

1. The meeting was called to order by President Jim Miller at 3:10 PM. Also present were Nancy Ridout (Past President) and Sally Dillon (Secretary). Audience members were: Tracy Grilli (Executive Secretary), Joan Campbell (Florida), Florence Carr (Florida), Jody Welborn (Oregon), Sally Guthrie (Michigan), Jennifer Parks (Michigan), Graham Johnston (S. Texas), Bill Volckening (New England), June Krauser (Florida Gold Coast), Sandi Rousseau (Oregon), Dan Gray (Oregon), Michael Collins (Southern Pacific), Nancy Miller (Virginia), Jim Matysek (Niagara), Barry Fasbender (Pacific), Becky Miller (Virginia), Richard Carroll (Florida) Jerilyn Carroll (Florida), and Bill Early (San Diego/Imperial).

Jim Miller welcomed the audience and asked for introductions.

2. New and improved convention format: Jim explained the format for convention that includes linking different committees with similar interests into "blocks". The intention is to depart from past habits and encourage committees to interact more. The HOD will maintain one room for the entire convention and all of the block meetings will take place there. It's hopeful that the committees will benefit from working together (rather than in a vacuum) to accomplish common goals. All of the committee chairs have been asked to have the bulk of their business completed and reported on in their annual report prior to the convention. At convention we hope for good interaction.

Nancy encouraged those present who don't normally attend convention to share their ideas. Jim noted that we are also considering including members on our committees who don't have the time or desire to go to convention. If the greatest majority of the committees' work is performed outside the convention, the opportunity exists to include talented members who have not had an opportunity to share their abilities in the past, due to their inability to attend convention.

Sally asked the committee chairs present, about their plans to meet the new requirements. Barry Fasbender (Championship) plans to make changes in the normal procedures, such as when it comes to selecting awards. Sandi Rousseau was concerned that there may not be enough time during the allotted 2 hours during the championship bid meeting if there are numerous bids. Ultimately there are some things that come up that will need to be addressed.

Nancy questioned Barry as to whether he expects the elaborate presentations as we've seen in the past. It was suggested that each delegate receive a packet with a summary of the bids and details of the facilities. The plan is to open the meeting to the HOD and then turn it over to the Championship Committee chair. Nancy said that it seems as though the delegates have voted in the past for what seem to be the wrong reasons. She pointed out that a recent survey showed that fewer than half of the delegates actually attends Nationals. Nancy explained how the new procedure is intended to work: the committee makes their recommendation and the HOD approves/disapproves the decision during their report to the HOD. June Krauser's opinion is that the Championship Committee should pick the site after reviewing the information that they obtain from the bidders. Sally shared that the exit surveys showed criticism of the current system; many delegates consider it a waste of their time. Barry explained the procedure that the championship committee follows. Prior to convention, they "announce" bids, send out packets, receive bids, check for completeness and send letters with questions. Then they check the physical aspects. At convention they plan to allow each bidder 10 minutes to present their bid and 10 minutes to answer questions. They would like to come up with a point system for evaluating the different aspects. The selected site will go in the committee report and the HOD will approve the report and the site at the same time. The individual (SC and/or LC) site selection can be "pulled" by a member of the HOD, as can any other action item.

The bidders may use slide or video presentations during the HOD/Championship Committee meeting and they should provide a summary sheet of information in advance so that it can be distributed to the delegates at check-in.

2. USMS – its mission and identity: Jim noted that Scott Rabalais (USMS Vice President) has questioned if our current statement is realistic. Is our mission limiting us to our present membership or does it allow us to grow? Our mission is separate than our goals. The mission will be a focus of discussion at the upcoming convention. Graham Johnston thinks the triathletes could benefit from our expertise in swimming and it was agreed that both organizations could benefit mutually. Jim will be stopping off in Colorado Springs to meet with USA Triathlon representatives and Cindy Hawkinson, the USMS liaison to USA Triathlon, will be present.

3. Registration issues: June recommended a bigger registration card that could be formatted so the name and address would fit in the window of a #10 envelope. It would be printed on one side only. Nancy said that she is already working on the issue with the Registration Committee and the committee will have a proposal ready for convention.

Several people have been sanctioned this year because they have tried to change their age from one registration year to another. . Our national registration goes back 6 years and Esther Lyman (USMS Registrar) checks every registration. We are hoping to have a permanent athlete ID established in the near future.

Bill Volckening asked if we would continue to donate to the Hall of Fame. Jim shared that there is still a question as to where the Hall of Fame will be located. June announced that the class for 2003 was selected and Laura Val has been honored. The newly founded IMSHOF has also voted to induct its first group in 2003 and it will consist of all previously nominated Masters to ISHOF. Future nominations will include more international athletes. We recognize that it has been our responsibility to nominate our swimmers and we have submitted nominees from the United States; unfortunately other National Governing Bodies have not done this. This past weekend a Masters synchronized swimmer was inducted and last year a Masters diver was selected. The criteria require that they have been active Masters participants for 16 years.

4. Database project: Jim gave an overview of the database project. Initially the History and Archives Committee was asked to make significant changes in the maintenance of their data. It was correctly pointed out to the EC that a number of committees were operating in opposing systems and that the various data base projects should work in concert with each other to be more efficient. A sub-committee is preparing a proposal that will be presented to the HOD in September.

5. Audit: The HOD decided last year that we would not do a full audit each year. An external review is needed and funds were budgeted for it. The EC is intending to go forward with the review and has approved the same auditing corporation that was used last year for the full audit.

6. General Discussion: Discussion took place as to how we might have gained better attendance at this meeting. The meeting was organized for the benefit of the general membership and we had hoped to attract more people who did not already attend convention. It was decided that more announcements were needed and that we must make the announcements emphasize that the meeting is a "membership forum", not an EC meeting. It was suggested that we might hold the meeting "mid-meet" but most agreed that it would be difficult to fit it in.

Mike Collins shared that in Australia, at their championships in March, they held technical discussions throughout the meet that were conducted by coaches. They were well attended and Mike hoped we might do some at this meet. It was suggested that he speak to the meet directors.

Florence Carr expressed a concern regarding behavior that takes place at the clerk of course during meets she attends. She thinks that once a swimmer has reported to the lanes others should not be able to talk to the swimmers because it is very distracting. The method of using the clerk of course at international meets was discussed. In US meets we don't even maintain an official clerk of course where swimmers congregate prior to their event. We have no rules that disallow coaches/friends from approaching swimmers in the ready area behind the timers. Nancy stated that it sounds like some poor behavior is taking place behind the blocks that isn't necessarily solved with a clerk of course. Sally thinks the referees could control the activity by seeing that no one is between the timers and the pool edge other than the swimmer involved. The timers should be asking people around them to be quiet. LMSCs need to look at this to help train the swimmers at the local level.

Having no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sally Ann Dillon
USMS Secretary