

**Arkansas Masters LMSC Annual Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Walmart Life Fitness Center

Carie called the meeting together at 6:40 pm

The minutes from the meeting on 1-20-2019 were approved.

The new slate of officers was approved as listed below:

Chair: Byron Shefchik

Vice Chair: Bonnie Adams

Secretary: Carie O'Banion

Treasurer: Anita Parisi

Membership Coordinator: Scott Halliburton

Coaches Chair - Megan Cameron

Officials chair - Kristin Caldwell

Top 10 and Sanctions - Doug Martin

**Officer Reports:**

**Vice Chair:** nothing to report. Carie noted that the bylaws need to be reviewed and updated, and one item needs to be the job descriptions. Currently there is not a job description for the Vice Chair position. As the new secretary, Carie will work on the bylaws this coming year.

**Sanctions:** Byron reported that there were 3 meets sanctioned (Mary Grace Tucker, Hall of Fame, and the Santa Splash). There was conversation about why we haven't been billed for the Santa Splash meet. The meets held in Joplin are sanctioned by the Missouri Valley LMSC. Carie mentioned that she has formally petitioned USMS to bring 3 Missouri counties officially into our LMSC (McDonald, Newton and Jasper). The USMS committee will look at that in February and get back to us with an answer.

**Officials:** Kristen has received the new 2020 Rule book, so if anyone needs to borrow it, let her know. There was discussion about the difficulty of finding officials for masters meets. Missouri Valley paid the officials from Megan's meet \$100 each. There was discussion about whether we should be doing this or not for our meets. Anita pointed out that for some meets (Hall of Fame for example), the meet director keeps revenue for the meet, and so she doesn't feel the need for the LMSC to pay for officials.

**Treasurer:** Anita reviewed the balance sheet and the actuals for 2019. Revenue increased this year because of Megan's program in Joplin. We spent much less than we budgeted, but we still operated at about a \$1000 deficit. Carie explained that in 2015 when she took over as Chair, we had almost \$20,000 in funds. But also at that time, there was little to no activity happening in our LMSC. For the past four years, we have been very active and therefore have utilized more funds. The bulk of our expenditure

has gone to grants for swimmers, events, and clinics. We have also provided a few sponsorships and purchased some promotional items to create awareness of our program. The convention cost is our single biggest expense of the year. This year it will be in Jacksonville again, which has been the most costly site for us in the past. Because we opted into the \$60 flat rate registration fee, USMS will cover the cost of convention registration for us (\$180 for early bird registration). The airfare and hotel, however, are still a big expense. Carie pointed out that for the past 5 years, we have received a \$300 USMS grant for convention which helps offset costs a bit. The grant is given to small LMSCs who request it. Carie isn't sure if that grant will be offered again this year, but we definitely need to request it if it is offered. ALTS clinics, coaching clinics, and swimmer travel funds are also big expenditures for the LMSC.

In regards to the 2020 budget, most line items will remain the same as in previous years. There was discussion about a sponsorship for the Trifest for MS Open Water Swim Event which took place last year in July and will occur again this summer. Trifest asked Carie if we would be the main sponsor (\$1000 fee) which would allow our logo on the podium, and on the caps. We agreed that it would be good for us to have that as a signature event, but that we couldn't afford the \$1000 sponsorship fee. There was discussion about whether we could/should approach Trifest about making it a USMS sanctioned open water swim. Scott is going to do some research on what that would entail. Meanwhile, we agreed to put \$200 in the budget for a sponsorship for 2020. In addition we will pay \$10 per swimmer (up to 30 swimmers) to offset the registration cost for any currently registered Arkansas Masters swimmer.

For 2020, there will be opportunities for ALTS fund usage at the Pine Bluff (new facility) clinics in February. For the masters travel funds, we already have 2 swimmers requesting funds for Spring Nationals. Request forms for all grants are located on the Arkansas Masters website.

The budget was approved as Anita presented it, with the Trifest funds added and with a few typographical corrections. If we spend all of the budgeted funds (which we usually don't), we will operate at about a \$3000 deficit for 2020.

In regards to the balance sheet, Byron suggested that we move our money from Capital One (about \$10,000) to some cd's that would earn more interest. Byron suggested several smaller cd's which would facilitate the ease of cashing them when needed. Anita agreed to look at our current bank's cd/savings programs, as well as other banks, to not only get a better interest rate, but to have an easier relationship than what is currently available with Capital One.

**New Business:**

Bonnie received a few nominations for Swimmer of the Year, but the majority of nominations were for Byron who had a phenomenal year in the pool. All in attendance agreed that Byron should be the Arkansas Masters Swimmer of the Year. He will be recognized at the Hall of Fame Banquet on April 25<sup>th</sup> in Little Rock.

Byron asked us all to read the mission statements for USMS and our LMSC. We should focus on those for initiatives for 2020. Kristen stated that the WLFC is very open to having a true USMS masters program and/or events. Who would take leadership in this endeavor?

Some preliminary discussions were held regarding additional ideas to support our mission. Though no decisions were made, the list included:

- Swim clinics
- ALTS free session
- Support Tri-teams
- Partner with Aquatic managers across the state to develop their own Masters programs

This subject needs further discussion and planning, so we agreed to meet again to discuss further. We will meet on Monday, March 9th, 6:30PM at Carie's house.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm