

# USMS Convention — Greensboro, North Carolina 2012

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Recognition & Awards	<b>Session #:</b>	1	<b>Report #:</b>	1
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Sally Dillon	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Carolyn Boak		
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Sally Dillon	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b>	September 13, 2:30-3:45 pm		

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## Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. **MSA that Nancy obtain an estimate from Steve Hasty so Sally can submit a budget request for the pins.**  
**Note:** Nancy was able to secure information about pricing for the DDSA and RJA pins and she successfully received from the Finance Committee, an addition to the R&A Committee budget in the amount of \$4700.

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## Motions Passed:

2. **MSA to approve the budget request of \$500.**
3. **MSA to ask the magazine editor to put the information about the most current winners in the May/June issue as a “feature article” along with the call for nomination information.**

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<b>Number of committee members present: 11</b>	<b>Absent: 5</b>	<b>Number of other delegates present: 8</b>
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<b>Committee members present: Sally Dillon, Carolyn Boak, Laura Val, Ray Novitske, Hugh Moore, Nancy Ridout, Walt Reid, Betsy Durrant, Heather Howland, AJ Block, and Cheryl Gettelfinger</b>
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## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM

1. **Introductions** – committee and audience members were introduced
2. **Capt. Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award** - Doug Church, the 2012 recipient of the award, received congratulations and the official pin during a brief ceremony.
3. **Chair’s report**
  - a. The R&A Committee budget was distributed to committee members via email. **It was MSA to approve the budget request of \$500.**
  - b. The Open Water Committee will be bringing a request to the committee sometime soon for an Open Water Service Award. Illinois Masters LMSC has instituted a new award, the Bill Mulliken Legends Award, which was presented recently to Bill.
  - c. Committee members Ray Novitske, Heather Howland, Carolyn Boak and Sally met with Club and Coach Services Director Bill Brenner during lunch today. The purpose of the meeting was to explore ways to better promote the Club of the Year, Coach of the Year, and Kerry O’Brien Coaching awards in order to encourage more nominations in the future. Ideas generated included: have Bill communicate with the coaches and club representatives on behalf of the award-giving committees; have the R&A committee provide constructive feedback to the clubs that do not get selected, and encourage them to re-submit the following year; on the awards page, put a link to the winning club’s website; communicate directly with the LMSC newsletter editors (when possible) in order to get the call to nominations published locally; provide press releases to local communities of clubs and individual being honored; provide a logo – or graphic of the award – that can be posted on club and/or LMSC websites; and finally, have a feature article in a spring issue of *Swimmer* magazine focusing on the previous winners and announcing a call to nominations. This last idea generated quite a bit of discussion and it was **MSA to ask the magazine editor to put the information about the most current winners in the May/June issue as a “feature article” along with the call for nomination information.** This would allow time for an article about the honored clubs, coaches, and volunteers to be woven into an interesting article that would stimulate interest in nominating for those awards at that time.
4. **Review of Goals and Decisions this past year**

- a. As reported in the annual report, discussion took place and the committee voted to require that all recipients of the USMS service awards under its jurisdiction shall be required to be USMS members.
- b. Also reported in the annual report, the committee discussed the Ransom Arthur Award presentation that takes place at Spring Nationals and determined that when the recipient is not present, only an announcement would occur.
- c. No votes were taken but the committee discussed ways to make the Club of the Year nomination process go more smoothly. Some changes were made to the submission form and it was agreed that the award is for multiple years of performance, not just the past year. The jury is still out on whether the name clearly represents the award with some members believing it infers success within the past year, and others believing it infers merely the year the club was recognized. The committee will continue to discuss this on its private forum.
- d. The Dorothy Donnelly Service award received an abundance of nominees this year (22) so changes to the instructions on the website and reminders sent out to LMSC leaders a couple weeks before the deadline seem to have helped. The committee will continue to discuss ways to get the word out about this award. We recognize that often the leaders who receive the email reminders are likely to be those who are deserving of the award – yet their LMSC friends don't seem to realize that they should be nominated.

#### 5. Review of Annual Projects – awards that we coordinate

- a. Capt. Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award – Sally reported that there were seven outstanding nominees this year: John Bauman, Hill Carrow, Doug Church, Michael Heather, Patty Miller, Kerry O'Brien, and Frank (Skip) Thompson. After some discussion, it was decided that in the future, once the ballots are distributed to the voters, those voters will be given the opportunity to ask questions or get clarifications about individual nominees by submitting them to Sally, who will seek out the information and report back to the entire voting body.
  - b. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award – Carolyn noted how difficult it is to make the decision when all nominees are so deserving of the honor. Changes to the process this year produced some very well written nomination documents and the selection committee conferred via email to make their final decisions. The awards will be announced on Friday at the HOD meeting.
  - c. June Krauser Communications Award – Nancy took over leadership of this award selection process because the former leader had nominated one of the four nominees. Everything was done by email and the announcement will be made at the Friday HOD meeting.
  - d. Club of the Year Award – Ray chaired the selection committee this year. There were no nominations for Regional Club of the Year – a disappointing development! There were three terrific clubs nominated for Local Club of the Year: Grandstrand Masters (Myrtle Beach, SC), Blue Wave Aquatics (Federal Way, WA), and Sarasota YMCA Sharks (Sarasota, FL). This award will also be presented at the HOD meeting on Friday.
6. **Report on ISHOF and IMSHOF** – Walt submitted a complete report with the convention packet. Our committee is very pleased that Mel Goldstein is being recognized as the Honor Contributor to IMSHOF this year. This is the only position the R&A Committee can nominate and now that Mel has received this honor, we can put forth another nomination, this time for Ted Haartz. The paperwork has been in the works for quite some time and Sally will remind Kelly Sharitt that the call for nominations is coming up in February so the nomination document needs to be completed very soon.
7. **New pin design** – The subcommittee tasked with providing updated designs and costs for new Ransom Arthur Award and Dorothy Donnelly Service Award pins provided options for the committee to consider. Laura and Nancy worked with Rich Burns (thanks Rich) to provide numerous choices for each pin. Votes were taken for each style and were almost unanimous. It was agreed that we would continue with a 1" pin for the service award and enlarge the RJA pin from ¾" to 1". The service award will continue to be a cloisonné style and the RJA pin will be of yellow gold. While the pins were not originally budgeted for in 2013, the committee agreed that we should move forward at this convention and submit some numbers to Finance so that the pins can be ordered and received before next convention. **It was MSA that Nancy obtain an estimate from Steve Hasty so Sally can submit a budget request for the pins.** The committee will make the final decisions for ordering after multiple bids are received – most likely at a future conference call of by Email vote.
8. **Unfinished business**
- a. Pursue ideas for encouraging LMSCs and Clubs to recognize volunteers – this item will become our next topic on the committee's private forum.
  - b. Amendments to the R&A Policies – the committee will consider some minor changes to the policies after convention.

#### The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM

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