

USMS Convention — Garden Grove, California 2013

Committee Name:	Recognition & Awards	Session #:	1	Report #:	1
Committee Chair:	Sally Dillon	Vice Chair:	Ray Novitske		
Minutes recorded by:	Ed Tsuzuki	Date/time of meeting:	Thursday, 9/12, 10:15-11:30 am		

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. None

Motions Passed:

1. **MSA to revise R&A Committee Policy section D.5.b. to include that the nomination letter be amended to add “...and if any compensation was received for the service...”, and amended to include “and the amount and type of compensation received.”**

Number of committee members present: 12

Absent: 3

Number of other delegates present: 23

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Ray Novitske (vice chair), Robert Zeitner, Laura Val, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Nancy Ridout, Carolyn Boak, Walt Reid, Peggy Buchanan, Hugh Moore, Heather Howland, Rich Burns, Lori Payne, Ed Tsuzuki (EC liaison)

Minutes

Vice Chair Ray Novitske called the meeting to order at 10:18 AM by

1. Ransom J Arthur Award
 - a. Committee member and past Ransom J Arthur (RJA) award recipient Nancy Ridout pinned 2013 RJA award winner, Patty Miller with the brand new pin design.
 - b. Nancy distributed RJA pins with the new design to Jim Miller, Nancy Ridout, Jeanne Ensign (to Richard Burns to hand off), and Doug Church (to Ed Tsuzuki to hand off). The National Office has the pin for Jack Geoghegan. In addition to the 2013 honoree, Patty Miller, there were five other outstanding nominees: John Bauman, Hill Carrow, Michael Heather, Michael Moore, and Frank “Skip” Thompson.
 - c. The budget request for 2014 included cost for new shadow boxes to frame the RJA award for future recipients.
2. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award
 - a. The Dorothy Donnelly Service Award (DDSA) will be given to 14 recipients. The committee can award up to 15 annually.
 - b. The DDSA recipients will receive the new redesigned with the new USMS logo this year. There were 19 nominations and we selected 14 winners this year. Nadine Day, Sally, Ray were the selection committee.
 - c. Hill Carrow will present awards at the committee time on Friday.
3. June Krauser Communications Award
 - a. The U.S. Masters Swimming June Krauser Communications Award was coordinated by Nancy Ridout this year and will be awarded at the committee’s presentation time on Friday.
 - b. The committee should try harder to give better exposure to awards given. Nancy suggested that a small task force be formed to look at how we increase the number of nominations for all award categories.
4. Club of the Year
 - a. Nominations for the Club of the Year award were low in both local and regional club of the year award (none for regional club of the year). Ray coordinated the award selection committee this year.
 - b. Forms were simplified for ease of nominating, especially for the regional club award.
 - c. Ray thanked club of the year selection committee members.
 - d. Heather Howland suggested that the committee reach out directly to clubs to encourage more nominations.
 - e. Richard Zeitner brought up the concern around not allowing “workout groups” to be nominated and in some LMSCs with very large “clubs,” this presents a problem. It was suggested that a small group also work on this issue.

[continued]

5. IMSHOF

Walt Reid highlighted the IMSHOF Induction Ceremony scheduled for Friday evening. Ted Haartz will be inducted as an honor contributor. The Recognition and Awards Committee nominated Ted. Carolyn Boak encouraged everyone to attend the ceremony.

6. Unfinished Business

While many of the goals set for the year were accomplished, the committee fell short on promoting nomination of all USMS awards in one area. We were to have committee members encourage nominations on the local levels, but there could have been more efforts and success in this endeavor.

7. New Business

a. Amendment to the R&A policies

Some of the nominations received were for people who receive compensation for their services. There was a suggestion to include additional information in the nomination form to clarify services provided as a volunteer versus services provided for compensation. It was also suggested that only volunteer work should be considered for this award. **MSA to revise R&A Committee Policy section D.5.b. to include that the nomination letter be amended to add “...and if any compensation was received for the service...”, and amended to include “and the amount and type of compensation received.”**

b. Promotion of USMS awards and how we promote them, how we hand them out and how we recognize the recipients.

- Nancy reinforced Heather’s point that putting out an announcement does not create a lot of interest. We should go directly to coaches/clubs to suggest/request nominations.
- Carolyn suggested each committee member call (phone – not emails) LMSC chairs to discuss awards (several months before they are due), and then call back again to follow up on the discussion. Audience member (RC St. Amour) pointed out that she felt that this was the best suggestion.)
- Lori Payne suggested directly involving the Zone Chairs as well as the Coaches Committee.
- Hugh Moore suggested that the committee itself might submit nominations.
- Heather suggested that coaches could be approached directly (in person) at Nationals. Sometimes the teams are not even aware that certain awards exist.
- Rich suggested that there may be a communication “breakdown” where things like the value of the award have not been effectively communicated. He suggested perhaps that the committee could reach out more to the national office for more communications that bring out the value of the awards as well as the grass roots efforts around raising awareness of the awards. Also publicizing the award winners more. (Brian Holthus, Dot Donnelly Award recipient from MN pointed out that his award was publicized locally in the LMSC and he appreciated it.)
- Rich suggested that the committee could come up with write-ups/sound bites that could be used for press releases/web sites, etc. Kerry O’Brien pointed out that Pacific uses Championship meets as a platform to publicize award winners.
- Nancy suggested that a task force be formed to come up with ideas and a plan for promoting and publicizing awards (with a timeline that can work with the national office editorial calendar). The task force should report back to the committee by November 1. Cheryl, Heather, Nancy, Laura, Carolyn, and Rich have volunteered. Ray will work with the volunteers to identify a task force leader. Ed will work with Chris Stevenson, new VP of Local Ops, to work with the national office on the task force’s recommendations.

c. Carolyn appealed to interested and motivated meeting guests to sign up and become active on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.
