 1998. Mel Dyck has been leading this project for the past few years. Under Mel's guidance the number of meets submitted has grown significantly. Mel and his team tracked down results from over 200 meets in 2005.

Newsletter of the Year. Kelly Crandell is organizing a team to select the Newsletter of the Year.

Communications Award. The Communications Committee is now accepting nominations for 2006 June Krauser USMS Communications Award. Presented annually, the award honors outstanding contribution to communications within USMS. To submit a nomination, write a one-page letter detailing why the candidate is deserving of the award and send it by July 1, to Hugh Moore 2102 N. Vassault, Tacoma, WA 98406 or e-mail swimmoore-at-comcast-dot-net.

Virtual Dual Meets. I am working on a proposal that will enable workout groups to compete against each other during their normal

practice sessions without traveling.

Surveys. Members of the Communication Committee have assisted Tom Boyd and the Editorial Committee to develop two surveys that will be submitted to USMS members.

Editorial Committee

Lynn Hazlewood, Chair

Maria Doelger Anderson, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Tom Boyd, Nadine Day, Betsy Durrant, Raena Latina, Jim Matysek (Webmaster, ex-officio), Bill Volckening (USMS Editor, ex-officio). Note: As of the writing of this report, Betsy Durrant has resigned from the committee to pursue other interests in USMS. Her replacement as representative from the Finance Committee has not yet been named.

The Editorial Committee is a new committee this year, so needs some introduction. This group grew out of the Editorial Board that was formed in January 2005 to manage the production of our new magazine USMS SWIMMER. The formal definition of our function is as follows: "The committee shall manage all USMS publishing activities and shall set publishing policy. The committee shall support the operations staff handling the separate elements of USMS publications. The committee shall work with representatives from the publishers of the USMS national publication on magazine-related activities (Article 507.2.4, USMS Rule Book)."

The major tasks for the Committee this year are to a) develop and administer publishing policies for USMS publications; b) manage the editorial, production and business activities for our national publication, USMS SWIMMER; and c) develop and see to the implementation of a plan that ensures the accuracy and timeliness of web content.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. USMS Publishing Policy Manual: Lynn Hazlewood put together the Publishing Policy manual based on decisions made by the Editorial Board in the previous year. This process was greatly facilitated by the work on policies done by Barbara Thomas, former Finance representative to the Editorial Board. The initial version of the manual largely covers the magazine policies. When complete, the manual will also include policies for web content management and production of other USMS publications. The manual was approved at the committee's December 12, 2005 meeting and forwarded to the BOD where it was approved with one amendment during the BOD mid-year meeting.
2. National Publication Production Management: The National Publication, USMS SWIMMER, is the only publication that the Committee directly manages. This function is a continuation of the Editorial Board's primary task. Members of the committee involved in magazine production are Bill Volckening, Raena Latina, Lynn Hazlewood and Jim Matysek. This includes the publication of the magazine as well as development of the magazine web site and archives at usmsswimmer.com.
3. National Publication Business Management: In February, Maria Doelger volunteered to take over the business and financial

management of the magazine. She will take the lead on business issues that come up which need our attention and develop financial management policies and budgets for SWIMMER. Maria is assisted by members of the Business Subcommittee, consisting of Nadine Day and the Finance Representative.

4. Member Survey: The Committee is part of a task force that includes members from the Editorial, Marketing and Communications committees. We are developing a major member survey project for USMS. The project is designed to help us accomplish several important goals. The first is to help us better understand our members so that we can better serve them. This is particularly important when it comes to the information we provide to our members in our publication, USMS SWIMMER, through the brochures we publish, and on our web site. The second goal is to help us better understand why different people join masters swimming so that we can help teams do a better job recruiting new members. The third goal, and perhaps the most ambitious, is to learn about the consumption habits of our members so that we can secure sponsorships and magazine advertisers that will help keep costs to members low because they will generate much needed revenue for USMS. Tom Boyd, a professional sports marketer and survey researcher, is lead investigator for the project. The first two surveys (SWIMMER survey and consumption habits survey) will be done simultaneously. We are on target to have respondents begin filling out their surveys by mid-April with a target of having results compiled by convention.
5. Web Content Management: The Committee has joined forces with the Communications Committee on a web content management. The project, when complete, will provide the following benefits for USMS web publishing activities: a) An optimized system for the acquisition of accurate information in proper form and on a timely basis for development and update of web content; b) A plan for management of the work force handling the development and update of web content; and c) A USMS Webmaster who is relieved of the tedium of managing volunteer personnel, allowing him to spend more time on development projects. We are coming to the end of the first phase of the project, which is a complete audit of web content. The audit is being accomplished by a subcommittee of Communications, ably led by Ray Novitske.

Action items

1. In a discussion between Editorial Committee members, SPM H&S Committee, DMC managing editor and USMS Legal Counsel, it was agreed that a sports medicine waiver would be permanently printed with the Healthy Swimmer department and attached to all true medical features and articles (reported at November 14, 2005 meeting).
2. Following discussions between Sports Publications and Mark Gill, it was agreed to leave the links to swiminfo.com on the USMS web site (reported at November 14, 2005 meeting).
3. Agreed to create editorial calendars and production schedules for magazine departments and web content, so contributors

- will have a guide and reminder for their offerings (November 14, 2005 meeting).
4. Agreed to move forward with the development of a membership survey (November 14, 2005 meeting).
 5. Agreed to move forward with the development of an audit of web content in cooperation with the Communications Committee (November 14, 2005 meeting).
 6. Appointment of Nadine Day to take minutes during meetings (November 14, 2005 meeting).
 7. Agreed to set up better communications with USMS leaders for customer service purposes and collection of information for SWIMMER departments (November 14, 2005 meeting).
 8. Approval of initial version of Publishing Policy Manual (December 12, 2005 meeting).
 9. Approval of price increase for non-member foreign subscribers to \$48 (reported in February 6, 2006 meeting).
 10. Assignment of Maria Doelger to manage the business and financial aspects of USMS SWIMMER (reported in February 6, 2006 meeting).
 11. Agreed to shift the production schedule for the Mar/Apr issue five days to allow registration to stay open until January 31 (reported in February 6, 2006 meeting).
 12. Agreed that, because of financial considerations, only departments and features will be extracted from the full magazine to post in the archives. Individual articles will be extracted only on an as-needed basis (reported in February 6, 2006 meeting).
 13. Appointed a Business Subcommittee to assist Maria (February 6, 2006 meeting).
 14. Agreed to contact all USMS leaders as early as possible to solicit ideas for annual planning (February 6, 2006 meeting).
 15. Agreement to divide the member survey into three parts: 1) SWIMMER, 2) Marketing & Consumption and 3) Web and do the first two surveys simultaneously. The Web survey will be put off until the subject can be more closely examined (March 3, 2006 meeting).
 16. Set date for SWIMMER annual planning to June 28, 2006 (reported at March 3, 2006 meeting).
 17. After discussion with web staff and DMC, agreed that PDFs posted on our web site shall be password protected and limited to low resolution (150 dpi) printing (March 3, 2006 meeting).
 18. In compliance with requests from the USPS, we agreed to put \$8 per member cost in the SWIMMER masthead and remove the \$3.95 price from the cover (March 3, 2006 meeting).
 19. Agreed to have the Business Subcommittee study magazine production timelines, the ramifications of publishing LMSC newsletters in the magazine, financial issues related to services SWIMMER provides for other cost centers, and financial reporting on SWIMMER finances and make recommendations following annual planning (March 3, 2006 meeting).

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

Tasks for the months leading up to convention will consist of continuing the tasks already started.

1. Publications Policy Manual: Develop business policies for SWIMMER and create policies for web content management.
2. SWIMMER Production Management, Business Planning and archives development
3. SWIMMER Annual Planning: Annual planning will take place on June 28. This will include planning for the 2007 production year and long-range planning for the development of the magazine.
4. Member Survey: Completion of the first two surveys by convention.
5. Web Content Management: Following the completion of the web audit, an editorial calendar and production schedule will be created for the web site. We will also recruit a manager for this project. Until the full process is implemented, we will work to facilitate the resolution of any outstanding issues that cannot wait.

Finance

Jeff Moxie, Chair

Sarah Welch, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Joanie Campbell, Doug Church, Ralph Davis, David Ross, Elyce Dilworth, Phil Dodson, Betsy Durant, Jeanne Ensign, Dan Gruender, Conrad Johnson, Lucy Johnson, Fred Nellis, Karla Reese, Anna Lea Roof, Barbara Thomas, Kris Wingenroth, Margaret Bayless (ExO), Tom Boak (ExO), Colleen Driscoll (ExO)

The Finance Committee monitors the financial results of USMS on a monthly basis. In addition, it has considered four over-budget requests since Convention. The first two were from Mel Goldstein related to adjustments for USMS' sponsor activity. Mark Gill also requested funds to begin a USMS Survey Research Project, which was not contemplated when the 2006 budget was approved. The last request was for the cost of luggage tags, which was excluded from the budget, used for purposes of marketing both the FINA Worlds and USMS. All of the over-budget requests were approved by the Finance Committee and totaled (for all four) \$9,236.

The Finance Committee continues to work on several projects. The task force on compensation is working at levels of salaries/consulting fees for employees and contractors. We are also in the process completing a major rewrite of FOG to streamline our financial operation and reflect the governance changes at USMS. Members of the Committee are also actively involved in reviewing USMS' investment policy as well as in the implementation of online registration.

Fitness Committee

Jani Sutherland, Chair

Vice Chair, Marcia Anziano

The Virtual Swim to Worlds has started, with very low participation. The Virtual Swim Series in general has very few participants and that will be an action item at our meeting at convention to determine whether or not to continue it.

Articles for the Fitness website are current and we have enough thru August. Articles are currently being solicited by the Fitness Vice Chair.

The other Fitness Committee projects, the Check Off Challenge and the 30 Minute Swim are underway. The Check Off Challenge extended the deadline to enter to Feb. 28 as the event was so popular (usual deadline is end of January). The 30 Minute Swim is a year long event.

History & Archives

Barbara Dunbar, Chair

Meeagan Wilson, Vice Chair

Committee Members: John Bauman, Marcia Cleveland, John Daily, Sally Dillon, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Carl House, Cris Meier-Windes, Danielle Ogier, Gail Roper, Dennis Wilson, Mark Gill (ExO)

Committee activities since the 2005 Convention:

The History & Archives Committee continues to work on its ongoing projects including stories, oral histories, visual images, and collection of 1972-1992 Top Ten Errata/Corrections for conversion to electronic files. Archive research work continues on the USMS history project, locating data and answers to inquiries from other USMS committees, and working to convert some paper documents and data into electronically archived files.

H&A research includes follow up regarding the problems of swimmers with duplicate USMS identification numbers (IDs) in the USMS on-line database and those whose USMS IDs have been changed or reassigned or are missing or incorrect in the USMS on-line database. H&A is very concerned about the ID problem, since swimmers are linked to top ten, stories, awards, All American lists, etc. on the USMS web site via their permanent ID. Changes, omissions, errors, and duplications in IDs cause problems.

In October, we began to check various written items on the H&A pages. Committee members have reviewed 304 stories and checked for link problems, typographical errors, misidentified swimmers, links to the wrong swimmer (similar or same name, but not the right swimmer), and re-assigned IDs. A number of typos, content clarifications, invalid or incorrect links, and misidentified swimmers were found and are being corrected. Most photo links are invalid or missing because the H&A photo gallery has not been incorporated into the H&A pages.

Of great concern is the finding that the permanent IDs of ten (10) of the story subjects have been reassigned to other recently registered swimmers. The H&A stories list shows the names of the recently registered swimmer who received the duplicate, previously assigned IDs while the stories on the linked pages are about the original subjects. The older, "legacy" swimmer is assigned a new ID by the USMS registrar which has yet to be added to the on-line

database by the webmaster. H&A does not have the ability to fix this problem or to update the on-line database. Additional problems with reassigned IDs were identified within other stories. Discrepancies due to ID problems were also identified on the top ten lists and swimmer information pages. Committee members feel that the ID problems need to be corrected and solved before on-line registration is implemented.

In December, the original USMS Registration Files for registration years 1986 -1993 were copied. These documents are being converted to electronic files by committee member John Bauman. It is a long, labor intensive job requiring extreme care and meticulous proofing.

H&A continues to await completion of several Web Projects which have been "in the pipeline" since 12/31/02 and which will enable the committee to add and update images and other historical and archived data and documents. Projects on the existing list have been sidetracked by others deemed more urgent or important and are overdue for completion. Committee members have expressed concern about the slow progress, quality control, and prioritization issues. H&A awaits an improvement of navigational aids on the stories pages as well.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention

H&A tasks for the upcoming months include the following: 1) continue to review, edit, update, collect, and add stories and oral histories; 2) identify and continue discussion regarding ID problems; 3) continue the conversion of the 1986-1993 registration documents to electronic files; 4) monitor the H&A web projects and the conversion and migration of remaining H&A pages to the USMS web site; 5) respond to research archive requests; 6) continue to locate and collect 1972-1992 top tens errata and correction documents and convert them into electronic files; 7) follow up on the conversion of 1972-1992 Top Tens to electronic files; and 8) work on other ongoing projects.

International

Mary Polhmann, Chair

Anthony Thompson, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Peggy Buchanan, Dale Finch, Sean Fitzgerald, June Krauser, Wayne McCauley, Nancy Miller, Michael Moore, Myriam Pero, Sandi Rousseau, Shannon Sullivan, Barbara Thomas, Karol Welling, Phillip Whitten, Mark Wussler, Nancy Ridout (FINA Liaison), Jim Miller, M.D. (ASUA Liaison)

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

Various members of the International Committee have been involved in the following discussions and projects:

- Comparison of FINA Masters and USMS rules in preparation for the 2006 FINA Masters World Championship.
- Discussions concerning LATyCAR (Swimming Federations of Latin America and the Caribbean) and WAMO (World Aquatic Masters Organization) and possible FINA sanctions against these organizations.

- Updates to our international contacts listing. We have requested that the USMS web listing of international contacts be updated to be consistent with the more up-to-date information that we have accumulated.
- Development of a listing of visa requirements for persons interested in entering FINA Masters Worlds.
- Converted LCM qualifying times for FINA World Masters Championships to approximate SCY times, providing an unofficial guideline for individuals who don't have long course times. Mark Gill has incorporated this into the Hytek Meet Manager program for use at SCY meets so that results indicate which times would qualify for FINA Masters Worlds. Mark will make this available to any meet director who wishes to use it.
- Promotion of the FINA Masters Worlds is ongoing at LMSC meets throughout the US and was promoted at the All Americas meet in Sao Paulo.
- Contacted CONSANAT (South American Federations) Masters Committee Officials and Masters Officials from other countries to notify of Michael Moore's visit during South American Championship in Santiago.
- All Spanish questions generated regarding FINA Masters Worlds have been answered.
- At CONSANAT Meeting in Medellin, copies of the Q&A in Spanish were distributed to Federation Presidents.
- * Initiation of a new project: "USMS Guide to International Swimming, Where/When/Who" to include all sorts of travel information. The expertise of our committee will be called upon in the development of this booklet.

Action items:

- Offer our assistance to the Impact Task Force in their efforts to maximize the impact of the XI FINA World Masters upon all Masters aquatic sports in the United States, including contributions we might be able to make in the proposed DVD to be videographed at the FINA World Masters Championships.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

Assist the meet hosts with various aspects of the FINA World Masters Championship. Currently, we are helping to test the Beta of the online entry.

We hope to contribute to the work of the Impact Task Force. The DVD that is proposed should be beneficial for future Masters International competitions.

Legislation

Sean Fitzgerald, Chair

Jennifer Parks, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Joan Alexander, Marcia Anziano, Daniel Cox, Barbara Delanois, Susan Ehringer, Marilyn Fink, Arni Litt (unable to attend convention), Marcia Macantonio, Jane Masters, Chris McGriffin, Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Steve Peterson, Jon Steiner, Erin Sullivan, Meegan Wilson, Kathy Casey (Ex-O)

2006 is an off year for the legislation committee. Things have been going slowly but very well so far.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

The only discussion so far has been to contact everyone and get their commitment to the committee.

Action items:

Answered various emails requiring legislation:

- Can a sanction be given to an entity other than a club or LMSC? – yes, as long as they follow all the rules of the sanction.
- Can a USA Swimmer member swim at a USMS Open water event? – only if co-sanctioned by USA Swimming
- Verified Sanctions section of the LMSC Handbook.
- Do there need to be two CERTIFIED officials at a sanctioned meet? – No, only one needs to be certified. (ultimately answered by Rules).

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

We will be codifying online meet entry details. Nothing else has come up yet. I do expect things to arrive as the legislation deadline for the Annual Meeting nears.

Long Distance

Marcia Cleveland, Chair

Marcia Benjamin, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Bob Bruce, Laura Colette, Peter Crumbine, Susan Ehringer (Ex-officio), Heather Hagadorn, Pam Himstreet, Bruce Hopson, Laura Koch, Leo Letendre (Ex-officio), Judy Michel (Associate), Randy Nutt, Danielle Ogier, Jennie Quill (Associate), Janet Renner, Steve Schofield, Dick Sidner, Tom Spence

(Associate) Ann Svenson, Paul Wrangell (Associate), Jill Wright, Robert Zeitner

The Long Distance Committee is an active committee year-round. Frequent email correspondence is circulated amongst the committee and members are both asked and sought out to participate often. Monthly conference calls with the VP of National Operations, Leo Letendre, are helpful in keeping us abreast of what other committees are doing. Former Chair, Peter Crumbine, as well as Leo, are copied on each and every correspondence issued so that they can offer guidance and support whenever necessary, and to keep them up on what the LDC is doing.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

1. The Long Distance Committee has been active with finalizing seven 2006 LD National Championship Entry Forms, covering nine events. First-time committee members Heather Hagadorn

and Laura Koch immediately got up to speed on the editing process necessary and they have been instrumental in seeing this process through to completion.

2. Due to factors outside the control of both the LDC and the event host, OHIO Masters, the 2006 OHP was not able to have an on-line entry. At the 2005 Convention, the USMS Webmaster indicated that USMS would be able to take the program already developed by OHIO Masters and finish it but USMS was unable to deliver. Despite this major setback, Leo Letendre gave meet director, Laura Kessler, the program he developed over 10 years ago and Laura was able to get the job done within the parameters of the "official" deadline. Due to the major issues that developed during January 2006, OHIO had already been granted a two week extension. The fact that this host club delivered the results before the deadline is a testament to the hard work of OHIO Masters and Leo's program.
3. USMS Swimmer covered all 10 USMS LD Championship Events. This was great exposure for the LD Committee! From the editorial coverage in the first two issues of 2006, this editorial support continues! The most recent March/April issue features a major section on OW swimming written by committee member, Bob Bruce. In addition to this coverage, there are also two smaller sections of LD coverage in this same issue.
4. The OW Manual has been updated and approved, after 2 years of work. Several LDC members made excellent contributions.
5. Randy Nutt and Ann Svenson are in the process of updating and expanding the LD Safety Manual. They are contacting each of the OW event directors for the past several years plus several triathlon directors, and bringing together all the contributed safety ideas into a single source.
6. In the Breaking New Ground department, the LDC worked with Patty Powis Miller to develop the first on-line OW entry which includes the correct USMS liability.
7. The 2008 Bid Packets were emailed at the end of January 2006.
8. It has been brought to the attention of the LD Chair that there is a great, protected spot in Maine for anyone interested in serious OW training.
9. Growth of LD Events during the past 3 years:

Action items:

Year	OHP	5/10/K Postal	3/6000 Postal	2 Mile Cable	1-3 Mile OW	1 Mile OW	3-6 Mile OW	6+ Mile OW	Total
2003	2236	190	388	89	66	134	119	41	3263
2004	2276	207	349	86	105	94	67	97	3294
2005	2102	227	337	100	142	116	305	65	3394

1. Results for LD Championship Events will be accepted when they are in the form stated in the Championship Contract. (This enables the compilation of All-Star results and All-American results much easier.)

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

1. Because of the time consuming procedure of proofing the National Championship Entry Forms, the development of a standardized entry form is one of our front running projects.
2. Randy and Ann have also raised the issue of issuing one standard swimming liability which would also include an open water "warning", explaining to competitors the foreseen and unforeseen potential hazards of an open water event.
3. Electronic Timing has now become a welcome addition to many OW events and the LDC needs to incorporate this element into the USMS Rules.
4. As the 2008 Bid Forms are received, they will be summarized on a spreadsheet so that on-line discussions may begin between LDC members.
5. The 3000/6000 Yard Postal Championship, to be held this fall, the LDC will be implementing a new club scoring system which allows ALL participants to contribute to the point total of their club.
6. Steve Schofield's name was omitted from the 2006 USMS Rule Book as part of the LDC. Steve is one of our long time LDC members and very much a part of the committee.
7. The committee is now looking at the Championship Guidelines, Championship Forms, and Championship Contracts to see what/where revisions and updates need to be made.
8. Since the 2006 Convention will allow revisions to the LD Rules, the next few months of our committee work will focus on revising and updating the USMS Rule Book, Section 300

Marketing

Connie Barrett, Chair

Tom Boyd, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Andrew Bate, Mike Burgess, Rich Burns, Joanie Campbell, Bill Cleveland, Randy Crutchfield, Nadine Day, Susan Ehringer, Doug Garcia, Mel Goldstein, Tom Hindle, Tom Lyndon, Lind Mc Cowan, Chris McGiffin, Ray Novitske, Dave Oplinger, Myriam Pero, John Smith

The Marketing committee's mission is to support membership growth and Guide USMS public image and support USMS Core Objectives of building, educating and servicing.

Discussions since the last convention:

2006 FINA World Games at Stanford:

1. Discussion regarding utilizing a USMS branded booth space in the vendor area of World games.

Committee Recommendations: Booth would not be the best use of our committee resources. If we are required to use it, ideas have developed to use it as press release assistance to USMS swimmers and for various media contacts, if any. Various giveaways and merchandizing was discussed, but decided against in light of possible conflicts with the meet sponsor and USMS logo merchandise Licensees.

2. Discussion regarding videography and national media exposure of the world games.

Committee Recommendations: None. Discussion seized due to lack of committee response.

New Discussions and efforts:

1. Development of short, mid and long term strategic marketing plan to support USMS growth. On-going effort. Initial outline is 80% complete.
2. Assistance with USMS membership survey prepared by Tom Boyd. The Idea was conceived during the convention as a part of the research needed for the strategic marketing plan development. Upon several conversations with Tom Boyd, Mike Heather and input from the EC, the EC took the lead on this project. Marketing committee was able to provide very limited input.
3. Committee continues to support attendance to various trade events that promote USMS with Collegiate and various community athletic organizations.
4. Interaction with the Planning committee secured in order to synchronize forward planning and membership growth efforts.
5. Yearly USMS Planner printed.

2005 Action Plan Progress Update:

2005 Marketing Goals:

1. Increase awareness of USMS to potential member and influencer audiences.
2. Increase USMS membership by 5 percent annually.
3. Improve internal communications and provide services to USMS members.
4. Communicate the message of swimming for life consistently to all USMS audiences both internal and external.
5. Create revenue producing opportunities and attract financial support.

Marketing Goal 1 Increase Awareness of USMS to potential members, influence and inform member audiences.

Action Item 1.1

Define all potential members audiences.

Responsible: Marketing Committee

Deadline: September 1, 2005

2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee. To be consolidated with the strategic plan.

Action Item: 1.2

Create awareness of USMS among aquatic directors at all colleges and universities with available pool facilities.

Responsible: Nadine Day, Marketing and Communications Committees

Deadline: September 1, 2006

2006 Mid-year Update: On-going attendance to organization events utilizing USMS Booth Display and various giveaways. Committee Members active: Nadine Day, Mel Goldstein and periodic involvement of several others.

Action Item: 1.3

Educate swim coaches at USA Swimming Clubs on the financial benefits of including a masters swimming program as part of their existing program.

Responsible: Marketing and Coaches Committees, USA Liaison

Deadline: September 1, 2006

2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee. To be consolidated with the strategic plan.

Action Item 1.4

Educate and create awareness of masters swimming to facility directors that do not have masters programs.

Responsible:

Deadline: September 1, 2006

2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee. To be consolidated with the strategic plan.

Action Item 1.5

Educate the leadership and/or members of other swimming organizations about the benefits of USMS, including: USA Triathlon, YMCA, American Red Cross, National Senior Games, International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics, National Recreation and Parks Association Aquatic Branch, USA Water Polo, USA Swimming, USA Synchronized Swimming, USA Diving
Responsible: Organization Liaisons, USMS Executive Committee
Deadline: September 1, 2006
2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee. To be consolidated with the strategic plan.

Action Item 1.5

Develop a graphic identity system and branding elements and tagline for a consistent approach to all USMS communications. (see item 3.2)
Responsible: Doug Garcia
2006 Mid-year Update: Doug Garcia has been designated as the art direction lead for USMS logo and various image promoting materials.

Marketing Goal 2 Increase USMS membership by 5 percent annually

Action Item 2.1

Provide a variety of tools for USMS Clubs and LMSCs to grow their membership. Such tools would include assistance with starting new clubs, development of recruiting plans, and producing marketing and recruiting materials.
Responsible: Ray Novitske coordinating this effort Assisted by Randy Crutchfield.
Deadline: September 1, 2006
2006 Mid-year Update: Reviewing existing club mentoring information and new club package. Effort 40% complete.

Action Item 2.2

Educate coaches, clubs and teams on the need to grow their programs. Provide the tools needed to help groups manage their programs and workouts to increase capacity. Help teams without coaching to develop on deck coaches.
Responsible: ?
Deadline: September 1, 2006
2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee. To be consolidated with the strategic plan.

Action Item 2.3

Provide programs of value and interest to help retain general membership at the local level.
Responsible:
Deadline: September 1, 2006
2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee. To be consolidated with the strategic plan.

Action Item 2.4

Target the 18-24 age group swimmers, particularly USA Swimming participants that switching to USMS after turning 18 is the next progression in swimming.
Responsible: Volunteer Needed
Deadline: September 1, 2006
2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee.. To be consolidated with the strategic plan.

Action Item 2.5

Publicize and reward LMSCs that increase their membership by the greatest percentage on an annual basis.
Responsible: Myriam Pero
Deadline: May 15
2006 Mid-year Update: Not known, unable to get feedback.

Action Item 2.8

Develop a list of benefits and messages to be used reasonably consistently in all USMS Marketing materials across all mediums.
Responsible:
Deadline: September 1, 2005
2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee.

Action Item 2.9

Establish a membership drive month(s) for both recruiting and renewing membership.
Responsible:
Deadline: September 1, 2005
2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee.

Action Item 2.10

Utilize our USMS display at major aquatic conference events.
Responsible: Mel Goldstein
Deadline: On going
2006 Mid-year Update: Efforts on going, by Mel Goldstein, Nadine Day and periodic involvement of several other committee members.

Marketing Goal 3 Improve internal communications and provide valuable services to USMS members.

Action Item 3.1

Provide consistent and reliable information about swimming technique and fitness issues through USMS owned and controlled media such as the USMS Web site, and USMS Swimmer magazine.
Responsible:
Deadline: On going
2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee.. To be consolidated with the strategic

plan.

Action Item 3.2

Develop a graphic identity system and educate LMSCs, clubs and teams on the benefit of consistent use of the USMS logo.

Responsible:

Deadline: on hold

Action Item 3.3

Provide organizational training and support to LMSC's and Clubs through the use of the LMSC Handbook, USMS Rule book, and the USMS Web site.

Responsible:

Deadline: September 1, 2006

2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee.

Action Item 3.4

Develop a consistent editorial and graphic style—across a variety of mediums—for communicating to internal and external audiences. The style should be marketing focused, rather than a internal rule book type focus.

Responsible: ?

Deadline: ?

2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee.

Marketing Goal 4 Communicate the message of swimming for life consistently to all USMS audiences both internal and external.

Action Item 4.1

Educate members on the value of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through swimming.

Responsible:

Deadline: on going

2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee.

Action Item 4.2

Develop and implement and promote a fitness event every month. Recognize fitness swimmers on the USMS Web site and in USMS Swimmer magazine.

Responsible: ?

Deadline: September 1, 2006

2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee.

Action 4.3

Promote the Coached written workouts on the USMS Web site, and make it available for members only—another benefit of membership.

Responsible:

Deadline: January 1, 2007

2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volun-

teers within the committee.

Marketing Goal 5 Create revenue producing opportunities and attract financial support

Action Item 5.1

Work with the USMS Sponsor Liason to develop additional sponsorship opportunities.

Responsible:

Deadline: on going

2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee.

Action Item 5.2

Work with LMSC newsletter editors to promote USMS Sponsors within LMSC newsletters.

Responsible:

Deadline: September 1, 2005

2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee.

Action Item 5.3

Develop a series of three annual USMS Clinics to be held at locations throughout the country. Clinics to be run by the coaches committee and will pull coaches from all over the country. Videotaping of all participants to be provided. Participants will be and allowed to utilize one event registration.

Responsible:

Deadline: First clinic to be held in 2006

2006 Mid-year Update: No progress due to lack of interest or volunteers within the committee.

Officials

Edward Saltzman, Chair

David Diehl, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Charlie Cockrell; Judy Gillies; Marie-Pierre Graf; Ted Haartz; Jan Kavadas; Mike Lemke; Pat Lundsford; Eric Nordlund; Steve Schofield; Pete Schwenker; Joan Smith; Dennis Wilson

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

- Re-visit USMS – USA relationship as it relates to the new Official's National Certification process and our USMS National Championships
- Define the roles and responsibilities associated with the Official's Committee – National Championship Liaison role and create a more formal process for reporting and feedback
- Work with the meet organization (Coral Springs) for the USMS SCY National Championship to advertise and attract officials to staff the meet
- Work with the organizing committee for the FINA Masters World Championships to define official staffing needs and help them recruit and fill those positions

Action items:

- Work with the various National Governing Bodies to ensure that appropriate training and certification standards and opportunities exist for officials at USMS sanctioned meets.
- Work to improve the relationships between USMS and the various NGB to ensure the same level of cooperation and reciprocity occurs across the country – seems to vary by LMSC or region.
- Develop policies for FINA certification of USMS officials to officiate at World Championships and other FINA sanctioned meets. (Work with the International Committee to develop an understanding of requirements for other international meets)
- Improve communications across the officials committee – develop a newsletter that can be used as a means to communicate and distribute information to the USMS official's body. Gain acceptance and participation from among the committee members so that it can be put out at a regular interval without over taxing the official's chairman.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

- Finalize the National Championship Liaison process.
- Finalize understanding of the new National Championship Certification process and its effects on USMS National Championship meets.
- Develop a list of all the NGB Official's Chairs and establish an active dialogue outside the Our Kids Initiative.

Planning

Jim Wheeler, Chair

Lucy Johnson, Vice Chair

Committee Members: Joan Alexander, Vicki Buccino, Gordon Gillin, Kelly Harkins, Linda McCowan, Nancy Miller, Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Mark Murphy, Carl Saxton, Joy Stover, Erin Sullivan

The Planning Committee has focused its efforts in three areas; developing interpretations of the USMS mission statement and our core objectives and gathering data to determine the level to which the organization is meeting these desired outcomes, examining the work of all committees within the organization to determine the direction of the volunteer efforts and if they are in-line with the mission and core objectives, and designing a proposal for a "Local Assistance and Development Program" that would support the development and growth of masters swimming in communities nationwide.

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

Sub committees have been developed and each one has been assigned one of the above tasks. The "Mission and Core Objectives" sub committee is defining/interpreting these items, they will be gathering data and using the results of the marketing study to determine the level of success USMS has achieved in meeting its mission and objectives. The "Committee Work Tasks" sub committee will be using the data from these mid-year reports to develop a matrix of committee work and projects then examining how these projects fit into our stated mission and core objectives. The "Local Assistance

and Development" sub committee is in the final stages of the development of an outline for a program that would provide volunteer and fiscal resources to local work out groups, teams, LMSC's and agencies that would benefit from assistance from USMS.

Action items:

There are no action items at this time.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

1. The "Mission and Core Objectives" sub committee will be completing their study and bringing forward potential recommended changes to the mission statement and core objectives.
2. The "Committee Work Tasks" sub committee will be developing a final matrix of committee work and giving it to the "Mission and Core Objectives" sub committee for incorporation into their final product.
3. The "Local Assistance and Development" sub committee will finish their draft program and give it to the Board of Directors for feedback. Upon receipt of feedback from the BOD, the planning committee will finalize the program and request funding and volunteers at the annual convention.

Recognition and Awards

Kelly Crandell, Chair

Hill Carrow, Vice Chair

Committee members: Committee members: Andrew Bate, Betsy Durrant, Bill Tingley, Carolyn Boak, Cindy Baxter, Dan Gruender, Edie Gruender, Errol Graham, F.H. Ted Haartz, Gail Dummer, Hill Carrow, Hugh & Jane (MD) Moore, Jack Buchanan, Jack Geoghegan, Jim Miller, MD, June Krauser, Kathy Casey, Leo Letendre, Mary Lee Watson, Mel Goldstein, Mike Laux, Nancy Ridout, Paul Hutinger, Richard & Joan Smith, Sandi Rousseau, Steven Fair, Suzanne Rague, Tom Boak, Trisha Commons, Walt Reid, Mark Gill.

The committee has:

1. Updated the Awards web site, updated the historical lists of award winners, and will continue to update the awards site.
2. Reviewed and approved the USMS Club of the Year Award, which has been posted to the Awards webpage.
3. Continued to work on brief narratives of the reasons each Ransom J. Arthur recipient won the award.
4. Approved the procedures and guidelines for submitting proposals to USMS for new awards.
5. Published articles in Streamlines for the Ransom J. Arthur Award and the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award. Club of the Year Nomination form and information are available at www.usms.org/admin/awards.
6. Conducted the nomination process for the Ransom J. Arthur Award and is in the process of selecting the winner, and the nominees are: Sally Dillon, Barry Fasbender and Edward Nessel

Action Items

1. Review nominations for and select the 2006 Ransom J. Arthur Award winner.

2. Arrange for a ceremony to announce this year's Ransom J. Arthur Award winner at Short Course Nationals in Coral Springs, FL.
3. Arrange for selection committees to compile and evaluate eligible nominees for the Club of the Year Award.
4. Review nominations for and select the 2006 USMS Club of the Year Award winner.
5. Discuss criteria for selecting nominees to the Pioneers and Contributors for The International Swimming Hall of Fame.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention

1. Discuss criteria for selecting nominees to the Pioneers and Contributors for The International Swimming Hall of Fame.
2. Continue to update the web site.
3. Continue to research narratives about Ransom J. Arthur Award winners and collect pictures of each winner to be posted on the web site.
4. Solicit nominations for and select winners for the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award and prepare the presentation for Convention.

Records & Tabulation

Mary Beth Windrath, Chair
Ed Tsuzuki, Vice Chair

Committee members: John Bauman, Vicki Buccino, Trisha Commons, Barbara Dunbar, Laszlo Eger, Mary Field, Milton French, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Bruce Hopson, Carl House, Margie Hutinger, Ginger Pierson, Walt Reid, Nancy Ridout, Ed Saltzman, Joan Smith, Mary Sweat, Dennis Tesch, Karen Tucker, Julie Heather (EC Liaison)

Committee Activities

Top-Ten Tabulations for 2005 Long-Course Meters and 2005 Short-Course Meters were sent to the printer. LCM has been published and SCM will soon be published.

The 2005 All-American tabulation was prepared and sent to the National Office for publishing. All Stars were included. The All Americans and All Stars were finalized on the website.

NQT tabulations were sent to the Championship Committee.

The 2005 Relay All-American tabulation was prepared and sent to all Committee Members, Top-Ten Recorders and to all the Clubs that were listed on the tabulation.

The Records and Tabulation section of the LMSC Handbook was updated and revised to hopefully make the information more clear.

Walt Reid continues to process all record applications and supplies the record information that is included in the Top-Ten Publications. Ed Tsuzuki is handling the uploading of top-ten data to the USMS web site and making the necessary corrections. He also handles the corrections for All Americans on the web site. Ginger Pierson continues to handle requests for Relay All American patches and certificates.

The Relay All American Certificates have been revised by Tracy from 2/page to a full page.

We have continued to try to improve the accuracy of the top-ten listings. Missing registration numbers are looked up in the USMS registration data base and all submitted registration numbers are verified and corrected if necessary. In addition, the swimmers gender and age are verified. Relays have additional checks for age group, gender and club.

A few more top-ten recorders are now using the top-ten windows software that was developed by Mary Beth Windrath.

Two discussions have been started. One, to take another look at the pool measurement rule as it applies to top ten. The other discussion is to see if we can make the procedures for compiling top ten more efficient, since the verification process is very time consuming.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention

Continue our discussions regarding the pool measurement rules and the top ten procedures.

Compile the SCY Top Ten.

Registration

George Simon, Chair

Arni Litt, Vice Chair

Committee Members : Jean Fox, Jeff Roddin, Barbara Larsen, Anna Lea Roof, Marilyn Fink, Nancy Ridout, Donna Schubkegel, Paul Wrangell, Ex-Officio: Tracy Grilli, Esther Lyman, Julie Heather

The main focus of the USMS Registration Committee for 2006 is to specify, select a vendor, test, and implement an On-Line Registration process for swimmers to register with USMS

Discussions and projects since the last convention:

A portion of the registration committee has been selected to participate in an On-Line USMS Registration Task Force. Progress has been made with several conference calls in the definition phase of the project, with a target date of April 17th to finalize the specifications so that external vendors can be contacted for estimates of the creation of the On-Line Software. The committee has reached agreements as to how the initial phase of the system will be implemented. Meetings with the finance committee regarding the proposed initial Phase of the On-Line handling has transpired with their concerns addressed.

Action items:

Complete the On-Line USMS Registration Specification and solicit comments. Should a vendor provide estimates that can be sustained by over budget approval and all appropriate software be created in time for convention, prepare demonstrations of the new process for USMS convention.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

A presentation of the new On-Line USMS Registration Process will be created, requiring at least 2 hours of convention time (could be broken up into two sessions) for registrar training. This would also

require the availability of an LCD projector for the presentation.

Rules

Kathy Casey, Chair

Charlie Cockrell, Vice Chair

Kris Wingenroth, Committee Secretary

Committee Members: Peggy Buchanan, Leianne Crittenden, David Diehl, Sally Dillon, Susan Ehringer, Sean Fitzgerald, Judy Gilles, Laura Kessler, Laura Koch, June Krauser, Dennis McManus, Sandi Rousseau, Ed Saltzman, Jessica Seaton, Bruce Stratton, Anthony Thompson, Bill Tingley, Scott Williams, Kris Wingenroth, Ex-officio: Leo Letendre

This is a Rules year, so proposed changes to the Glossary and Part 1 will be accepted and considered by the committee for recommendation to the House of Delegates. Changes proposed by an LMSC must be submitted to Kathy Casey, chair of the Rules Committee, by July 10. Discussions and projects since the last convention:

Committee members have completed a survey detailing experience and interests at all levels of swimming, experience with pool length measurement, and methods of maintaining records of pool length measurements in their LMSCs. Members are also checking the on-line list of pool length certifications for USA Swimming, comparing the certifications listed with the actual pools in their areas. Discrepancies will be reported to USA Swimming. Rules interpretations have been published, in particular regarding the single, downward dolphin kick after the start and each turn of the breaststroke. Questions regarding rules have been answered. USMS members are encouraged to ask questions about rules at any time.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention:

1. Committee members will review and compare Part 1 of the USMS swimming rules with Part 1 of the USA Swimming rules. USA Swimming plans to rewrite Part 1, so the committee will study both books in order to be prepared to act on any proposed changes by USA-S.
2. The committee will also discuss the progress of pool length measurement certification within USMS and share the discussion with the Records and Tabulation Committee.
3. The committee will review the progress of proposed changes to the FINA Masters Swimming Technical Rules.
4. The chair and the committee will deal with any interpretation questions, issues, and emergency changes to swimming rules that may arise during the year.
5. The committee will watch for incorrect information regarding swimming technical rules on the USMS discussion forum and disseminate correct information.
6. The committee will study, discuss, and make recommendations to the House of Delegates for proposed changes to Part 1 and the Glossary.
7. The committee will update Rules Differences in Appendix B.
8. The details of dual sanctioning will be finalized with USA Swimming.
9. The committee will discuss the possibility of a "situations"

manual or data base that includes frequently asked rules questions and/or common rules problems.

Sports Medicine

Jody Welborn, Chair

Jessica Seaton, Vice Chair

Committee members: Nadine Day, Jane Katz, Jane Moore, Mary Pohlmann, Joel Stager, Ralph Brovard, Jim Miller, M.D., Jean Fox, Laura Kessler, Kristy King, Susan Moucha, Ed Nessel, Jennifer Parks, Myriam Pero, Karla Reese, Eric Shanks, Carrie Slover, Leslie Smith, Shannon Sullivan, Jani Sutherland, Lisa Watson, Phil Whitten, Mark Wussler, Michael Heather (EC Liaison)

Discussions and projects that have taken place since the last convention:

1. FINA Masters Worlds 2006

The Sports Medicine, Health and Safety Committee's has focused the first 6 months on the organization of the USMS Sports Medicine conference to be held as part of the FINA World Masters Championships. Laura Kessler is the coordinator and has done a terrific job so far. She is working with Michael Moore and Anne Cribbs to deal with the logistics, which includes identification and cost of lecture rooms near the pools, promotion of the lecture series, and A/V assistance. We hope to include the USMS Marketing committee in promotion of the conference.

We will be using a 3-day format with 12 speakers over those 3 days (speakers, topics and tentative schedule included in this report). The target audience is the competition participants and the format will be primarily lecture with panel formats are being included. We are also fortunate to have Richard Quick as the keynote speaker. The tentative dates are August 6, August 7, and August 9, 2006. August 8th is the relay day and will affect speakers and attendees. The conference rooms are currently being identified and will be near the pool allowing easy access from the aquatic facilities.

Michael Moore will be traveling to Shanghai April 4, 2006 to give a report on the World Championships to FINA. He will be providing the Bureau with information regarding the conference format and the speakers.

The Sports Medicine Committee (shortened name) is continuing to identify sources of grant money.

2. SWIMMER Magazine

The Sports Medicine committee, in association with the editor of SWIMMER, continues to elicit and develop questions and answers to sports-related medical questions as part of the HEALTHY SWIMMER section of the magazine. Recently there have been excellent discussions of chlorine related health problems by Ralph Brovard, M.D., and Mary Pohlmann, M.D., Ph.D. (in next SWIMMER).

I continue to review the medical content of the HEALTHY SWIMMER section prior to publication.

Nadine Day is the Sports Medicine Committee's representative on the Editorial Committee.

3. USMS website

Sports medicine articles are part of the articles appearing on the USMS website. We hope to add Safety articles in the future.

4. USMS Medical Coordinator

Jane Moore continues to serve as coordinator for medical care at USMS National meets. She has been in contact with the meet director at Coral Springs and confirmed that plans are in place.

5. USMS Convention-2006

A speaker for the Sports Medicine Lecture has been identified and has tentatively agreed to present. A back-up speaker has also been identified.

Tasks for the months leading up to convention

1. USMS Sports Medicine Conference: Success.
2. Focus on sub-committee (SWIMMER, website, safety, research) work.

Sports Medicine Conference Speakers:

Sunday August 6, 2006: Keynote

- KEYNOTE: Richard Quick - Swim lessons - What I've learned from a lifetime in the sport about what it takes to win
- Jim Miller - Performance Enhancements - Supplements and Nutraceuticals
- Jessica Seaton - Shoulder Health
- Jane Katz - Swimming for Total Fitness

Monday August 7, 2006: Physiology and Medicine Focus

- Sue Bloomfield - Bone Health and Swimming
- Todd Stultz - Nutrition
- Nicole Leenders - Metabolism in Health and Disease
- Jody Welborn - Exercise and the Heart
- Round Table: Jody Welborn – Panel of swimmers who have recovered from heart disease to swim faster than ever: How they train and what they have learned.

Wednesday August 9, 2006: Aquatic Performance

- Joel Stager - Basic Training 101. Sets, Reps, Workouts and Annual Plans
- Mike Bottom - Top Ten Tips for Speed
- Rick Hinrichs - Biomechanics in Swimming
- Stanford Personnel would be added once we know their specialties.

Zone Committee

Julie Heather, Chair

The zone committee has reviewed the Election Operating Guidelines, and proposed several changes which have been sent to the Board of Directors for comment. The changes will be presented for vote at convention this fall.

Led by Mike Lemke, the committee has drafts of both model bylaws and grievance procedures for LMSCs. We anticipate that both will be distributed to LMSCs in the near future.

The committee is in the process of identifying LMSCs to target for grants to get representatives to convention. We feel that this is very important to assisting the struggling LMSCs.

There will be LSMC workshops at convention. Delegates will be

able to choose from a variety of topics, and we hope that the sharing of ideas will give delegates ideas to bring back to their LMSCs to implement.

Breadbasket Zone

Anthony Thompson, Zone Rep

The nine LMSCs in Breadbasket zone have been active with local operations to provide USMS members with a number of competitions, clinics, or fitness events since 2005 Fall Convention, including: 6 in Colorado, 3 in Iowa, 5 in Minnesota, 4 in Missouri Valley, and 3 in St Louis/Ozark. Three LMSCs held LMSC SCY Championship meets. The Breadbasket SCY Zone Championship was held on 29-30-April hosted by Midwestern LMSC in Omaha Nebraska. The other Breadbasket LMSCs are working on increasing membership. Several LMSCs are reviewing and revising bylaws.

Efforts are being made to be sure all the delegate slots eligible to Breadbasket LMSC are filled, as only 3 of 9 LMSCs were fully represented at 2005 Convention. The Zone Committee will offer grant opportunities to several LMSCs within Breadbasket toward 2006 Convention.

The 2006 summers schedule looks busy for June-Sept as several open water events and LCM & SCM events are planned by the various LMSCs. Everyone is eagerly promoting the FINA World Masters Championship at Stanford to encourage participation within Breadbasket Zone.

Dixie Zone

Debbie Cavanaugh, Zone Rep

Since convention the Dixie Zone has held a SCM & SCY zone championship.

Coral Springs & the Florida Gold Coast LMSC are gearing up for the 2006 USMS SCY Nationals. On a recent visit to the facility the complex is looking mighty good!

Open water events & fitness events are being held within the Zone & we are promoting the Virtual Swim to Worlds.

Northwest Zone

Jane Moore, Zone Rep

Since the annual meeting in September, the 2005 Northwest Zone Short Course Meters Championship was hosted in November at David Douglas High School, Portland OR. The 2006 Northwest Zone Short Course Yard Championship will be held at the Boise Aquatic Center on April 28 – 30, hosted by Sawtooth Masters and the Boise YMCA Swim Team.

The Northwest Zone Chatter (newsletter) has been distributed electronically semi-monthly. It contains a calendar of events in the zone and information on activities in each of the LMSCs in the Northwest Zone. Updates to the web page are planned for the near future.

A review and update of zone policies was completed at the meeting held in conjunction with SCM Champs. Another zone meeting

will be held in Boise. Agenda items include selection of events/sites for 2006 open water champs and SCM champs and recruitment of convention delegates from the smaller LMSCs in the zone.

Oceana Zone

Janet Renner, Zone Rep

Many of the Pacific Masters swimmers are working on the XI FINA World Masters Championships that will be held at Stanford in August. In April, the LMSC had its second largest short course yards championships at Pleasanton, California. Later in the month, Menlo Masters had a very successful Long Course meters meet so swimmers could get times for the FINA championships. Cindy Clements, the open water chair, had a meeting with their meet directors who would be staging open water meets. Safety and consistency was stressed at the meeting.

Hawaii Masters is working diligently on gathering a group to attend FINA World's at Stanford. It seems approximately 15-20 Hawaii swimmers will be in attendance. This will be the largest gathering outside of the Aloha state of masters swimmers ever. A new masters club, Swim Kauai Aquatics, has formed and is headed by Coach Ro Davis. We now have an active club on that island with 5 masters swimmers registered. We are thrilled for Kauai! Coach Ro has also become the Kauai VP chair for our LMSC. We are all looking forward to World's.

Colonies Zone

Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Zone Rep

SCM Zone Championships (hosted by Great Bay Masters at Wheaton College, Norton, MA) and SCY Zone Championships (hosted by George Mason University Patriot Masters, Fairfax, VA) held.

Zone meeting held April 22, 2006 at SCY Championship meet. LC Zone Championship to be held August 26-27, 2006 (hosted by Potomac Valley LMSC at GMU, Fairfax, VA).

Bids for 2006 SCM zone meet will be solicited (to be due July 1) and awarding of meet prior to convention meeting. Nominations for Dorothy Donnelly Colonies Zone Award (due Aug. 1) to be collected for award presented at a convention meeting. Bids for all 3 courses in 2006 will be voted on at 2005 convention meeting.

South Central Zone

Marcia Marcantonio, Zone Rep

Since convention the South Central Zone has continued to hold both competitive and fitness events for the membership. The Gulf LMSC held a Coach Mentor Clinic and hosted the mid-year meeting of the USMS BOD. The South Texas LMSC is hosting an open water clinic in May. Delegates have been meeting quarterly via email, with no major issues being raised. Our Zone had many new delegates to last years convention which have now been placed on committees. We expect to send a large block of delegates to conven-

tion in Detroit. Calendar listings on the website have been plentiful for this season. Business is running smoothly, no grievances from the happy Masters of the South Central Zone.

Southwest Zone

Tom Boyd, Zone Rep

The Southwest Zone held short course meters and yards championships, but will not hold a long course championship due to the world's at Stanford. Our primary activity is to identify a representative to convention from New Mexico and get them involved at the national level as well as getting them better organized locally.

Ad Hoc Endowment Fund

Doug Church, Chair

The 2005 year end Fund report was circulated to the members of the Board of Governors last month and it showed that as of December 31, 2005, the Endowment Fund stood at \$182,515.15. Since the first of the year, additional sums have been received through the dues check-off system as well as a few gifts and memorials. By convention, we should be at or over the \$200,000 mark!!

The Board of Governors authorized a donation in the amount of \$10,000 to be applied to Katrina relief based upon the efforts of the Task Force led by Scott Rabalais. Efforts are evolving on that front and our donation will be made in the near future.

As of the mid-year report, there have been no formal requests for funding during 2006. Mel Goldstein is refining his submission for a grant to help support team development and Joel Stager indicates that the Councilman Center for the Study of the Science of Swimming will be making a submission before convention. Other grant requests are solicited and questions can be directed to Doug Church, Chair of the Board of Governors of the Endowment Fund at Dchurch-at-cchalaw dot com