

USMS SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS & LIAISON REPORTS

CONTROLLER – Cathy Pennington

The Office of the Controller had been a busy place in the past year. Now that I've got a year of experience I'm trying to implement some changes and hopefully some improvements in our accounting and reporting functions. I've increased the frequency of reporting to provide monthly reports to the Executive Committee and have implemented quarterly financial reports to the Finance Committee. All Committee Heads still receive their quarterly statements of expenditures against their budgets.

I've also spent some time reviewing our procedures, including some in FOG, and have made or suggested changes to various areas to improve controls, provide consistency in our treatment of various items and prepare our financial statements for our upcoming audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

In anticipation of our upcoming change to a new Treasurer I am currently working to upgrade to a newer version of our accounting software to make it easier for our new Treasurer to write checks and know our current cash balance.

My goals for the upcoming year are to break in the new Treasurer and examine ways to assist the LMSCs

FINA REPRESENTATIVE – June Krauser

The first meeting of the FINA Masters Committee 2000-2005 was held 9th – 10th March 2001 in Lisbon (POR) Portugal. Members included Victor Nogueira POR Chairman, Zvi Ruttert ISR Israel Vice Chairman, Frantisek Stochi CZE Czech Republic Secretary, Rose Cody PUR Puerto Rico, June Krauser USA, Lyall Mortimer NZL New Zealand, Ivan Wingate AUS Australia, Daniel Garcia URU Uruguay, Virenda Nananati IND India, Redouane Mohamed Salah ALG Algeria and Edward Evely CAN Canada. Absent was Tarja Lijestrom FIN Finland. Others present included Bureau Liaison Bill Matson NZL, Cornel Marculescu, FINA Executive Director, Walt Reid, Masters World Record Coordinator. A Strategy Plan for the next term of the committee was discussed: Development of Masters worldwide; World Championships; Safety; Medical certification; and Doping. The Entry Book for the IX FINA World Master Championships to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand from March 22 through April 4, 2002 was approved and has been distributed throughout the world. All proposals for amendments to the FINA Masters Rules were due July 23, 2001. These will be discussed at the next meeting of the committee to take place in Christchurch, NZ on Nov. 34 2001. The FINA Office has forwarded the request to all National Federations for names to establish the FINA Masters Officials List No. 5, effective from 1st July 2001 until 31st December 2004. The FINA Bureau did not approve the recommendation that a medical certificate be added to entry forms. They also did not approve of conducting doping control tests at FINA World Masters Championships. The Championships' entry forms include a clause on the "release from liability", with which the participants are responsible for their health conditions, and they carry all the liabilities themselves. The President of FINA recommended the creation of a professional group within FINA for control and conduct of the FINA Masters World Championships, including the financial aspects related to this event. The December and June FINA Masters News has been sent to all Federations and all individuals interested in receiving a copy. Also, the Top Ten Tabulation has been distributed. I am responsible for the content of the FINA Masters News but not for the set up or distribution, which is done by the FINA Press Commission. Walt Reid is responsible for the Top Ten Tabulation and World Records.

INTERNATIONAL LIAISON – Nancy Ridout

There were no international meets (Pan Pacific or World Championships) held since our last convention.

It was hoped that USMS would be able to host the 2001 Pan Pacifics but I was unsuccessful in securing a suitable site at an appropriate time. There *will* be a Pan Pacific Championship this year after all. The Hong Kong Amateur Swimming Association has stepped up to the plate and will stage this event October 28-November 4, 2001. Entry information can be found via email at HKASA@hkasa.org.hk (the Hong Kong Amateur Swimming Association web site is located at www.hkasa.org.hk/), phone (852) 2572 859, or fax (852) 2591 0792.

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INTERNATIONAL LIAISON Continued

Plans are well under way for the 2002 World Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand in March. Pool competition begins March 24th and concludes March 30th. A 3K Open Water Swim will be held on March 31st. Details and entry information can be found at www.eventnz.co.nz.

ISHOF LIAISON – June Krauser

World Open Water Swimming Championships Oct 29 – Nov 4, 2000 / Honolulu, Hawaii – Top open water swimmers from around the world convened in Honolulu, Hawaii to vie for the title of World Champion in the 5K, 10K and 25K events of the 1st FINA World Open Water Swimming Championships. Swimmers from 34 countries competed.

ISHOF Board Meeting in January 2001 – Besides the ordinary business of a Board Meeting, Sam Freas had an interesting announcement. A developer would like to swap ISHOF land for a city parking lot.

Meets Awarded – ISHOF and the Hall of Fame Aquatic Center were awarded the US National Outdoor Diving Championships to be held in August 2001. The YMCA Masters Nationals will be held in April 2002. The Masters SCY Championships will be held in Hawaii in May of 2002.

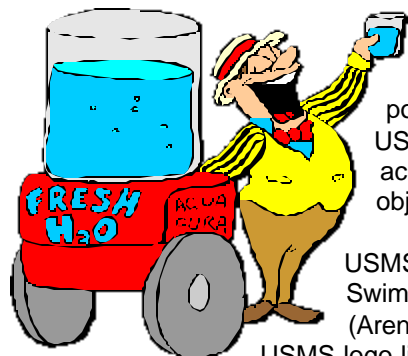
Fort Lauderdale City Commission Meeting – This meeting went from 3 to 7 PM with three developers interested in the city parking lot. The vote by the City Commission was three to two and the ISHOF lost. Several cities are interested in having the ISHOF in their city.

International Swimming Hall of Fame International Congress Meeting, Friday May 11, 2001 – 38 members were present. Elections took place for retiring Board members. Reports were given by Sam Freas, Lynn Rickert, Bob Duenkel and Preston Levi.

Special Selection Committee – Camillo Cametti of Italy and his committee have come up with some recommendations for selecting Honorees for ISHOF. 12 a year have been inducted and the committee suggests a maximum of 9 and preferable 5 or 6. There will be 9 categories. Anyone can be nominated. There will be a screening committee to decide who will be considered for selection.

International Swimming Hall of Fame Honors Recognition, May 10-12, 2001 – This year the festivities took place at ISHOF. The first night was the Awards Dinner and Banquet. The second night was the ISHOF Olympic Reunion & Athletes of the 20th Century. And on Saturday night the Honoree Induction Ceremony and Dinner and the Gold Medallion Presentation. Patty Robinson Fulton (USA)...Honor Masters Diver, 32 Masters World Diving Titles – 119 Masters National Championships. Her daughter Dallas received her award. Sandra Baldwin, President of the US Olympic Committee was presented with the Gold Medallion Award.

NATIONAL SPONSOR LIAISON – Mel Goldstein



This was the first full year for the USMS Public Relations / National Sponsor Liaison position. While I acted in this position on an interim basis in prior years, this year the USMS Executive Committee set forth certain objectives they wanted to see accomplished this year. I think we were successful in fulfilling most if not all of these objectives.

USMS now has eight USMS National Sponsors: Adolph Kiefer, Arena, Kast-A-Way Swimwear, MBNA, NIKE, The Victor, TYR and Ultra Swim. Three added this year, (Arena, TYR, Adolph Kiefer). In addition to our national sponsors we now have four USMS logo licensees (Circle City Swimwear, J. D. Pence, Kast A Way, Competitive Aquatic

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NATIONAL SPONSOR LIAISON Continued

Supply). These sponsors, and licensees have provided added value to our USMS membership, monetary contributions, and USMS program support. For the first time each of the USMS National

Sponsors and licensees had a coupon in the USMS Planner. The coupons offered discounts and products for purchases. All agreements with these sponsors and licensees were re-negotiated this year and will expire at the end of 2002.

The USMS tradeshow display unit was widely used this year. In addition to the National Parks & Recreation Convention, National Senior Games, and the ASCA World Coaches Clinic which I attended, the tradeshow display was used at health fairs, triathlons, and open water swims, in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and California. The reports from these events were very positive as we tried to increase the awareness of USMS, hopefully the end result from this exposure will be the registering of new members for our various programs. At the National Parks & Recreation Convention, Jim Wheeler and I were included in the Conference Education Sessions, speaking on "Discover the Benefits of a Masters Swimming Program", this educational session went very well and was well attended.

In addition to traveling to tradeshows it was also my responsibility to interact with our USMS National Sponsors each month to see that their needs were taken care of prior to, and during the USMS SC & LC National Championships, this included everything from seeing their ads got into the meet program to security at the meet. In my effort to bring more awareness to our sponsors in Federal Way we tried something new. We gave each swimmer five \$1 coupons to be used at our national sponsors booths. When the swimmer purchased an item using the coupon he wrote his or her name on the coupon and each national sponsor had a drawing at the end of the meet. This was a "win" "win" situation for every one, USMS members received a discount and the national sponsor made a sale.

In response to USMS Executive Committee request a membership survey was developed and sent to a random portion of the USMS membership. I hope each of you have had the opportunity to appraise the report with the results and the concerns of our membership that was distributed.

The MBNA affinity card agreement was finalized this year and to create interest in the affinity card program USMS offered a free fleece vest to any member who signed up for the affinity card. There was a modest return on this promotion.

Dialogue was opened between USA Swimming and USMS to see how the two organizations could work together to get more exposure for swimming through both electronic and paper media. USA Swimming this year embarked on a TV project in conjunction with their magazine "Splash". The TV project "Splash TV" included 13 weeks of airing and even included 3 segments on Masters Swimming. The program aired on the Outdoor Life Network (OLN). We are working with USA Swimming to see how we can become further involved with this project.

Future projects include continued dialogue with USA Swimming, responding to membership needs, and seeking new major USMS National Sponsors.

SWIM MAGAZINE EDITOR - Bill Volckening

My second year as USMS Editor has been a challenging, productive and rewarding experience. During the year we have fortified a solid working relationship between USMS Editor, the USMS Executive Committee and the staff of SWIM Magazine. Together, we have maintained a diverse editorial balance and generated some wonderful content for the magazine.

During the year, the amount of work prepared by the USMS Editor has substantially increased. Last year, USMS was limited to 13 pages of content. This year, with no such limit the workload has doubled. The mid-year report contains a detailed account of many of the activities, along with a description of how the USMS Editor and SWIM Magazine work toward fulfilling the goals and objectives of the USMS Strategic Plan.

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SWIM MAGAZINE EDITOR Continued

We are currently preparing the finalists for the TYR / USMS Newsletter of the Year (NOY) Award. Once again, we are fortunate to have another group of outstanding finalists and an excellent panel of individuals who will evaluate these finalists. We look forward to recognizing all of the finalists and the NOY winner at the convention in September.

Personally, I would also like to recognize a few individuals who have worked diligently behind the scenes to help us deliver a high-quality magazine. For the second year, Kathy Casey, Julie Paque and Meg Smath have done an extraordinary job proofreading manuscripts for SWIM Magazine. Thank-you Nancy Ridout and the USMS Executive Committee for providing outstanding guidance and leadership. Thank-you Lynn Hazelwood for producing the USMS Calendar of Events; Mel Goldstein and Jack Geoghegan for producing "Making Masters Fun"; Sally Dillon for producing a variety of Long Distance materials; Pieter Cath for assisting with the USMS All-Americans and All-Stars; Scott Rabalais for producing "Ask the Coach"; Phil Whitten, Bob Ingram, Richard Deal, Karen Deal, Judy Jacob, Betsy Houlihan, Gerry Rodrigues, Michael Collins and the many workers from Sports Publications; Tracy Grilli for endless support; and the countless other contributors, sponsors and advertisers who help make SWIM Magazine the leading resource for adult swimmers.

USAS REPRESENTATIVE – Nancy Ridout

USAS business for 2001 consisted of planning for the USA athletes and dignitary meetings to be held at the World Championships, in August, in Fukuoka, Japan. USMS was not involved in the planning, as we do not participate in this event, but I was copied and kept informed.

Other priorities included nominating and securing new positions within FINA, planning for the 2001 convention, and investigating sites for future conventions.

USMS LIAISON TO USA SWIMMING – Ted Haartz

USA Swimming Board meeting in January and May in Colorado Springs, CO. Of prime interest to USMS and USA Swimming was a FINA water depth change for starts from 1.2 meters to 1.35 meters. USA Swimming Board of Directors responded to this change by voting to sponsor the following legislation: "The minimum water depth for teaching and practicing racing starts shall be measured for a distance of 3 foot 3 inches to 16 foot 5 inches from the end of the wall and shall be 5 feet in depth from starting blocks of all heights and the deck".

USA Swimming has formed a task force to look at Swimming's Governance with a prospect of a Request for Proposal, if determined necessary, to review and rewrite USA Swimming's Governance in 2002.

A second task force has been formed for the evaluation of their Club Grant programs. The purpose is to determine whether these programs need to be revamped or new programs created.

A 2003 national membership dues increase will be up for discussion at the next board meeting, Sept. 11, at the convention in Dearborn.

USA Swimming had revamped its in-house magazine SPLASH to make it of a "lifestyle" oriented format to give it broader appeal to the general public, promote USA Swimming as the organization responsible for promoting swimming in America and generate more subscriptions for SPLASH. Concurrent with this, USA Swimming ran a 13 week, Monday evening, SPLASH TV program during June, July and August on the Outdoor Life Network featuring well known Olympians and their coaches.

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US OLYMPIC COMMITTEE LIAISON – Hill Carrow

The USOC Liaison was relatively inactive this half of the year. There were no USMS camps at the Olympic Training Center (the next will be first quarter of 2002). The one other initiative where we had previously spent time was the possibility of membership in the USOC. After assisting another group interested in USOC membership within the last year and witnessing first hand the relatively hostile nature of the process by current members against potential new members, it was decided it would be best to delay our pursuit of the process at the USOC until, hopefully, there is a more receptive climate there. Since things are still unsettled with UOSC leadership at present, it may still be a while before we feel the timing is right to begin advancing the ball again in this area.

US SENIOR GAMES LIAISON – Scott Rabalais

Over the past year, USMS has worked in conjunction with the National Senior Games Association to promote USMS membership as well as to assist the NSGA in hosting quality competitions, both locally and nationally.

Two face-to-face meetings were held with NSGA personnel at the NSGA headquarters in Baton Rouge, La., to discuss how the two organizations might mutually benefit one another. Discussion ranged from giving USMS exposure at its local and national meets to USMS providing expertise in running swim meets. Other ideas discussed were standardization of local competitions and communication to the local and state swimming coordinators.

USMS was given great exposure at the swimming competition of the 2001 National Senior Games in Baton Rouge, La., in July. Although it was hot as hell outside, the participants enjoyed the portable air conditioning brought into the LSU Natatorium for the Games. USMS Sponsor Liaison Mel Goldstein, who wore the same shirt for four consecutive days, attended the Games and discussed the benefits of USMS membership with many of the athletes. The meet was run first-class according to USMS rules and all times of the USMS members will be submitted to USMS for Top Ten and Records consideration.

While the NSG is a very popular competition for the 50-&-Over sect, the focus of USMS efforts should be on the local levels where many thousands of non-USMS members participate. Our knowledgeable corps of swimmers, coaches and administrators is asked to get involved in the Senior Olympic movement to promote Masters swimming and to offer quality competitive opportunities for the Seniors.

The next National Senior Games (Summer) will be held in Hampton Roads, Virginia, in May-June, 2003.

USMS WEBMASTER – Jim Matysek

The big news this year is the premier of the dedicated USMS web server. Our new server was set up in December with the Southern Pacific LMSC as the first live site in December. The USMS site was launched on the new server in January. We are currently hosting live sites or sites in testing phases for 10 LMSC's and 3 Zones in addition to the USMS web site. Having our own web server has worked well for us, with excellent server uptime and no problems at all during the heavy traffic times during our national championships. USMS is still offering free web hosting for any LMSC or Zone that would like to move their existing site or establish a new site on our server.

Running our own web server has brought a new set of tasks for the webmaster. Many software tools have had to be installed, configured, and kept up to date in order to provide quality hosting services. I also need to keep up with the latest security updates for the server in order to try to stay ahead of the swarm of hackers out in cyberspace. In addition to basic tool and server support, I've also created a few custom services such as e-mail spam filtering, daily backups of web sites and databases, daily web access reports for each hosted site, and basic documentation to help LMSC webmasters get started on our server.

An ongoing prioritized task list for the web site has been developed and maintained together with Hugh Moore as chair of the Communications Committee. While I'm working my way through the list, several months worth of work still remain on the list. The list also does not include normal updates to various sections of the web site or server

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USMS WEBMASTER Continued

maintenance activities. With a prioritized list, we are able to address the topics that are most important to our members and the USMS administration first.

Use of the on line entry system for nationals increased significantly again this year, with 45% of all short course and 55% of all long course entries arriving on line. Many of the on line entry utilities were rewritten for the long course meet this year, which resulted in significantly improved administration capabilities. The USMS registration database was also used directly to verify swimmer's membership and point out discrepancies between how a swimmer entered on line vs. how they are registered with USMS.

One important aspect of the new web server is the database capabilities that we now have. I'm working through many different areas of USMS and converting information for database storage on our server so that it can be accessed via our web pages. The following information has all been incorporated into the database and used on the web site in various ways: places to swim, LMSC and zone info, USMS teams, LMSC & team web site links, on line entries, the USMS registration database, LMSC and national officers, e-mail aliases, the ISHOF Nominating Committee's database of past USMS records. There are many more areas to integrate into the database and many more ways that we can use the information we have captured. These efforts will enable us to provide more services in the future, such as expanded record processing and tracking, on line entries for local meets, on line registration or re-registration, personalized usms.org home page services for each swimmer, etc. All of this will take lots of time, but will benefit all members and hopefully help to increase member retention.

YMCA LIAISON – Stu Marvin

The YMCA of the USA got their Masters National Swim Meet back on track with a terrific meet in Sarasota this past spring. The 2001 edition of their meet was held April 26-29, 2001 at the Shelby Aquatic Center in Sarasota, Florida. The Sarasota YMCA Sharks Swim Team served as the meet host who ran a very energetic and efficient meet at their brand-new facility.

The meet attracted over 618 swimmers and their families from all over the country, including teams from Puerto Rico and California. The new 70-meter "stretch" pool at the Sarasota YMCA proved to be very fast with 119 YMCA and 9 USMS national records established over the four days of competition. The pool featured two bulkheads that afforded three 8lane, 25-yard courses with buffer lanes to accommodate competition and warm up. Colorado Time Systems donated their Myriad Outdoor Scoreboard to provide 16 lines of data along with on-site technical support. The highlight of the meet was the Athlete's Social held at Sarasota's Mote Aquarium. The event set a new standard for athlete's socials, with dining and dancing the likes of which may never be seen again!

Next year's YMCA National Masters Swim Meet will return the Aquatic Complex at the International Swimming Hall of Fame on April 18-21, 2002. Preliminary meet information will be available at the USAS Convention in Dearborn, MI.
