

USMS Convention — Atlanta, Georgia 2016

Committee Name: Great Lakes Zone	Session #: 1
Committee Chair: C.J. Rushman	Vice Chair:
Minutes recorded by: Karen Gernert	Date/time of meeting: 9/22/16 – 9:45am

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

- 1.

Motions Passed:

1. Dan Cox endorsed by Zone for the At-Large Director.
2. Authorize the LMSC Chairs to meet with the Great Lakes Zone chair to create a budget, decide how to use the funds, and self-assess if necessary.

Number of committee members present: 42	Absent:	Number of other delegates present:
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):		
Committee Members Absent:		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:45a.

1. CJ Rushman introduced Marianne Groanings from the National Office to talk about the education initiatives. Works with Bill Brenner in the national office. New initiative in education that swimmers want more clinics. Will be adding a Stroke Development Clinics and combine that with an education component for coaches to learn how to put on a stroke clinic. The education portion for the clinic will be right after the first clinic. One instructor will lead the education portion for coaches on how to put on a Stroke Development class in their own LMSC. When the clinics are scheduled in each LMSC, the national office will send out information to LMSC's, so the clinics can be marketed. This is a fee-based offering and space is typically limited only by pool space. Limited to 12 coaches. As long as you are certified coach, you can come to the coach portion of the clinic. The Stroke Development Clinic will be on Saturday, the Education portion on Sunday.
2. CJ Rushman called the Zone meeting to order. Thanked the attendees and had each attendee introduce themselves. Sign-up sheet was sent around for attendance.
3. We have one candidate for at-large Director whom is Dan Cox. Nadine Day motioned to endorse Dan Cox for position. Motion seconded by Phil. Motion passes. CJ Rushman appointed to notify HOD of endorsement.
4. LMSC reports given;
 - Alleghany Mountain not in attendance. Second year in a row, they do not have anyone in attendance. They have approximately 350 members. Their membership is down a bit. Nadine recommended that CJ, as Zone Chair, contact Alleghany to request their presence.
 - Lisa Brown –Indiana Zone Report. Two new Board members have joined – Ron Gatte and Michael Carlson. Two new teams in the last month have joined USMS. Great Olympic bump in membership. Working on putting together budgets for the year, By-Laws and Policy Manuals are now completed. October 1 is a SCM meet at the IUPUI Natatorium. ALTS is on October 8th.
 - Heidi Kafke – Illinois Zone Report. Have over 2,200 members total. State meet held in Indiana. State meet next year will be in Wisconsin. Illinois facilities not able to hold 2-pool meet format. Typically about 600 swimmers at each State meet. Board very active – 2 membership meeting each year. Very busy meet season upcoming. Working on activating coaches more and glad support from national office. Working on improving communications through website and possible app. Trying to get ALTS
 - Susan Ehringer – Kentucky Zone Report. Numbers are slightly down to 610. Little bump due to spouses. Held 1 additional meet this year for a total of 5 meets. Four clubs – Kentucky Sky with 11 workout groups and 3 other clubs.

- Skip Thompson – Michigan Zone Report. At 1038 membership now. Have 14 meets up now and 3 more this fall. LMSC has more meets than anyone with 68% of membership competing. Three new meets. State Championship will be at Saginaw Valley. LMSC has mobile application. Sixth year for their LMSC banquet. The #1 has been with the LMSC for 36 years.
 - Pete Tarnapoll– Ohio Zone Report. Have not been very active in the past year, but looking to turn that around with a committed group.
 - Harry Greenfield - Lake Erie Zone Report. Have a reduction in membership to 746. Having difficulty getting an active Board. Tries to get 3 largest clubs to put people on the Board and not having much luck. Have some legacy members on the Board that probably need to be replaced. Would like workshop at next convention on getting your Board active and how to grow numbers. Have good relationship with Cleveland State and they host an alumni meet, which has now been opened to Masters swimmers. The college team, alumni, and Masters all compete together. Had an 89-year old member swim the 200 Fly. Two big concerns are growing members and getting an active Board. Purchased video equipment and hosted 4 clinics. Ohio Masters is hosting the One Hour e-Postal. Lake Erie relay had great response.
 - Jennie Sidler – Wisconsin Zone Report. Recognized John Bowman, he is retiring as the Registrar in Wisconsin. He has been Registrar since 1972. He has been a very valuable asset to Wisconsin. He has been the glue that has held Wisconsin together for all these years. Thank you! James Biles is Vice Chair and will be Chair next year. Jennie will be Vice-Chair next year. James is also on Long Distance committee. Dave Clark is on Coaches Committee. Jerry Lorrigan is the Safety Chair. Elise Dillsworth is the Auditor. 8 pool meets in Wisconsin – 6 SCY, 1 LCM, and 1 SCM. One open water event was canceled due to weather. One fitness event is like a postal. Had 6-8 swimmers attend ALTS training in Wisconsin. Also have decided that they will be fully funding the tuition for ALTS and Coaches Certification to encourage participation in these programs. Those interested need to apply to Wisconsin LMSC. Will most likely also fund the Official Certification classes as well. Have 567 swimmers – pretty static each year.
5. Nadine mentioned that on Saturday there is a Board Orientation. It is not restricted to the national Board. All are welcome to attend.
 6. CJ Rushman placed on the USMS Forum, within the Great Lakes Zone forum what meets are upcoming in the Zone. About 38-40 Zone meets are up-coming. CJ will send this list to each of the chairs.
 7. CJ Rushman recognized Patty Miller, USMS President. Patty thanked everyone for their participation in USMS and their initiatives. Great lakes is a very active zone.
 8. LMSC Standards that were developed by LMSC Committee. Good news – most of our LMSC's are in compliance. Not all are 100% perfect, but pretty good.
 9. Great Lakes Zone Fund discussion. Great Lakes Zone fund was stopped for this year. Make sure all are aware that they can provide money to any new open water swims – not one that is currently taking place or is resurrected. Also can offer stipend for open water awards. Do have funds, so we can put funds towards a big effort, if needed. Jerry from Wisconsin – tried to do a series of swims in past (GLOWS) which was where the Great Lakes Zone Fund was originated. Funding collection was stopped. Still have the funds (\$946) in the bank. Dan Cox – Does the Zone want to continue funding? Geared toward open water series, but can we use for other things and start collecting again, so there are additional funds. Lisa Brown from Indiana. As far as open water, the sanction fees were new as of last year. In order to host an open water event, it is a bit more costly than in the past. Shouldn't the fund help – especially for new events. Skip Thompson – Was a lot of interest until the insurance skyrocketed. With last year's sanctioning changes, if you have over 180 swimmers, then break even. Alternative sanctioning boards are now taking place. There is a USMS fund to help with new open water events. Last year, made a motion to authorize LMSC Chairs to meet with Great lakes Chair to discuss what they want to spend the money on and begin assessing funds again. Phil Dotson– Authorize the LMSC Chairs to meet with the Great Lakes Zone chair to create a budget, decide how to use the funds, and self-assess if necessary. Motion seconded by Nadine Day. Discussion to really encourage those Chairs to encourage the funding, so you can build the fund up in order to do some good things in the future. Up to us to be creative as to how the funds are used, but should be self-assessing so that we have money to use for future projects. Nadine also encourages Chairs to remember that this is for the Zone and not to focus only on a particular LMSC . Fee was \$0.10 per registered swimmer. Bill Roach – Daunting to begin an open water event with all of the equipment that needs to be purchased. Once the infrastructure is in place, it's much easier to run again. At a national office level, had rebate money available and didn't spend even ½ of it. Mike Carlson – As a Zone, would it be possible to purchase equipment as a Zone and lend it to each event? Sue – Don't limit to just open water, as pool meets are also struggling. Numbers are down and continue to go down. Make aware that the Chair meeting should be looking at entire Zone, as well as open water and pool events. Motion called to a vote. Motion passes.

New business

10. Great Lakes web and Facebook pages are outdated. How can we get anything updated? Dave Oplinger from Indiana is the web master. There is a Zone Facebook page. Needs to update page and update admin privileges. Encourage all to attend the Social Media workshop. Lake Erie has had great luck with Twitter and would like Great Lakes Zone to update. CJ and Jay will discuss and start the process to get online presence updated. Need to update and then utilize much more effectively. Would also be good idea for individual LMSC's to link to Great Lakes website too. Need to give Dave Oplinger guidelines on what to update. Need to address the way we want to communicate with the Zone. Information needs to be pushed out instead of relying on people going to get the information. We need a policy on how to push information out to membership. Most swimmers don't realize they are part of a Zone. CJ will add to LMSC Chair meeting agenda.
11. Mike Carlson (IN) – Would we consider a Zone Championship? Struggle to get to Nationals, so would a Zone meet happen? Used to have the SCM fall meet as the Zone Championship. Never really pushed as a Zone Championship meet. Where would we put it? Can we designate it and advertise as such? Indy is close; Spire is another great facility. We can also rotate. In the history of the Zone, there is a standing motion that Indianapolis hosted the Zone Championship. Just haven't done it in the past. In the ballpark for the Indiana delegation. When Jim Barber was the Indiana Chair, used the Fall Meet in the SCM. Meet was eventually canceled for several years because of low attendance. Susan makes a motion to have Indiana host the Zone Championships at IUPUI in October 2017 in SCM. Seconded by Michael Carlson. Motion was tabled until meet host can be contacted to see if the October 2017 can be added as a championship meet. Add to agenda for LMSC Chair meeting to discuss. Rotating Zone Championship should also be on the agenda. Pete Tarnapoll (OH) regarding Zone Championship, why are we pushing? Need to look at why we want the championship and what would be best attended. Rather than putting something in place just to put in place, need to figure out what our membership wants before just adding a new meet.
12. Phil Dotson – Encourage everyone to follow up with Dawson's SSL email, so everyone's LMSC can be contributors to this movement.
13. Yesterday, was 9/21, it was CJ Rushman's 20th wedding anniversary.
14. Skip – Coaches/Sports Medicine/Fitness and Sports Medicine will focus on dryland. Encourages everyone to attend.

No other new business.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year;

1. LMSC Chairs to meet with Zone Chair to discuss and act on issues discussed in this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52a.
