

# USAS Convention — Anaheim, Calif., September 26–30, 2007

## United States Masters Swimming House of Delegates — Minutes

### Thursday, September 27, 2007, 9:00–10:00 a.m.

President Rob Copeland called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. PDT. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll; new delegates were asked to stand and be recognized. Meg also wished Bill Cleveland (Southern) a happy birthday. Rob welcomed everyone to the convention, which had the theme of “USMS: Made for You and Me,” to remind us to focus on our members. He announced that election of officers would be held later in the convention and listed some of USMS’s accomplishments for the year:

- Hired our first executive director, Todd Smith.
- Have actively engaged our Board of Directors, meeting at midyear in St. Louis and in June in Chicago for a strategic planning retreat, resulting in our own strategic plan.
- Established benefits for our employees and raised our level of professionalism.
- Renewed our contract with Douglas Murphy Communications to publish *USMS Swimmer* for the next five years.
- Applied for a registered trademark for our logo and other things associated with our brand.
- Signed a contract with Club Assistant for online registration services.
- The Club Development Task Force issued its report, which will help us provide better services for our members through strengthened clubs.
- Mel Goldstein has begun implementing the Club-in-a-Box program, which will continue.
- Began an LMSC Development Task Force.
- Developed a strategic plan.
- Established a Branding Task Force, to be led by Lynn Hazlewood, to help outsiders and potential members understand that we’re about more than competition; we’re more about a fit and healthy lifestyle.

Rob encouraged all delegates to take back what they learn at this convention to their LMSCs. He said we will be focusing in the coming year on providing support services to our membership and LMSCs.

Rob called attention to the officer reports in the convention packet. **MSA the written officers’ reports.**

**Convention coordinator:** Victor Buehler thanked all who have helped with running the convention, and especially in the hospitality suite. He thanked Michael Heather for mentoring him. He urged the delegates to work together to make the convention run efficiently. He also thanked delegates from the Florida, Southern Pacific and Michigan LMSCs for their help, and especially Mike Collins (Southern Pacific) for lining up practice space.

**Parliamentarian:** Bill Tingley (Kentucky) went over the standing rules of the House of Delegates:

- Delegates must wear their badges in the House, especially when voting.
- Motions must be made from the microphone; makers of motions must state their name.
- We will follow the Election Operating Guidelines, a copy of which is available from the chair of the Election Committee, Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, and [www.usms.org](http://www.usms.org).
- Those speaking during debate will be limited to three minutes; rebuttal is limited to one minute.
- If the question is called, those already in line at the microphone will still be allowed to speak, but no new speakers will be recognized..
- For everything else, we will follow *Robert’s Rules of Order*.

**Executive director’s report:** Todd Smith was introduced to the House and said he is honored to be USMS’s first executive director. He is still learning, and encouraged delegates to pass suggestions on to him. His background is in diving, where he has spent 40 years as an athlete, coach and administrator, which should help him adjust to Masters swimming. He reported that the Online Registration Task Force, after many hours of conference calls, selected Club Assistant, a company that is owned by a USMS member, to be our vendor; many employees of the company are also USMS members. He has identified several goals that he will try to achieve in the next six to eight months. He will make branding a priority, as growth, promotion and sponsor acquisition rely on a good branding strategy. His target date for implementation of a branding strategy is March 1. He also will emphasize drawing up a succession plan for key personnel. He commended the Club Development Task Force for its hard work in creating its report, whose objectives and goals will soon be implemented. Todd is making plans to establish an office and hire an office

assistant in Indianapolis. He will also compile an employee handbook so that current and future employees understand the expectations. He noted that we received only one bid for each pool national championship this year and will work to attract more bids. Because Nationals are a major event and have great impact on communities, he will work with the Championship Committee to create a more attractive package to recruit cities. He would like to establish stronger relationships with external organizations by meeting with his counterpart at USA Triathlon and the YMCA. He will work with Mel Goldstein to secure more corporate partnerships, and also plans to update our Financial Operating Guidelines and Professional Management Guidelines to make them more appropriate and streamlined to an organization relying more on staff. He said he is pleased to be here and looks forward to serving the organization.

**Roles and responsibilities of delegates:** Vice President of Local Operations Julie Heather outlined the roles and responsibilities of all delegates. She said all delegates wear many hats (swimmer, coach, registrar, paid staff, delegates, etc.) and have different views depending on which hat they wear. This can lead to conflicts of interest, which we must be aware of, and we must think about which hat we're wearing when we make decisions. We need to think about what's best for United States Masters Swimming.

She introduced the concept of the five key commitments, which are to: yourself, the organization, our customers (swimmers), people and the task. Commitment to yourself means you must take responsibility for your personal beliefs and decisions, and be willing to take risks and try out new ideas, deal with others honestly and sincerely and accept constructive criticism and act on it in a productive way. Commitment to USMS means we should support the mission and goals of USMS (this relates to strategic planning), present USMS to others with pride, "challenge up, support down" (if you don't like something, challenge the leadership that there's a better way to do it, and have arguments ready; but when you walk out of the room, support the organization and the decisions it has made). Commitment to swimmers means we should know what they need and want, and get their input so that we can make decisions for those we represent; we should treat swimmers respectfully and remember that their satisfaction is more important than any short-term gain in our organization. Commitment to people means we show respect and concern for other delegates, acknowledging that their opinions are valuable; we give feedback to those we supervise; develop suggestions for improvement; provide opportunities to try out new ideas; and give positive recognition when it's due. Commitment to task means we realize the connection between individual objectives and the larger organizational goals (where do we fit within our strategic plan); tasks should be made meaningful, relevant and easily understood.

**IT Task Force report:** Vice President of Member Services Mark Gill reported on the activities of the task force. He noted that demands for IT services have increased dramatically in recent years. The task force looked at similar organizations, most notably USA Swimming, to see how they're staffed and what capabilities they offered to their membership. Because our demands exceed the capability of our current IT staff, the task force recommends hiring a consultant to evaluate our information technology structure. The task force also expects to hire more staff beginning in the fourth quarter of 2008.

**LMSC Development Task Force report:** Julie Heather said that a task force on this topic is just getting under way and will develop a set of minimum competencies. The workshops to be held that evening — (1) Leadership and Volunteers, (2) Is Your Club Getting What You Deserve or Deserving What You Get, (3) Marketing Your Club to Your Community and (4) Finances for Your Club and LMSC — will be a first step. Julie asked for LMSC representatives to let her know about problems in their LMSCs so that they can be addressed.

**Club Development Task Force report:** Julie also discussed this task force, which preceded and parallels the LMSC Development Task Force. She recognized its members: Carolyn Boak, Tom Boyd, Mo Chambers, Rob Copeland, Nadine Day, Jeanne Ensign, Jim Wheeler, Todd Smith and Mel Goldstein. The task force's report has been made available to all delegates, who are now responsible for carrying out the task force's recommendations. She asked delegates to volunteer to work with clubs to address issues, provide support and help clubs grow. Training will be provided and expenses will be covered.

**Election nominations:** Election Chair Debbie Morrin-Nordlund announced the slate of nominated officers: Rob Copeland — president, Leo Letendre — vice president of national operations, Julie Heather — vice president of local operations, Mark Gill — vice president of member services, Michael Heather — vice president of community services and Meg Smath — secretary. There were no nominees for treasurer. She called for nominations from the floor for each office. **MSA to close nominations for president. MSA to close nominations for vice president of**

**national operations. MSA to close nominations for vice president of local operations. MSA to close nominations for vice president of member services. MSA to close nominations for vice president of community services. MSA to close nominations for secretary.** Wayne McCauley (Southern Pacific) nominated Jeff Moxie (Southern Pacific) for treasurer; the nomination was seconded by Tom Boak (Gulf). **MSA to close nominations for treasurer.** Debbie announced that elections would be held during Friday morning's HOD meeting.

**Strategic planning update:** Todd Smith explained the genesis of the strategic plan, which was emailed to delegates before convention. Workbooks that helped contributors define missions, objectives and goals (MOGs) were distributed to committee chairs and special appointments. The MOGs were then compiled into a comprehensive document. The Board of Directors, employees and relevant committee chairs met in June in Chicago to discuss the collected data and determine USMS's core priorities and strategies. Prioritizing is key to moving the organization forward. We are now at the stage where we are asking for more input, and revisiting the objectives and goals based on our core priorities, which are: (1) realign committee structure and clarify committee definitions, (2) develop a branding strategy, (3) club development, (4) LMSC development, (5) develop a succession plan for human resources. We are now asking each committee to evaluate their goals, based on providing member services, receiving a good return on investment (both money and time), keeping things simple and realistic, assigning tasks with realistic timelines and maintaining regular communication. The BOD suggests that committees meet at least monthly by conference call throughout the year. Ultimately, the success of this plan will be driven by the committees. Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) asked why some committees, specifically Finance and International, were not represented on the diagram included in the strategic plan. Rob answered that this was an oversight. Finance is under National Operations and International is under Member Services. Rob noted that representatives from the BOD will be meeting with each committee to help them think about service to members and the strategic plan as they conduct their business. Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley) asked if the appendices to the strategic plan have been posted online. Todd replied that they have not been yet, as they are in the process of being revised by the committees. Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) reminded delegates that the report of the Club Development Task Force, which is one of the appendices, has been emailed to all delegates and that copies will also be placed in the delegates' accordion files.

**Announcements:** Rob explained that committee reports will be distributed in the accordion files and asked for volunteers to help with the distribution. He also reminded new delegates and their prospective mentors to meet in the lobby at noon for the Take a New Delegate to Lunch program.

The meeting was recessed at 10:18 a.m. PDT.

## **Friday, September 28, 2007, 8:00–9:15 a.m.**

Vice President of National Operations Leo Letendre reconvened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. PDT. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll for those who had not yet been certified.

**Remembrance:** Leo asked for a moment of silence for the following USMS members, who had passed away since the last convention: Kevin Nash (Colorado), Jeannette Eppley (Illinois), William Kirar (Wisconsin), Steve Schofield (Southern Pacific), Doreen Morris (Oregon), Barbara Thomas (Pacific), Edith Hendry (Ozark), John O'Keefe (Florida Gold Coast), Parry O'Brien (Southern Pacific), Gene Crossett (Pacific Northwest), Ed Fulmer (Florida), Jim Pinkerton (Missouri Valley), George Bauman (Niagara), Jon Steiner (Pacific), Bob Proebsting (Pacific), Anita Hazen (Pacific), Terry Smith (Potomac Valley), Tex Robertson (South Texas), Dave Parcels (Connecticut), Tom Lyndon (New England), Sid Saperstein (Potomac Valley), Jewel Cooke (Michigan), Sally Lowe (Gulf), Paul Howell (Indiana) and Lisa Ketcham (Indiana).

**Election voting:** Election Chair Debbie Morrin-Nordlund announced the slate of officers. **MSA to elect by acclamation the slate of candidates declared during the previous meeting.**

**Reports of employees, contractors and special appointments:** Leo asked that only those who had additions to their written reports in the convention packet make verbal reports.

*Controller* Margaret Bayless gave an overview of USMS's financial status, concentrating on trends from year to year. Margaret demonstrated how our financial position has grown and strengthened over the years. Our audit by Clifton & Gundersen gave a clean opinion, with no booked adjustments or management letter comments.

We are financially strong, with a revenue base adequate to cover our expense structure. We had record revenues in 2006 of over \$1 million, largely because of our record number of 43,462 members. Dues make up 75 percent of our revenue. We earned a profit of over \$34,000 in 2006, in spite of a projected loss of over \$121,000, in large part because most cost centers came in under budget. We will apparently have a small profit for 2007.

Tom Boak gave the *ISHOF liaison's report* on behalf of June Krauser. Tom listed the names of those recommended for induction into the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame in 2008: Maria Lenk, Willy van Rysel, Jim McConica (USA), Robert Strand (USA), Ibone Belausteguigoitia (diving) and Russell Haferkamp (water polo).

Jessica Seaton, *IGLA liaison*, reported that a successful IGLA championship was held in Paris this year, and its results have been submitted for USMS Top 10. IGLA has tried to submit them for World Top 10 and records, but FINA has recently begun enforcing its policy that meets not run by a FINA member federation do not count for world records. IGLA is trying to work with FINA to resolve this issue.

Nancy Ridout, *Member of FINA Masters Technical Committee*, answered questions about this policy by FINA. Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley) asked if his understanding was correct, that if the meet title mentions a non-FINA affiliate, then the results will not be accepted by FINA. Nancy answered that this is indeed the case. Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) commented that this could affect many of our potential meets and asked what Nancy is doing to reach a solution. Nancy said this was a touchy issue and was not up for debate. She gave the analogy of YMCA Nationals records being YMCA records and not USMS records and reiterated that FINA records must be set in a FINA-affiliated meet. It is an extension of the previous policy that USMS members' times from USA Swimming meets do not count for FINA records. It is in line with the rest of the aquatic world. She said we need to be careful that we don't take action that could cause our members to be sanctioned for competing in, for example, the National Senior Games or YMCA Nationals. Although the current situation is a disservice to some of our members, by making an issue, we could be doing a disservice to many more of our members. She recommended that organizations such as IGLA and the YMCA should try to strengthen their ties with FINA. She also clarified that this was handed down from the FINA Bureau (not the FINA Masters Technical Committee). Carolyn Boak (Gulf) asked how USMS could support IGLA and suggested passing a resolution in support of IGLA. She also suggested that the IGLA organizers write FINA asking for an exception to their policy, explaining that all swimmers in the meet were members of a FINA member federation, that the meet was sanctioned by a FINA member federation and that all FINA rules were followed. **MSA that USMS strongly endorses that any time or record set in a meet sanctioned by a FINA federation shall be accepted by FINA for Top 10 or world records.** The motion was made by Carolyn Boak and seconded by John Grzeszczak (Florida Gold Coast). John also felt that the policy was fundamentally unfair to our members, and that it was insufficient for USMS to ask IGLA to simply write a letter. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) asked if there was a local concern with Senior Games being recognized. Nancy clarified that they could only be USMS records, not world records. Conrad Johnson (Metropolitan) said that now is the time for Nancy to do her job as an advocate for USMS to make our position known to FINA. Skip Thompson (Michigan) said YMCA Nationals are not a problem because they are always short course yards meets, and not eligible for world records anyway. But he understood that previous IGLA championships had been sanctioned by USMS, and did not understand why times achieved in them would not be acceptable. Nancy asked Walt Reid (Pacific Northwest) to clarify. Walt said that as the FINA Masters recorder, he must carry out FINA's policies. The policy, as he understands it, is that if a meet is sanctioned by a member federation, its results should count for world records (and always have previously); but if the meet is put on by an organization outside the jurisdiction of FINA, then the results will not count. The distinction is in who puts on the meet. He also pointed out that YMCA Masters cannot break YMCA records at a USMS meet. Dan Gruender (Arizona) asked if the language in our code about recognized meets was now illegal under FINA rules. Nancy answered no, that it has no bearing on USMS records. Mark Gill (Kentucky) observed that the distinction appears to be who is hosting the meet, and asked what would happen if, for example, the University of Texas was awarded the bid to put on one of our championships. Nancy said it would not matter because the meet would be the USMS championship, and conceded the issue is muddy. Mark was concerned that we would be disallowing events that we sanction. Nancy suggested that we submit a rule proposal to FINA stating that events sanctioned by FINA member federations and in which all participants are members of FINA federations should count for world records and Top 10. Tom Boak (Gulf) suggested that USMS have a policy that all our meets are sponsored by our LMSCs, but allow other organizations to run the meets, so that the results will be acceptable to FINA. Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) pointed out that our strategic plan urges serving our members, and that if we do not solve this problem, we are not serving our members. Leo Letendre (New England) pointed out that U.S. IGLA teams could form USMS teams. Sean Fitzgerald (Georgia) said that the next IGLA championships will be held in Washington, D.C., and the host is the District of Columbia Aquatic Club, which *is* a USMS club. In 2005 the Atlanta Rainbow Trout hosted the meet, and the Gay Games 2006 were hosted

by the Chicago Smelts — all USMS clubs. IGLA does not run the meets; local USMS clubs do. Wayne McCauley (Southern Pacific) was concerned that if we don't address this properly we could lose many wonderful members who support us greatly.

Ted Haartz, *USMS liaison to USA Swimming*, called our attention to the chart he distributed before convention showing the relationships between aquatic organizations throughout the world and noted that "ASUA" has changed its name to "UANA" (Union Americana de Natación). He also announced that Mel Goldstein has been named chair of the UANA Masters Committee and Jim Miller is also a member of that committee.

Hill Carrow, *USOC liaison*, reported that he usually meets with USOC executives during the Olympic Assembly. That meeting this year was held after Hill turned in his written report. He met with the CEO of the USOC and participated in a conference call with the COO, and he also talked with other top executives of the USOC. He also drops in on Chuck Wilgus, of USA Swimming, whenever he is in Colorado Springs. All were highly complimentary of our hiring Todd Smith as our executive director. The USOC has determined that its candidate city for the 2016 Olympics will be Chicago. Chicago will compete against Tokyo, Madrid and a few other world cities. He also reported on a new IOC initiative, the Youth Olympic Games, the first of which will be held in 2010. It is intended to be awarded to cities and countries that might not be able to handle the full-fledged Olympics. The United States did not submit a bid for the 2010 Youth Olympic Games because they didn't want to jeopardize their bid for Chicago for the 2016 Olympic Games. The USOC is looking at bidding for the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games, and may create a U.S. Youth Olympic Games as well, possibly as early as 2009.

*Corporate Partner Liaison* Mel Goldstein encouraged everyone to apply for and use the USMS affinity credit card and to enter the Amazon.com website through the USMS website so that USMS receives a percentage of the sales. Only 647 of our members currently hold a USMS credit card, but they provide \$12,000 in income to the organization. He encouraged our members to use this card when they register online or when they buy a swimsuit. He added that holders of the USMS affinity card can receive cash back and travel awards for using the card.

*UANA Representative* Jim Miller reported that we are in a strong position with UANA, now that both USAS recommendations (Mel Goldstein and Jim Miller) have been approved to serve on the Masters Technical Committee. In addition, Mel Goldstein is the new chair of the UANA Masters Technical Committee. UANA has a built-in rotation system for the presidency. The rotation now goes to Canada with Eldon Godfrey serving as the new UANA President, replacing Orban Mendoza.

*Insurance Coordinator* Colleen Driscoll announced that clubs needing a certificate of insurance can now obtain it online. For questions, contact Sandi Blumit at Risk Management Services. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) asked if endorsements can also be obtained online, and Colleen replied that it depends on the circumstance.

*Rule Book Coordinator* Susan Ehringer announced that Gateway Printing won the bid to print the 2008 rule book. The winning cover design was by Raena Latina (Indiana), her first win. The rule book will be dedicated to Steve Schofield (Southern Pacific), who was nominated by the Southern Pacific LMSC and the Long Distance Committee. She then read the dedication, written by Steve's fellow SPMA member, Mary Hull:

Steve Schofield has been an inspiration to me for more than 30 years. He has taught me patience when all I could see was hard work and optimism when progress was slow. The more than 14,000 swimmers he taught could probably say the same.

For Steve, teaching has been a lifelong passion but he has accomplished so much more because he believes that swimming is for everyone and he shares that enthusiasm with the young and old alike.

When I started swimming, Steve had to teach me everything. It did not matter that I was the last to cross the pool, he was there to congratulate me. When I was old enough to join Masters swimming, Steve was there as a coach and a friend. In time he encouraged me to become involved behind the scenes. Steve's influence on others is monumental. He is always at meets with a friendly smile and a willingness to share his knowledge. When Steve is around, everyone benefits.

He has been a mentor to many meet hosts, helped to start several new swimming programs, and has helped in the building of new swim facilities.

I will always be grateful for the phenomenal influence that Steve Schofield has had in my life, and I am confident that countless others will say the same.

**Zone Committee report:** Julie Heather announced that the job description for zone representative has been distributed so that candidates for the position, which will be contested during the zone meetings Saturday morning, will know what to expect. Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley; Breadbasket Zone Representative) reported that notes from the workshops put on by the Zone Committee will be distributed at a later date.

**Executive Committee report:** The EC met Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. Minutes have been distributed, and there are no action items.

**Board of Directors report:** Rob asked the BOD to reconvene at the end of this session.

**IMSHOF report:** Rob introduced Bruce Wigo, CEO of the International Swimming Hall of Fame, who invited everyone to the IMSHOF induction ceremony to be held that evening. He also asked for the support of the aquatic community.

The meeting was recessed at 9:15 a.m. PDT.

## **Friday, September 28, 2007, 2:00–5:00 p.m.**

President Rob Copeland reconvened the meeting at 2:00 p.m. PDT. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll for those who had not yet been certified. Rob recognized the long-term delegates, the longest of which had attended conventions for more than 35 years. June Krauser is our longest-serving delegate. He also asked for the delegates' thoughts and prayers for Mary Lee Watson, who has been hospitalized with a serious illness.

**Registration Committee report:** George Simon asked that any LMSC chairs who would like to be included in the committee's communications, as their LMSC's first line of contact with swimmers, contact him and he will add them to the distribution list. **MSA the committee's minutes.** Leo Letendre presented the following timeline for the registrar's interface for online registration:

- October 15
  - Registrar interface in beta test, five to 10 testers
- October 22
  - Testing expanded to all registrars
- November 1
  - Registrars' interface live
  - Contingencies in place if not ready
- Registrars' Interface
  - Used for paper registrations in the future
  - Club registrations will continue to go through registrars, who will use this interface
- Members' Interface
  - Expected to be completed by November 1
  - Will accept credit cards
  - Will be made available as soon as backend processing has been "validated"
- Financial Distribution
  - Funds will come to USMS
  - USMS will distribute funds to LMSCs
  - Will transfer funds to LMSC bank accounts electronically
  - Frequency to be determined, but likely monthly

**Fitness Committee report: MSA the committee's minutes.** Marcia Anziano presented the 2007 Fitness Award to Mary Sweat, for running the Go the Distance fitness program. This was highly successful, with more than 350 participants.

**Endowment Fund Board of Governors report:** Rob Copeland reported on behalf of Doug Church, who was unable to attend this year's convention. The fund has under spent, and more submissions are encouraged. **MSA the board's minutes.**

**History and Archives Committee report:** Barbara Dunbar drew attention to the action items from her committee's report: (1) To request assistance from HOD members to locate LMSC individual registration lists and LMSC club lists from 1990 and earlier and (2) To request assistance from HOD members to locate pre-1994 USMS Short Course Yards and Long Course Meters National Championship results and missing pre-1990 Long Distance National Championship results. **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Planning Committee report:** Jim Wheeler delivered the final report of the Planning Committee and drew attention to their action item, which was to endorse L18, the disbanding of their committee. **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Coaches Committee report:** Mo Chambers gave an overview of the new programs the committee hopes to institute: a "Reverse Mentor" program and a grassroots coaching award. **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Records and Tabulation Committee report:** Mary Beth Windrath noted that the committee intends to list on the web the certification status of pools. **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Finance Committee report (session 1):** Jeff Moxie introduced Tom Boak, who reported on the financial situation of the 2006 FINA Masters World Championships. Tom said the meet was successful in terms of participation and competition, but not financially, losing more than \$143,000. The Finance Committee was concerned about financial oversight from the beginning, and assigned a member of the Finance Committee to be a liaison to the local organizing committee, but the liaison also became treasurer of the local organizing committee, which, in hindsight, was a conflict of interest. Finance should have designated someone else then to be the liaison. The required financial reporting was not timely or accurate. There was a lack of control and astute financial management. Lessons learned are to have Finance Committee representation on the LOC, require financial oversight selected by the Finance Committee and increase their influence and involvement. Tom reminded the House that in 2003, when we voted to advance the funds, we knew this was an at-risk investment, with the potential to lose all our money. USMS shares the responsibility for this situation with the LOC. We may still receive as much as \$18,000 from the LOC, resulting in a net loss of from \$135,000 to \$143,000.

**Recognition and Awards Committee report:** Kelly Crandell noted the action items in her report: (1) to create a subcommittee to handle ISHOF/IMSHOF nominations, (2) to propose an amendment of the committee's definition, (3) to create a subcommittee to recognize various clubs to motivate local clubs, (4) to communicate with the Coaches Committee to develop an award to honor local coaches. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) stated that it is not appropriate for the subcommittee to serve as a liaison with ISHOF, since it is the purview of the president to appoint such a liaison. She suggested changing the wording to insert "regarding awards" at the end of action item 1(3) and change "ISHOF/IMSHOF related matters" to "ISHOF/IMSHOF award-related matters" in action item 1(4). Leo Letendre (New England) said that as a matter of procedure, the committee does not need to ask the House's approval to form a subcommittee, so this should not really be an action item. **MSA moving action item 1 to the body of the minutes. MSA the committee's minutes as amended.** Kelly and Vice Chair Hill Carrow recognized Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest), the 2007 winner of the Ransom Arthur Award. They then presented Dorothy Donnelly Service Awards to Joanie Campbell (Florida), Cav Cavanaugh (Florida Gold Coast), Nadine Day (Illinois), Phil Dodson (Illinois), James Donnelly (Florida), Mark Gill (Kentucky), Chuck Hutinger (Florida), Steve Peterson (Pacific Northwest), Joe Magiera (Illinois), Arni Litt (Pacific Northwest), Kerry O'Brien (Pacific), Loree Watanabe (Pacific) and Mary Lee Watson (Southeastern). Finally, Mark Gill presented the Club of the Year Award to Walnut Creek Masters, who he said exemplify USMS's core principles to educate, service, and build the membership. The award was accepted by Walnut Creek Head Coach Kerry O'Brien.

**Communications Committee report:** Hugh Moore called attention to the committee's action items: (1) Recommend that the Board of Directors consider bimonthly emails to members and (2) Recommend that the Board of Directors consider policy changes and resources necessary to collect sanction information and establish end-to-end event management services. **MSA the committee's minutes.** Hugh then presented the Newsletter of the Year Award to *The Aqua-Master*, the newsletter of the Oregon LMSC. Bob Bruce (Oregon) accepted the award on behalf of Dave Radcliff, editor. Hugh presented the June Krauser USMS Communication Award to Julie Heather, for her work in the Southern Pacific LMSC to improve communications via the newsletter and establishing conference calling for LMSC meetings.

**Long Distance Committee (session 1) report:** Marcia Cleveland asked for the delegates' help to fill in missing information for bid histories. She made one correction to her minutes: Metropolitan has withdrawn its bid acceptance for the 6+ mile open water championship. The committee has approached Harbor Springs, Mich., to accept the bid. **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Championship Committee report (session 1):** Mark Moore introduced Kelly Crandell, who presented the David Yorzyk Award, for the most outstanding 400 IM at 2007 Short Course Nationals, to Eric Scalise, who swam the event in 3:52.43. Hill Carrow then presented the Raleigh Area Masters' National Championships Meet Award to Bob and Helen Brown, for their many years of service as national championship officials. Mark continued with his report, saying the main focus of the committee for next year will be to attract more bidders. A subcommittee will be formed to show bidders the benefits of hosting a national championship. He made a correction to his minutes: Action item 4 should state "approve the NQTs for 2008 SC nationals," not "SC and LC nationals." **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Announcement:** Jeff Moxie (Southern Pacific) announced that at 5:45 p.m. a van from In-N-Out Burger would be serving burgers, drinks and chips for all USMS delegates, sponsored by the Southern Pacific LMSC. On behalf of the House, Rob thanked SPMA for their generosity.

**Board of Directors:** Rob Copeland reported that in a second meeting the Board passed the following policy, submitted by the Zone Committee: "To protect the confidentiality of members' USMS registration information, this information may only be disclosed for official USMS and/or LMSC business relating to the conduct of Masters swimming. Examples of legitimate reasons for disclosure include: A member's name, birth date, age, club, ID number and gender may be given to a meet director for uses related to competition, or to the Top 10 and Records Chair. Information concerning members of a club may be given to the designated representative of that club." The Board also directed the Finance Committee to present an unbalanced budget of up to \$80,000. The Board approved ceasing collecting the yearly fee to register LMSCs. Meegan Wilson (Florida) asked if the unbalanced budget was positive or negative, and Rob clarified that the amount is in the negative. **MSA the Board's minutes.**

The meeting was recessed at 3:50 p.m. PDT.

### **Saturday, September 29, 2007, 1:00–6:00 p.m.**

President Rob Copeland reconvened the meeting at 1:07 p.m. PDT. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll for those who had not yet been certified. Committee reports continued.

**Rules Committee report:** Kathy Casey stated that the Rules Committee met three times and spent a great deal of time dealing with L02, because it also has a Rules component. She urged all delegates to obtain a copy of the rule book and read and understand the rules. The committee is fulfilling the USMS mission of serving our members by making sure their times count for Top 10 and records. **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Officials Committee report:** Vice Chair Ed Saltzman, filling in for Chair Charlie Cockrell, called attention to the committee's action item to request funds to send officials to Perth for the 2009 FINA Masters World Championships. **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Championship Committee report (session 2):** Mark Moore reminded delegates that the bids for the 2009 championships were presented the day before. **MSA the committee's minutes. MSA the committee's recommendation to award the 2009 championships to Clovis, Calif. (SC), and Indianapolis, Ind. (LC).** Tom Boak (Gulf) asked if a task force would be appointed to study the issue of jurisdiction of the long distance postal championships. Rob said he would appoint such a task force.

**Sports Medicine, Health and Safety Committee report:** Jody Welborn thanked Jim Miller (Virginia) for his presentations at the convention. **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Editorial Committee:** Lynn Hazlewood thanked her committee for their work. **MSA the committee's minutes.** Tom Boak (Gulf) thanked Lynn and the rest of the Editorial Committee for the high quality of the articles in *USMS Swimmer* magazine this year and the magazine's significant improvement over the last year.

**International Committee:** Mary Pohlmann drew attention to her committee's action items: (1) To invite at least two international guests from NGBs in the Americas to the 2008 USMS convention, the invitation to cover registration and hotel accommodations and (2) to provide funding for registration fees and hotel accommodations at the 2008 USMS convention for two international guests from member national governing bodies in the Americas at



a cost of \$1460. Patty Miller (Virginia) asked who will determine which representatives to invite, and Mary answered that the Executive Committee will make that decision. Homer Lane (New England) asked if we approve the minutes do we also approve the budget request amount. Mary clarified that the Finance Committee has final say on the budget. **MSA the action items. MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Fighting Flamingos report:** Tracy Grilli (New England) gave an update on the exploits of the USMS Fighting Flamingos, the women's 40+ water polo team made up of USMS members, and presented Mel Goldstein (Indiana) with an award to thank him for supplying the team with caps.

**Marketing Committee report:** Tom Boyd called attention to the committee's action items, to (1) support strengthening relationships with USA Triathlon and triathletes, and (2) support the revision of the committee's definition. He also called attention to the handout on club development included with the minutes, which also asks for volunteers to help the initiative. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) suggested that registrars send the form with the club registration packets next year. Rob Copeland (Georgia) also suggested posting the handout on the USMS website along with other club development information. **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Long Distance Committee report:** Marcia Cleveland drew attention to the committee's action item to add a 25K national championship, and also supply \$1000 in seed money for the event. **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Legislation Committee report:** Sean Fitzgerald explained that their report is divided into three sections: approved, approved as amended and not approved proposals.

L04 (by Laura Winslow, Arizona) and L15 (by Michael Heather, Southern Pacific) were pulled for discussion from the approved section. **MSA the remaining approved proposals.**

Laura asked if L04 means that a USA Swimming member who is not a member of USMS could break a USMS record, and Sean clarified that it did not; membership in USMS is required to set USMS records. Mary Beth Windrath (Minnesota) said that this legislation change is intended for swimmers competing outside the United States in meets put on by FINA member organizations; provided they are registered as USMS members, their times will count for USMS records and Top 10. Meets put on by YMCA and USA Swimming are automatically recognized, so there is no change to the previous policy. **MSA L04.**

Michael Heather (Southern Pacific) pointed out that L15 was in fact amended, because the last sentence ("The committee shall consist of the committee chair and sufficient members to execute the committee function") was added by the Legislation Committee to all the amendments modifying committee definitions. Therefore, the last sentence in L15 should be underlined. He also felt the additional text was redundant, because the same statement is included in the introductory paragraph of article 507.2. Sean added that ASUA was amended to UANA as well. Jennifer Parks (Michigan) explained that the Legislation Committee realized the sentence was perhaps redundant, but felt it was justified because someone reading the committee definition might not necessarily look at the beginning of article 507.2. Kathy Casey (Pacific Northwest) concurred with Jennifer's explanation. **Michael Heather (Southern Pacific) moved to strike the last sentence in L15. The motion was seconded.** Wayne McCauley (Southern Pacific) said that the International Committee was in agreement with the Legislation Committee's addition of the sentence in question. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) said that when he read the introduction to article 507.2, he did not see any redundancy. Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley) said he felt that the Legislation Committee had spent a lot of time working on the committee descriptions and their efforts should be supported. Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) pointed out that the introduction to article 507.2 also says "When practical, each committee shall have representation from each zone," but she thought we were trying to avoid the requirement that each zone be represented on each committee. **MSF the amendment to strike the last sentence of L15. MSA L15 as amended by the Legislation Committee.**

Sean announced that in the approved as amended section, the word "health" and the comma before "health" should be struck from the second sentence of L14; this was a typographical error. L08 (by Randy Nutt, Florida Gold Coast), L11 (by Heather Hagadorn, Colorado), L13 (by Jeff Moxie, Southern Pacific) and L24 (by Doug Garcia, Inland Northwest) were pulled for discussion from the approved as amended section. **MSA the remaining approved as amended proposals.**

Randy Nutt (Florida Gold Coast) asked if L08 would prevent holding an open-water national championship the day before or after a pool championship, and Sean clarified that it did not. Daniel Cox (Lake Erie) explained that the restriction applies only to other pool events. Rob Copeland (Georgia) asked for clarification of the situation of a long distance national championship being held the day after a pool national championship. The wording unintentionally precludes having a long distance national championship immediately after a pool national

championship. Meg Smath (Kentucky) asked for some punctuation in the phrase “before through and including,” as it was unclear what was meant. **Carolyn Boak (Gulf) moved to insert “pool” between “but” and “meets,” and insert a comma after “before,” so that the phrase would read “but pool meets identified as such should not be scheduled beginning the weekend before, through and including the weekend following ....” Meg Smath seconded. MSA the amendment.** Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley) said it sounded to him like the rule is intended for LMSC championship meets and zone championship meets, so this would only affect open water events that were also LMSC or zone championships. Sean said that with Carolyn’s amendment, the rule only applies to pool events, so the question of open water events is moot. **MSA L08.**

For L11, Heather Hagadorn (Colorado) pointed out that the name of the Editorial Committee has been changed to the Publications Management Committee. Sean said this would be housekeeping. Heather also felt that there should not be a requirement for the chair of the Publications Management Committee to be a member of the Communications Committee; if representation from Publications Management is required, it could also be a member, not just the chair. **Heather moved to strike the phrase “the chair of the Editorial Committee.” The motion was seconded.** Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) said that the realignment of committees into divisions will address the issue of communication between committees, and therefore it isn’t necessary to specify cross-membership between the two committees. **MSA the amendment. MSA L11 as amended by the HOD.**

For L13, Jeff Moxie (Southern Pacific) said that the Finance Committee has not yet agreed on what its mission should be, so he suggested that we strike all the proposed changes to this article, until the Finance Committee comes up with appropriate language, which they have formed a subcommittee to do. Tom Boak (Gulf) pointed out that if L13 is defeated, that will accomplish the same thing. **MSF L13.**

Doug Garcia (Inland Northwest) said that since L25 has already been passed, we will need to strike “Wyoming” from the list of LMSCs in the Breadbasket Zone in L24. Sean said this was housekeeping. **MSA L24.**

Both proposals in the not approved section were pulled for discussion. Cathy Kohn (Ozark) explained that the Ozark LMSC proposed in L26 that Jackson County, Illinois (the Carbondale area) be moved to the jurisdiction of the Ozark LMSC, because that part of Illinois is actually closer to St. Louis than Chicago, and the swimmers in the Carbondale area preferred affiliation with Ozark. In fact, all the USMS members who reside in Jackson County are members of St. Louis Area Masters, an Ozark club. Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley, Breadbasket Zone Representative) said the Breadbasket Zone felt this better served the members who live in this county, and will increase the membership of the LMSC, enabling them to have a second delegate at convention. Nadine Day (Illinois) apologized to the House because the Illinois LMSC did not address this issue. The Illinois LMSC plans to work with the Ozark LMSC, but as of now, the Illinois LMSC has not approved this change, so she urged defeating L26. Lori Payne (Ozark) confirmed that the swimmers registered in this LMSC have long been active with the Ozark LMSC rather than the Illinois LMSC. The Ozark LMSC approved this change unanimously, and she encouraged everyone to vote in favor of the amendment. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) said that as a matter of policy, though not as a rule, we try to get both LMSCs to approve such a change. She has offered to assist the LMSCs in obtaining the proper approvals. But she feels we should follow the proper procedure, and defeat L26, with the intention of bringing the proposal back. Susan Ehringer (Kentucky) agreed with Julie, and pointed out that the counties are not contiguous. Jennie Quill (Illinois) was in favor of this amendment, because the team has already been moved to the Ozark LMSC. She said this was a technicality, and the people in the affected county should belong to the LMSC that they want to belong to. Jim Miller (Virginia) said the policy of the HOD over the years has been very clear: it is not the job of the HOD to deal in annexation. If both LMSCs agree, we should approve the boundary change; but if one of the parties does not agree, it is not the responsibility of the HOD to deal with border disputes. He therefore recommended supporting the Legislation Committee’s recommendation. Tom Boak (Gulf) disagreed, saying it was clear that this makes sense geographically, and recommended reversing the recommendation of the Legislation Committee. Leo Letendre (New England) said that there is indeed one county (Randolph) that would be skipped if Jackson County were ceded to Ozark, but this county has no swimming pools, making the issue moot. Cathy Kohn (Ozark) noted that Jackson County is included in the Ozark LSC in USA Swimming, and was once part of the Ozark LMSC. Anna Lea Roof (Missouri Valley) said that this group of swimmers is almost part of metropolitan St. Louis. Bruce Hopson (Ozark) added that the issue was brought up to the Illinois LMSC several months ago and they chose not to discuss the issue. If the amendment is not approved at this convention, the swimmers in Jackson County will have to wait two more years to effect the change. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) said that this group wants to be placed where it operates. John Grzeszczak (Florida Gold Coast) said that as a new delegate he has heard the phrase “serve our members” over and over again this weekend. If we do not allow the Jackson County swimmers to move where they’re more comfortable, we would be doing those swimmers a disservice. Dan Cox (Lake Erie) warned the House of setting a precedent. Mary Pohlmann (Ozark) noted that the precedent had already been set because Jackson County was once a part of Ozark, and she also urged the House to

remember the phrase “serve our members.” She also pointed out that the Ozark LMSC is very narrow, geographically, and has only one club, St. Louis Masters. It is a struggling LMSC, and the 30 swimmers from Jackson County allowed them to bring a second delegate to convention. If we deny the amendment, the majority of the swimmers will continue to register with St. Louis Masters in Ozark; however, the pool will be in the territory of the Illinois LMSC, so a sanction for a meet would have to be obtained from the Illinois LMSC. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) rebutted the issue of service to swimmers, saying that the only consequence would be that Ozark could not sanction their meets. Phil Dodson (Illinois) said that the Ozark LMSC emailed the Illinois LMSC about the issue, but did not come in person to discuss the issue. The Illinois LMSC felt that if the issue were that important to Ozark, someone should have come to the Illinois meeting to discuss it. He also said we have not heard from any members who live in Jackson County who are not members of St. Louis Masters, so we don’t know how they feel about the issue. **Joy Stover (Missouri Valley) called the question. Her motion was seconded. MSA to call the question.** Delegates in line to speak when the question was called were still allowed to speak. Wayne McCauley (Southern Pacific) said there must be a higher body to stop gerrymandering, and that body in USMS is the House of Delegates. To approve L26, and overturn the recommendation of the Legislation Committee, required a two-thirds majority. **MSA to approve L26.**

L02 was a joint package between the Legislation and Rules Committees. Approval required both the Rules and Legislation Committees to approve the package; in that case, a 50 percent majority of the House would pass the legislation. Rules approved the package, but Legislation did not; therefore, a two-thirds majority of the House would be required for passage. **Michael Moore (Pacific) moved to approve L02. The motion was seconded.** Michael Moore (Pacific) reminded the House that three years ago the system for scoring at National Championships was changed from first through third in small, medium and large categories to first through tenth without categories. Since then, “regional” teams have taken eight of the top 10 places and “local” teams have taken two of the top 10 places. Pacific proposed this different system with separate categories for “regional” and “local” teams. Dick Thomas (Pacific) said that in 1988, his team of Los Alamos Masters (about 100 swimmers), which had just completed running the 1987 Short Course Championships, sent to Austin a team of five male swimmers in different age groups, which did not swim any relays, and still managed to place third in the small team division. Those two events jumpstarted his team into a growth spurt, in which they rose to a membership of over 300. He feels that this example illustrates that the success in Austin would not have been possible with the current scoring system, and he doubts that the club would have grown as fast or successfully as it did. He wants all clubs to have that chance to grow their membership. Suzanne Heim-Bowen (Pacific) said she understood that if this legislation does not pass, the scoring system will stay the same. She feels this current scoring system does not support club development. Kerry O’Brien (Pacific) said he understood we went to the current scoring system to buy time for determining “regional” teams versus “club” teams and it is obvious we are not there yet. But he does not think the current system is better than what we had before. He hopes we can all agree that there are two different models on how teams align themselves for competition, and then maybe we can agree that we should score them separately. Scott Williams (Pacific) agreed with Kerry and alluded to the T-shirts Pacific delegates were wearing, which stated that if Pacific were to go to an LMSC-based team, they would dominate all scoring and records; he said the message is not what Pacific would like to see actually occur, because it would not foster club development. He pointed out that the current system is making everyone unhappy. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) said that the proposal was awkward, and that we should look at the bigger picture and focus on more important issues. He suggested we defeat this proposal and form a task force, or give the Championship Committee the job to propose a way to remedy the situation. Carolyn Boak (Gulf) said that Championship has discussed it ad nauseum and had yet to come up with a better solution. She said that L02 simply proposes two groups and that it is not negative to be called a “regional” team. She suggested we have small, medium and large categories for both “regional” and “club” teams. Joy Stover (Missouri Valley) said she is in favor of returning to small, medium and large teams at nationals but that the wording of L02 is very awkward and hard to understand. She suggested defeating this legislation and come back next year with a Rules-only proposal for scoring. Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley) said that in spite of a lot of work by both Rules and Legislation during convention, we have not yet come up with good wording for this proposal that is fair for everyone. He also commented that at last year’s convention we talked about removing from the rule book what is actually policy, and he believes much of article 104 is policy, and he did not hear discussion about that at this convention. Arni Litt (Pacific Northwest) said she also does not like the current scoring system, but that this issue should be addressed in Rules next year. She pointed out that for many years USMS has been a unified organization, and the only differences among us have been our age groups. Now, all of a sudden, we’re trying to make different kinds of groups, and she feels this is segregation, even if it was not intended as such, and she thinks we should stay unified. Lisa Watson (Georgia) agreed that the current system is not working, but does not think this proposal will work either. She said she had a problem with designating “club” and “regional” teams, because,

depending on area, you could have “club” teams with many more members than “state” teams. She thinks that what really matters is the number of swimmers on each team that show up at a meet. Leianne Crittenden (Pacific) stated that the proposal has gone through a great deal of rewriting to make sure there was a clear delineation between “club” teams and “regional” teams. It is not intended to attack or demean regional teams. It is to provide different classifications, similar to the NCAA’s Division I, II and III. She said that if you always swim for the same club, as stated on your registration card, whether inside your LMSC or outside, then you are a member of a “club” team. If you swim for a different entity within your LMSC than what is listed on your card, then you are a member of a “regional” team. Pacific does not believe the current method is working, and so proposed having small, medium and large teams in both of these two divisions. Jim Wheeler (Pacific) said there is a difference between a group of people who all swim at a single pool and a group that draws from an entire state or multiple states. Pacific is merely asking for separation. Tom Boak (Gulf) said that L02 allows for scoring of only combined teams, and does away with men’s and women’s championships. Many teams at Nationals score only in the men’s or women’s category, because they do not have enough swimmers of the other gender present. He does not believe eliminating men’s and women’s championships is a good idea. Mike Collins (Southern Pacific) reminded the delegates that many years ago he proposed adding the 19-24 age group to Nationals. After many years of argument that adding this age group would be difficult to administer and make the meets too large, once it was finally passed it turned out to be a non-issue, and it included more people. He felt we were arguing over details of defining “club” versus “regional” team when we should be considering the concept. He said many “club” teams feel they are not getting a fair shot at winning a national championship. He said that if Pacific decides to field one “regional” team, then they would soon win every championship. Or if large “club” teams banded together to hold “club” national championships and not go to USMS National Championships, then that would be to everyone’s detriment too. He urged us to think about the negatives. He said we should not worry about which division a team is in, and that we can tinker with the language in coming years to improve it. Sally Dillon (Pacific Northwest) agreed that the current scoring is a “horrible rule,” and gave as an example Pacific Northwest sweeping the championship trophies at the 2007 Short Course Nationals in Federal Way, Wash.; yet when they go to Austin next year they will not be able to make the top 10 because they will only have a few swimmers who will travel so far from their home base. She said she was originally very much against this proposal in its original form, but that the wording has improved with the work during this convention, and that this is an issue the Rules Committee really needs to look at. She said she has been a member of both “club” teams and “regional” teams and acknowledged that members of “regional” teams may not know each other; but plenty of “club” teams also operate out of multiple pools and face the same situation. Also, some clubs have members from other parts of the country. So you cannot determine a “regional” team based upon what pool its members swim at. What you really need to determine is whether a member competes on “interteams” within the LMSC. She is in favor of changing the scoring, but thinks it should only be accomplished in the Rules part of the rule book. John Grzeszczak (Florida Gold Coast) implored the delegates to keep the small, medium and large teams at Nationals. He also said that if a team cannot get sufficient swimmers to Nationals to win a championship, then that’s the team’s fault. If you want to win a national championship, you have to get the bodies there, whether you’re a “club” or “regional” team. **Doug Garcia (Inland Northwest) called the question. His motion was seconded. MSA to call the question.** The speakers already in line at the microphone when the question was called were still allowed to speak. Homer Lane (New England) said he was a strong believer in having small, medium and large categories at Nationals, and in fact that is how the New England LMSC championships are scored. He asked for clarification of whether New England is a “regional” team because swimmers compete for their workout group during their LMSC championship. He also said this is the approach New England has used ever since they came into existence. He felt a practice was being forced upon his team. He felt the delineation of teams is not clearly stated in the proposal and suggested that the Rules Committee work on the language for next year. Rob Copeland (Georgia) said this proposal only deals with scoring at Nationals and is therefore appropriate as a function of either the Championship or Rules Committees and that we should not redefine clubs in the legislation portion of the rule book. He agreed with other speakers that the proposal is awkward. And he said he was concerned that the proposal only defines one type of club: the “regional” club. There is no definition for what is *not* a regional club. He feels it should be a policy of the Championship Committee to establish scoring categories. Leianne Crittenden (Pacific) rebutted, saying that this does not change any current practices. It only changes how we compete at Nationals. And she said Pacific would be happy to accept a friendly amendment to go back to men’s, women’s and combined categories. Sean said that because the question has been called, a friendly amendment was not possible at that point. Mark Gill (Kentucky) explained that the reason there is both a Rules and Legislation component is that when Championship tried to address the issue three years ago they were told there is not a definition other than club in the rule book, which is why definition of a regional club has been attempted. He also feels this is better than what we currently have, and we can amend it and improve it next year. If we do nothing today, then we will be stuck with the current system. Scott

Williams (Pacific) rebutted that Pacific is not trying to dominate, but if they are forced into forming regional teams then it will not be in USMS's best interest. We should focus on what is best for everyone. **MSF L02. MSA to reconsider the vote (motion by Al Prescott of New England, who voted in the negative). Tom Boak (Gulf) moved to amend the proposal by inserting "men's, women's and" before "combined" in the rules portion of L02. The motion was seconded.** Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) said he did not understand why we have had men's and women's categories at Nationals when we do not normally have these categories at local meets. An unidentified delegate proposed men's, women's and combined up to 10 places, but was ruled out of order. Mark Gill (Kentucky) asked if we really want to hand out 45 banners. Betsy Durrant (Virginia) asked if we would still have "club" and "regional" categories under Tom's amendment, and Sean clarified that we would. He also clarified that it would take a simple majority to approve the amendment, but a two-thirds majority to approve L02 as amended. Betsy asked if we do not approve L02 as amended, could we then approve simply going back to small, medium and large divisions. Sean said we could only make that change as an emergency Rules proposal. Dick Thomas (Pacific) was in favor of the amendment, saying that it would help us grow membership and serve our members. Wayne McCauley (Southern Pacific) said that in the past when his team had won a small team championship, they were dominated by women, and the women were able to win a women's championship. He feels we should give every team a chance to "grab the golden ring." His team grew after the championship banner was hung in the rafters. Jane Moore (Pacific Northwest) pointed out that it would actually be 90 championship banners, and that this would be a large expense for meet hosts. We might want to reconsider the types of awards we distribute. Mark Gill (Kentucky) conceded his earlier math was faulty. Carolyn Boak (Gulf) noted that the proposal says "up to five places," and felt sure that if we had that many categories we would not give awards for so many places. She said we could also give cheaper awards such as certificates. **Laura Winslow (Arizona) called the question. Her motion was seconded. MSA to call the question. MSA the amendment.** Rob Copeland (Georgia) reiterated that this proposal only deals with scoring at Nationals and should be a policy of Championship or Rules and should not be a function of Legislation. Scoring should be in a policy manual of the Championship Committee. The wording is still awkward, and we are still only defining one type of club. We would have no definition of the traditional "local" club. He feels there is also a lot of arbitrary verbiage that should be policy, which he is opposed to adding to the rule book. Tom Boak (Gulf) said, as a point of information, that in spite of a directive from the Executive Committee to separate policy from code, both Finance and Championship have attempted to do so and have determined not to do it; therefore he feels the reference to adding policy to the rule book is inappropriate. Jane Moore (Pacific Northwest) noted that L02 states that the Zone Committee would determine which teams are "regional" teams, but that a club wishing to challenge its designation would appeal to the chair of the Championship Committee and asked if this was intentional. Sean clarified that it was intentional. Mike Collins (Southern Pacific) said this proposal is much better than the current system and urged that we go forward with it, then fix the wording later if adjustment is needed. Rob Copeland (Georgia) rebutted the comment that policy is inappropriate to the discussion, saying it was appropriate that we discuss what is in our rule book. **Rob then called the question. His motion was seconded.** Those at the microphones were still allowed to speak. Tom Boak (Gulf) said that the point is that it is already in the code and not in a policy manual and we have not yet decided to move it to a policy manual, so we have to deal with what is currently in code. Chris Stevenson (Virginia) said he was disturbed about the tenor of some of the comments in favor of this proposal, but he is still in favor of the proposal because it spreads the wealth. Scott Williams (Pacific) asked everyone to consider what is best for USMS. **MSF L02 as amended.**

Sean then moved on to the rest of the committee's report. He called attention to the committee's plans for the coming year to define a committee quorum and develop a procedure for changing LMSC boundaries. **MSA the committee's minutes.**

**Finance Committee (sessions 2 and 3) report:** Jeff Moxie summarized the second session of the Finance Committee, and noted that the committee decided that when a new treasurer takes office, the previous treasurer's name will be left on the checking account in case the new treasurer cannot fulfill his or her duties, either short or long term. Jeff then went over the amendments to FOG. On page 2, they made an addition to the purpose and added the executive director as part of the budgeting process. On page 3, they included the executive director as part of the reimbursement process and also added the convention coordinator as someone whose convention expenses are reimbursed. On page 4, for the national championship, they added the executive director and recognized that the national office administrator also attends the championships. Under international travel, they added the executive director. On page 5, they added the executive director, and said that the ED needs to submit reimbursement requests to the president, so that there is an approval process for the ED's expenses. On page 6, they added the ED. On page 7, they added the ED. On page 8, under vendor payments, the language was changed to more accurately reflect how bills are handled (bills come in, they go to the cost-center head for approval, and then are sent to the controller).

Under insurance, they added the immediate past treasurer for bonding, since that person had been added as an authorized signer of checks. Under investments, no substantive changes were made, but a subcommittee will look at this and make recommendations for our investment strategy. Nothing was changed on page 10. On page 11, they added the ED and added language about grants to individuals. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) asked if this change in policy covered zone grants for convention. Jeff clarified that Finance wants to make sure there are no “donor-advised contributions,” where a contribution is specifically earmarked for an individual. He also clarified that the zone grants are really a subsidy rather than a grant. Also on page 11, they made changes to section E concerning conflict of interest. Patty Miller (Virginia) felt the second sentence (“Further no Officer, Committee Chair, subcontractor, employee or other official of USMS shall enter into an agreement with any USMS vendor, bidder or sponsor after taking such position with USMS except to renew an existing agreement with substantially similar terms entered into prior to their current position with USMS”) was too restrictive. She pointed out that we have a separate conflict of interest policy, which offers us flexibility. The Board of Directors can determine whether there is a conflict and what actions should be taken. This policy in FOG would set an absolute bar. Phil Dodson (Illinois) said that this language only addresses renewal of existing contracts and would not affect anyone who already has an allowed relationship with a vendor under the current FOG. He characterized the sentence as simply extending the conflict of interest policy to a contract renewal. **Patty Miller (Virginia) moved to amend the amendment to FOG section XII.E. by striking the next to last sentence. The motion was seconded.** Jim Miller (Virginia) asked Patty if the current USMS conflict of interest statement could be inserted as a replacement for the sentence in FOG. Patty felt the conflict of interest statement was a separate issue that addressed more than just financial issues. **MSA the amendment to the amendment of FOG section XII.E.** Under Budgeting Schedule, Finance replaced the chair of the Finance Committee with the executive director as the person who sends and receives budget request forms and distributes the preliminary budget. The ED was added to Emergency/Disaster Overbudget Procedure (section G). **MSA FOG as amended. MSA the minutes of the second session of the Finance Committee.**

Jeff then turned to the budget, and reminded the HOD of the dues increase that was voted last year to take effect in 2008. He also noted that the budget submitted by Finance is a zero-balance budget, and any expenses added would put us in deficit; likewise, any removed would put us in the positive. He also noted that all of the conference call expenses have been put under the president’s budget, to simplify tracking. In addition, all convention registrations paid for by USMS have been put in one place. Line items 4030 (by Anthony Thompson, Missouri Valley), 4171 (by Paige Buehler, Inland Northwest), 5016 (by Colleen Driscoll, Metropolitan), the first 5099 (by Phil Dodson, Illinois), 5280 (by Mo Chambers, Southern Pacific), TBD Online Registration (by John Grzeszczak, Florida Gold Coast) and 5460 (by Jody Welborn, Oregon) were pulled for discussion. **MSA the remainder of the line items.**

Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley) asked that we reconsider restoring the \$30 LMSC registration fee in line item 4030 in order to help balance the budget. Jeff pointed out that the budget is currently balanced. Leo Letendre (New England) explained that there was no enforcement of the fee and it was a small amount that would not appreciably affect the budget. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) commented that not having to pay this fee deprives an LMSC of a feeling of investment in the organization. **Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) moved that we leave 4030 at \$0. The motion was seconded.** Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) said that because LMSCs are part of our code, we have no choice but to recognize them whether they pay the fee or not, and it probably costs more in staff time than the fees we collect. **The motion was approved.**

Paige Buehler (Inland Northwest) asked how confident the Finance Committee was about the \$25,000 estimate of line item 4171. Jeff explained that discussions between Todd Smith, Rob Copeland and the Finance Committee left the committee confident of the estimate. **MSA line item 4171.**

Colleen Driscoll (Metropolitan; Insurance Coordinator) asked why \$10,000 for media insurance was deleted from line item 5016. Jeff explained that this amount had never actually been spent in previous years. Finance understands that an application for this type of insurance is being put forward, and if it is purchased and Finance has a concrete amount, it would look favorably on an overbudget request for that amount. Colleen stated for the record that this amount was in the budget for a contingency and its lack left us exposed. **MSA line item 5016.**

Phil Dodson (Illinois) withdrew the pull of the first line item 5099. **MSA first line item 5099.**

John Grzeszczak (Florida Gold Coast) asked, in regard to TBD Online Registration, if it would cost us \$65,000 to implement online registration every year. Jeff explained that implementation costs for online registration will occur this year (\$15,000–\$18,000 in the 2007 budget), and the amount in the 2008 budget is for the transaction fees for credit cards (\$31,000), the monthly fee for software (\$450/month), part-time staff, \$10,000 for additional software development, plus a contingency fund. It is a very conservative budget. **MSA TBD Online Registration.**

Mo Chambers (Southern Pacific) pointed out that \$1600 for expenses for coaches going to the World Championships in Perth had been deleted from line item 5280. She felt that it is important to the organization to

have these coaches at the meet and we should help them with their expenses. This would be a statement to the rest of the world about the value we place on the World Championships. Michael Collins (Southern Pacific) said that sending coaches promotes the highest caliber of competition at World Championships, and he feels these coaches are entitled to expenses. **MSA to increase line item 5280 by \$1600.**

Jody Welborn (Oregon) asked why \$2000 to buy a defibrillator had been deleted from line item 5460. She explained how easy automatic external defibrillators are to use and how important they are to preventing sudden death. She pointed out that few people know where AEDs are in various facilities. An AED purchased by USMS would also be available to educate our members. **Jody moved to restore the \$2000 to line item 5460. The motion was seconded.** Jody also mentioned that they planned to consult Legal Counsel before buying an AED. Phil Dodson (Illinois) explained the Finance Committee's rationalization that the contract for national championships already stipulates that an AED must be on site. Patty Miller (Virginia; Legal Counsel) said that, legally, USMS has no duty to resuscitate, but if we buy an AED we may create that expectation. She suggested the better approach was to make sure the facility has an AED and that we know where it is. Joan Smith (Pacific) spoke to the value of having an AED readily available, because it saved her husband Richard's life at a meet. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) suggested we use the money instead to educate clubs about the importance of AEDs and perhaps subsidize buying defibrillators for the pools our clubs use. Mo Chambers (Southern Pacific) pointed out that current Red Cross safety courses includes training on AEDs. Victor Buehler (Florida; Convention Coordinator), commenting on the suggestion that the AED be brought to convention, said that he did not want the responsibility of using it. Nancy Ridout (Pacific), as a point of information, noted that a survey in Pacific on AED availability showed that more than 80 percent of the surveyed clubs already have them on site. She also felt it was more important that an AED be available at practice than at a meet. Anna Lea Roof (Missouri Valley) noted that this is high-tech equipment that would (we hope) be used only once or twice a year, and would be out of date soon. Jody Welborn (Oregon) said that the Sports Medicine, Health and Safety Committee felt the most important issue was to raise awareness about AEDs. Al Prescott (New England) commented that AEDs are important and useful, but not our responsibility. Lucy Johnson (Southern Pacific) said that facilities already have them and clarified that this request was for one AED, and not to purchase them for all facilities our members use. Jane Moore (Pacific Northwest) agreed with Patty Miller that we should not create an expectation to resuscitate. **The motion failed. MSA to accept line item 5460 as originally submitted.**

**Tom Boak (Gulf) moved that we take \$1600 from our contingency fund to apply to line item 5280 and approve the balanced budget.** Doug Garcia (Inland Northwest) asked for a point of information about line item 5660 and if this money was for the USA Swimming Liaison to USMS. Jeff corrected him that this was for the USMS Liaison to USA Swimming. **MSA the minutes of the Finance Committee's third meeting.**

Jeff thanked everyone who helped him become treasurer, and thanked the members of the Finance Committee and especially Tom Boak. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) thanked the Finance Committee for preparing this budget, and said she appreciated their explanations for their adjustments.

**Rules Committee (USA Swimming rules) report:** Kathy Casey reported on the amendments passed by USA Swimming that affect our rules. The Rules Committee recommended that we automatically adopt U1 and U2, but reject U3. U1 corresponds to our 101.2.2 and replaces "From the beginning of the first arm stroke after the start and after each turn" with "After the start and after each turn when the swimmer leaves the wall." Also the word "downward" is deleted from what corresponds to our 101.2.3, between "single" and "butterfly"; it also inserts ", which must be" between "kick" and "followed by a breaststroke kick"; and replaces "while wholly submerged" with "during or at the completion of the first arm pull"; so that the sentence reads in its entirety "After the start and each turn, a single butterfly (dolphin) kick, which must be followed by a breaststroke kick, is permitted during or at the completion of the first arm pull." U2 corresponds with our article 101.4 and replaces the word "execute" with "initiate." U3 corresponds to our 102.9.5, and deletes "First and last" and "their ages," so that the sentence in its entirety would read "Names of eligible relay swimmers and order of swimming shall be submitted to the clerk of course or to the head lane timer." Phil Dodson (Illinois) asked about the requirement in 101.2.1 that the forward start be used for breaststroke and if it conflicted with our rules for disabled swimmers. Kathy said that disability rules would apply for a disabled swimmer. **MSA to accept the recommendation of the Rules Committee on acceptance of USA Swimming's rule changes.** Kathy thanked her committee for their hard work and patience.

**Closing comments:** Rob congratulated Mark Gill for his fine job of hosting the IMSHOF induction ceremony Friday night. The sense of the House was that the ceremony next year should be held at convention. He also thanked the Southern Pacific LMSC for forgoing the traditional LMSC social and arranging for the burgers from In-N-Out Burger. Lori Payne (Ozark) recognized Karlyn Pipes-Neilsen and Suzanne Heim-Bowen for their induction into the

IMSHOF. Suzanne thanked the House for their support. Mark Gill (Kentucky) added that the other inductees to IMSHOF were Woody Bowersock, Jean Durston, Sandy Galletly, Ron Johnson, synchro swimmer Carol Fitzsimmons, diver Tom Hairabedian and Judy Wilson of Great Britain. Adolf Kiefer was the winner of the ISHOF Gold Medallion award.

Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) thanked Tom Boak for his service to USMS as treasurer the past two years. Tom explained that he decided not to run for a second term because he realized the job of treasurer now has a significant human resources function, which involves salary administration and benefit plans, of which he has no expertise, and he therefore felt it was time to step aside for someone else. He also wanted to concentrate on saving The Woodlands Athletic Club. He felt Jeff had all the qualities needed for the job. And he thought it might be interesting to be the first officer in USMS to choose not to run for a second term. He said that Masters swimming has given him more than we could ever imagine, and thanked all who influenced his life in Masters swimming.

Rob reminded all delegates to turn in their evaluation and committee request forms and attend the wrap-up meeting Sunday morning. He thanked the BOD, officers, staff and committee chairs for their hard work. Rob also thanked outgoing chairs Mary Pohlmann (International), Jim Wheeler (Planning) and Jeff Moxie (Finance), who are stepping aside after this convention. He thanked the HOD (especially new delegates) and Convention Coordinator Victor Buehler.

Rob announced that new zone representatives were elected from Oceana (Leianne Crittenden) and South Central (Jill Gellatly). The representatives from Breadbasket (Anthony Thompson), Colonies (Debbie Morrin-Nordlund), Dixie (Debbie Cavanaugh), Great Lakes (Mike Lemke), Northwest (Jane Moore) and Southwest (Mary Hull) were reelected.

Rob charged the delegates to take the passion demonstrated at this convention back to their LMSCs and clubs.

Chris Colburn (Illinois) recognized Chris Smith of Canada, and reminded us that the world is watching USMS.

Rob also charged us to remember our strategic plan in our work during the year. He reminded those serving important functions to think about succession plans. We will focus on brand strategy in the coming year. Club development will be very important, as will LMSC development.

**Bill Tingley (Kentucky) moved to adjourn at 4:36 p.m. PDT. The motion was seconded by Jim Wheeler (Pacific). The motion was approved.**