

United States Masters Swimming (USMS)
Delaware Valley Local Masters Swimming Committee (Del Val LMSC)
Minutes of Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 27, 2013

Welcome

The annual membership meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laurie Hug in the Parents' Room of Germantown Academy, Fort Washington, Pa. at 1:10 p.m. (Laurie hosted a work-out in the GA pool prior to the meeting.) Introductions were made. *Attending:* Chairperson Laurie Hug, Vice Chair Tom Patterson, Treasurer Janet Jastremski, Secretary Chris Schroeder, Dan Allen, Pamela Shepard, Vikye Swanson, Steve Dougherty, Dick Jackson, Rich O'Shaughnessy, Doug Jones, Dave Schneider, Charles Bender, Jack Martin, Sue Watts, and Stephanie Walsh Beilman.

Secretary's Report

Presented by Chris Schroeder, Secretary

Chris indicated that the minutes and committee reports from our 2012 meeting have been posted on our LMSC website, www.dvmasters.org since last November. She asked that all chairs put their names on their reports, which once again will be posted on the web with the minutes, thereby negating the need to repeat committee information verbatim in the minutes.

Secretary's Report M/S/P

Secretary's Notes: 1) The format M/S/P is used in the minutes to indicate that a motion (M) was made, seconded (S), and passed (P). The secretary has the names of those motioning and seconding; all votes were unanimous unless stated otherwise.

Registrar's Report

Presented by Rich O'Shaughnessy, Registrar

Our LMSC membership numbers continue to increase; currently we have 984 members. Rich's report breaks out our numbers by age, gender, clubs and workout groups. Rich said USMS is now going to charge \$25 to list workout groups on their website. Tom added the increase relates to services from USMS (a banner and rule books), but listing is not mandatory. Laurie said the \$25 charge affects only 1776 in our LMSC as no other club identifies workout groups. Discussion ensued regarding the pros & cons of workout groups paying this charge, but there did not seem to be much interest in pursuing payment. Dick indicated that it still costs \$25 to register official USMS clubs.

Rich also reported that we continue to attract younger swimmers, and the new registration system seems to be working well. Dave asked if the number of our convention delegates would increase if our membership reached 1,000, but the next benchmark was thought to be around 1200 (exact number is in the rule book). Our LMSC has offered a registration discount to swimmers 24 y.o. and younger and to 70 y.o. + as an incentive to join USMS, but there is no provision in the national office (N.O.) registration system to allow this. This, then, creates a complex series of steps for our registrar and treasurer to identify and reimburse the targeted groups.

Registrar's Report M/S/P

Sanctions Report

Presented by Tom Patterson for George Horan, Committee Chair

The new USMS insurance fee for Open Water Swims (OWS) has discouraged OWS event directors in our area from pursuing sanctioning. Phoenixville & Drexel want to have meets on the same day in January; George will be responsible for resolving the conflict based on the sanction/seniority policy passed at our annual meeting last year. Stephanie indicated that she has offered to run two meets at UMLY, probably a SCY meet in February, and a LCM June 8.

Sanctions Report was M/S/P

Top 10 and Records Report

Presented by Tom Patterson, Vice-President and Committee Chair

Tom reported that our LMSC had quite a few meets last year. LaSalle offered their first meet, which was sanctioned. Ridley Y might have a meet in May with a convenient location near I-95 and the Blue Route. Tom continues to update our LMSC records, recently finishing the SCM relays. Dick offered to share his many relay records.

Dave noticed that the number of swimmers we have in the Top Ten is declining; hopefully that will change with LC Nationals at University of Maryland and Fina Worlds in Montreal next year. Discussion ensued about reasons for the decline with Sue offering that newer swimmers don't know about events and need encouragement from other swimmers. Pam thought afternoon meets with a social after would help, and Stephanie added that varying the times and days of meets might help too. Laurie thought our Facebook page (Delaware Valley Masters Swimming) could be utilized to promote events.

Top 10 and Records Report M/S/P

Treasurer's Report

Presented by Janet Jastremski, Treasurer

Our new Treasurer, Janet, reported that we began our fiscal year (10/1/12) with \$22,538. but our ending balance on 9/30/13 was down to \$17,119 with an outstanding convention stipend of approximately \$1,000 still requiring reimbursement. Janet asked the group to approve a number of actions giving her permission to:

- Destroy our financial records for the years '03, '04, '05 because we are required to keep only seven prior years and our fiscal archives are voluminous;
- Use a standardized reimbursement form she developed (with receipts attached);
- Change our LMSC fiscal year from Oct. 1- Sept. 30 to Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 as required by USMS to be in sync with their fiscal year.

The group approved these changes.

Janet also mentioned that the LMSC Treasurer is bonded by USMS only if someone without check signing power verifies the bank account balance yearly. In addition, our by-laws require an annual review. Charles volunteered to do the review and submitted the following statement to the Officers on 10/28/13: "Per the request of the USMS, I independently reviewed the bank statements, check register, and deposit records of the DVMS at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 27, 2013. I certify that I am not a check signer with DVMS. I compared the prepared

financial statement balance with the bank statements and other records for the months ending January, March, July and September 2013, and found them to accurately reflect the stated balances presented in the Treasurer's report prepared by Janet Jastremski. "

Janet raised several other significant issues: our annual expenditures exceed our income; we have no income except member dues and meet sanction/recognition fees; we subsidize dues for 67 members which consumes much of our income; we need to develop a viable budget, decide upon a reserve, and have guidelines for convention expenses.

Treasurer's report was M to accept subject to review by Charles/S/P

A lengthy discussion followed about our USMS dues structure and our LMSC membership subsidies. Currently our LMSC receives just \$2.00 per member from the \$35 USMS membership fee. We have subsidized dues for swimmers 70 y.o.+ and 24 y.o. and under for several years with those swimmers paying only \$10 dues. At our annual meeting last year we voted to increase our LMSC fee by \$2 beginning 11/1/13 to generate more income for our LMSC. At the convention this year USMS approved a \$2 per year per member dues increase for 5 years beginning 2015.

Stephanie made a motion to increase our '14 membership dues to \$40 and to \$20 for swimmers 24 y.o. and under and keep dues for swimmers 70 y.o.+ at \$10. Charles seconded this motion. Again much discussion followed as people asked for clarification and offered opinions on the dues and subsidies. Swimmers should be requesting the subsidy if registering online, but if they don't, our registrar identifies them and reimburses anyway in order to be fair. People asked why do we subsidize each group, and what if we just stop reimbursing? Chris felt we should defer any increase until a budget was established. Dick had already told new swimmers about the discount; Steve recommended that we subsidize first-time registrations only. Sue thought it important that we examine the financial data, but it could be done later. Charles asked if the reimbursement is a policy. What if we return to regular fees for all?

Stephanie removed her motion and replaced it with a new one: Raise 2014 dues to \$40 for everyone, and anyone (not just certain age groups) needing a hardship subsidy can request it through the registrar with the final decision made by a Finance Committee. Vikye seconded the motion. The vote was: For: 14; Against: 2. Motion Passed.

Charles suggested and the group agreed to establish a Finance Committee to assist the Treasurer examine yearly expenses, establish an annual budget, review the expense reimbursement form, determine a minimum reserve, consider revenue development, decide hardship dues requests, and address other fiscal concerns. Janet will chair the committee composed of Charles, Chris, Rich, and Sue.

Web Site Report

Presented by Dan Allen, Web Master

Dan has installed a filter on our site so we can now see which meets are sanctioned, and he continues to verify "Places to Swim" in our LMSC. Some meet directors are not sending results for posting. There has been a recent problem accessing all components of our site, but he is working on resolving it.

Web Site Report M/S/P

Coaches Report

Presented by Dick Jackson, Committee Chair

While there is no written report, Dick stated that the local meets he attended this past year went well. He would like us to avoid weekly back-to-back meets for the benefit of swimmers who want to do both meets. He distributed applications for the American Coaches Association.

Coaches Report M/S/P

Officials Report

Presented by Stephanie Walsh Beilman, Committee Chair

The Treasurer orders rule books from USMS which get sent to our Sanctions chair. Certified officials from USA Middle Atlantic Swimming are available for meets. While some officials might be willing to volunteer, they deserve reimbursement, at least \$10 an hour. Some officials are paid per meet (e.g. \$75). Discussion ensued about the importance of showing appreciation to officials regardless of the amount they are being paid as they invest a lot of time traveling to and officiating at meets.

Officials Report M/S/P

Open Water Report

Presented by Laurie Hug for Delia Perez, Committee Chair

Laurie has asked that OWS conducted at locations other than the shore, e.g. Lake Nockamixon, be included in the report. We did not have any sanctioned OWS in our LMSC because of the insurance increase. It was suggested that people use our Facebook page to increase awareness of OWS, especially national championships.

Open Water Report M/S/P

Marketing

Presented by Pam Shepard, Committee Chair

Pam reported that she will continue to update our LMSC brochure with Stephanie. She has heard from swimmers that some are confused about “tentative” meets on our web site, but the response was that they are listed at the request of other swimmers who want to plan in advance.

Facebook: Our page, Delaware Valley Masters Swimming, continues to be active; Pam continues to be administrator, and has tried to eliminate spammers. We need a link to it on our website; Rich said we also can link our FB page to the national USMS website. Anybody can post to our site (as they can photos to our website). Discussion followed about our core group being more active on FB, and it was suggested that Rich could send an e-mail to our membership about our page.

Pam repeated the need to attract younger swimmers to masters, and suggested sending brochures electronically to high schools and colleges. Janet asked if any committees needed funds to help them accomplish their mission, e.g. brochures. Chairs should e-mail her the anticipated amount so it can be budgeted. Regarding brochures, Stephanie said it is much cheaper if we order larger mounts in black and white; previously, 1,000 brochures were distributed in one year. She will follow-up securing an estimate.

Marketing Report M/S/P

Fitness Report

Presented by Sue Watts, Committee Chair

Sue has been writing articles for our web site to encourage fitness swimmers and suggested we: 1) get feedback from fitness swimmers, perhaps through Facebook, and 2) hold a fitness event (which might require a budget). Janet suggested that we promote the postal swims as fitness events, designating specific times and dates, and offering something free, like a cap. E-mail Sue with ideas.

Dave mentioned that he attended the Fitness Committee at the convention, where it was reported the Check-Off Challenge has not been doing well. Sue asked if we could put a note on the Facebook page that references her fitness articles on the web. Stephanie said we formerly offered clinics for fitness swimmers that were well-attended; maybe one could be done in conjunction with a meet, but the group preferred a free-standing clinic. Charles is offering one at the Roxborough Y the day after Thanksgiving.
Fitness Report M/S/P

Social Report

Presented by Steve Dougherty, Committee Co-chair

Although there was no written report, Steve said that there has not been much social activity on the LMSC level because it has been difficult getting people to commit to an event. He and his co-chair, Geoff Meyer, attempted to set up a social last year, but had to cancel for lack of interest. Discussion followed. Jack suggested that something informal might be done at Zones; Janet added that it would be helpful to post (on FB and web) which hotel Del Val is using at Zones. Chris thought it would be fun if Laurie could run a New Year's Eve workout with a social after; Laurie agreed to look into it. Steve added there might be a need for additional funding for an "all Del Val" event.

Social Report M/S/P

USMS Convention Reports

Presented by Tom Paterson, Janet Jastremski, and Dave Schneider

This year Del Val LMSC had four delegates to the USMS portion of the U.S. Aquatic Sports (USAS) Convention in Orange County, California, Sept 11-15, 2013. One delegate, Dave Diehl, is on the USMS Executive Committee. Tom, Janet, and Dave attended many different workshops to gain as much information as possible for our LMSC. Janet focused on financial workshops, and Dave participated in the Level 1 & 2 coaching certifications. Tom reported on the new membership category "Club Unattached" (created because of FINA rule changes), the increase in dues, and the high cost of insurance for OWS. The current and past convention representatives agreed that the USMS convention is very informative, but involves much work making for long days. Next year the convention will be in Jacksonville, Florida.

We were thrilled that Stephanie received the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award at this year's convention. Steph expressed her appreciation for being nominated, and then receiving this honor. For a full description of the award and nomination, go to dvmasters.org/pdf/misc/Steph_Dot_Donnelly_Award.
Convention Reports M/S/P

Nomination Committee

Members: Stephanie Walsh Beilman, Sue Watts, and Vikye Swanson

Stephanie submitted the committee's nomination of Laurie Hug for Chairperson and Tom Patterson for Vice Chair, each for a third (and final) two-year term. Chris Schroeder agreed to serve a final two-year term as secretary.

Nominations M/S/P

Meet Schedule

Tom reported the schedule will be on our website.

Team Reports

There was not much time or interest in team reports this year. Information about the Pennypack team can be found on their website, www.teampennypack.org. Everyone would like to promote participation at Long Course Nationals at the University of Maryland next August.

Old Business

1. The Lane Line has been replaced by Delaware Valley Masters Swimming Facebook page.

New Business

1. Stephanie reported that our former OWS chair, Barney Hungerford is living in Texas, where he is recuperating slowly from his stroke.
2. Chris said she participated in the USMS Conflict of Interest webinar and found it informative. It is important for LMSC's to: be aware of how conflicts may arise, establish a process for addressing them, and foster open discussion when conflicts do surface. The presentation can be accessed at [www.USMS.org/admin/lmschb/2013webinar-conflict of interest](http://www.USMS.org/admin/lmschb/2013webinar-conflict%20of%20interest).
3. Charles said he would like to see a "Philadelphia Bridge Swim" in the Delaware River next year. He felt it could be as scenic as the one in NYC and invites support from swimmers here.

M/S/P to adjourn meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Schroeder, Secretary

Electronic copy submitted to USMS National Office on November 11, 2013