
Action Item:

1. MSA the minutes of the midyear meeting.
 2. MSA the Compensation and Benefits Committee's recommendation for the executive director's bonus for 2009.
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President Rob Copeland called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. EDT. Also present were Vice Presidents Leo Letendre, Mark Gill, Julie Heather and Mike Heather; Treasurer Jeff Moxie; Secretary Meg Smath; Immediate Past-President Jim Miller; Legal Counsel Patty Miller; Executive Director Rob Butcher; At-Large Directors Anthony Thompson (Breadbasket), Betsy Durrant (Colonies), Jerry Clark (Dixie), Nadine Day (Great Lakes), Jeanne Ensign (Northwest), Michael Moore (Oceana), Don Mehl (South Central) and Laura Winslow (Southwestern); Past-Presidents Ted Haartz and Nancy Ridout.

Executive director's report

Rob B reported that preparations are going well for SwimFest, with 50 paid swimmers and 39 coaches.

SC Nationals in Clovis will be a well-attended meet, with 590 entered so far, 90 percent of them online. Previously, only meets with a discount for early entry have had such a large entry this far in advance. Extrapolating from entries received so far, Rob B expects approximately 1,800 entries.

As of 5:30 p.m. on March 31, 2009, we have 38,504 paid members, which is 11 percent ahead of the same time last year; put another way, we are more than a month ahead of last year. Nine LMSCs are behind last year's registration, and 24 are showing 10 percent or more growth. We have 603 clubs registered so far, versus 537 for all of 2008. Donations to the USMS Endowment Fund are 15 percent ahead of this point last year, and donations to ISHOF are up 10 percent. This is very encouraging in light of the current economic climate. Rob B believes these increases are due to grassroots efforts and a team approach. He added that the Marketing Committee has been helping with spreading the word about the new USMS logo. Julie commented that Southern Pacific meets have been well attended, and theorized we may still be getting an "Olympic bounce." Nancy said the same was true in Pacific. Jim felt our increases might also be due to increased benefits to members and to an easier registration process. Betsy wondered if there might be a correlation with workouts on the website now being available only in the members-only section.

Approval of midyear meeting minutes

MSA the minutes of the midyear meeting. Patty also requested that the Governance Committee's report for the midyear meeting be attached to the minutes.

National headquarters update

Rob B thanked Jerry Clark and Patty Miller for their help in the search for office space. He has made two trips to Sarasota to look at office space, visiting about 30 different

properties. He is finalizing details on two possible locations and hopes to have all data available for the BOD within a week or so. Mike asked if there was any indication that either of the properties would be available for sale, and Rob B said there was not. Ted asked if Rob B felt the amount of space offered in these two locations would be adequate if our staff grows rapidly, and Rob B said that expansion would not be possible at either location; it would be more likely we would upgrade to a larger space if we outgrew either of the proposed locations.

Governance Committee report

Patty reported that the committee has been focused on committee issues and pulling things back together since the midyear meeting. They want to make sure that the committee's recommendations are uniformly communicated to committee chairs.

Compensation and Benefits Committee report

Nadine sent a spreadsheet to the BOD approximately two weeks earlier outlining the 2009 bonus plan for the executive director. **MSA the recommendation of the Compensation and Benefits Committee**; there was one abstention.

Elections

Julie reported that the Election Committee has not yet received any nomination packets. She asked the Board to encourage any interested candidates.

Privacy policy

Leo and Rob B presented a draft of a web privacy policy. The policy addresses why we collect the information we collect, how we use it and who has access to it. The BOD discussed how to communicate that vendors may have different policies and also how to modify this policy in the future. Once the policy is finalized, we will post an FAQ on our website. Leo and Rob B will refine the policy further, and the BOD will take it up again, either via email or at our next meeting.

Convention planning

Meg reported that planning has begun and the schedule has been finalized and passed on to Convention Coordinator Victor Buehler. Nadine attended a pre-convention planning meeting at the hotel in Chicago. She and other members of the Illinois LMSC have identified tentative sites for morning workouts. They are looking into the possibility of offering the 3000/6000 postal swim during the workouts. The National Office will take care of booking rooms for any Board members who wish to take advantage of this service.

FINA swimsuit issue

FINA recently announced that technical swimsuit manufacturers will need to apply for approval for their suits to be considered legal for competition. Rob C and Leo reported that the Rules Committee has issued an opinion on the swimsuit issue and is staying abreast of any new developments.

Computer issues

Rob B reported that our online registration system was down and some data was lost recently, in spite of triple redundancy in the system. Our vendor has fixed the problem and has been in contact with some local registrars to reconstruct missing data. Also, the server hosting our website went down recently. A new backup server has been ordered, and Webmaster Jim Matysek will configure the new server when it arrives and then ship it to the warehouse where our data is stored.

Next meeting and adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m. EDT. Our next meeting will be June 2, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. EDT.

Meg Smath
Secretary