

USAS Convention—Chicago, Ill., September 16–20, 2009
United States Masters Swimming House of Delegates—Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2009, 8:45 a.m.

President Rob Copeland called the 2009 House of Delegates to order at 8:47 a.m. CDT. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll for delegates who had not yet been certified.

Introduction. President Copeland welcomed delegates to the convention and reminded them that the theme of the convention was “Moving Forward.” He introduced the members of the Executive Committee who were sitting at the head table; none had anything to add to their written reports in the pre-convention packet. He said it had been an honor and privilege to serve as president. **MSA the reports of the Vice President of Community Services (Michael Heather), Vice President of Local Operations (Julie Heather), Treasurer (Jeff Moxie), Vice President of Member Services (Heather Hagadorn), Secretary (Meg Smath), Vice President of National Operations (Leo Letendre) and Immediate Past President (Jim Miller).** Legal Counsel Patty Miller had no report.

Convention coordinator’s report. Victor Buehler thanked the Illinois Masters volunteers, especially Phil Dodson and Nadine Day, and announced the particulars about hospitality. Nadine Day (Illinois) thanked Chris Colburn, Heather Howland, A.J. Block and Barb Delanois for their organizational skills. Victor asked the Illinois volunteers to stand and be thanked.

Parliamentarian’s report. Bill Tingley explained that all our meetings are run according to *Robert’s Rules of Order*, our rule book and our standing rules, copies of which had been distributed to all delegates. **MSA the standing rules.** Bill then clarified some of the procedures in the standing rules.

Executive director’s address. Rob Butcher delivered the following:

Mr. President, Board of Directors and House of Delegates,

On behalf of the entire staff of U.S. Masters Swimming, thank you for the honor to serve our great organization.

One year ago, you were presented and voted in favor of our U.S. Masters Swimming action plan. The action plan is directed by our mission, with emphasis on several foundational pillars. Those pillars include serving our members, serving our clubs, and marketing and promotion. I guess it would be easy to just begin sharing success stories within these pillars but let us first acknowledge two other major points.

As the cover of your convention packet says, We Are Moving Forward. And indeed we have. For the better part of the last 40 years, United States Masters Swimming has operated as a virtual organization. In the last decade, many have come to believe that our permanent home was Londonderry, N.H. And while the Londonderry address has been on nearly everything related to membership, that address is in fact the home of Tracy Grilli. With our organization now topping 50,000 members and having made the choice to have professional staff operate our national operations, it was time for us to find our own permanent home.

At last year’s convention, the Board of Directors gave to a small task force and me the responsibility of finding a permanent home for our organization. We took their directive seriously and over a six-month period met with 11 different communities. During the search process, we met many wonderful and dedicated Masters volunteers in each area. Their enthusiasm for having USMS headquartered in their community was evident and provided us an opportunity to generate goodwill. At the February Board meeting, I presented the findings. The Board voted and selected Sarasota, Fla., as where we would establish our home. In my travels, many have asked, “Why Sarasota?” Sarasota’s proposal had several elements that appealed to the Board. Their proposal was a collaborative effort that was represented by Masters swimmers, private business entrepreneurs and public leaders. Sarasota has a demonstrated base of volunteers that has been eagerly providing us support. Sarasota has both pool and open water facilities available as we support and continue to grow event opportunities. Sarasota is a coastal community and tourist destination. And lastly, while the economy has seen its struggles, we took advantage of an opportunity as we entered into a financially favorable 10-year lease with the City of Sarasota to move into

the former Chamber of Commerce building located just off the Sarasota bayfront. In the spring, we undertook renovating the 2,000-square-foot building and in July officially opened our doors.

The second success point has been the development of our professional staff. I couldn't be more fortunate to work with a motivated group. I know when I get emails or even sometimes phone calls from them at all hours of the day, they are 110 percent dedicated to serving our members and serving our clubs. Many of our accomplishments this past year, and those we will see in the future, would not have been achieved without the dedication of our staff. Would our staff please stand so you can recognize them?

As many of you saw, USMS reached a historic milestone earlier this month. When Sally Bradley signed up on Aug. 31, she became our 50,000th member! That week, Laura Hamel and I spoke with Sally by phone. Needless to say, Sally was excited. So who is Sally Bradley? Well, she's a 41-year-old middle school art teacher in Columbus, Ga. She'd been away from swimming for a few years and in her words, "desperately missed it." She told us swimming had been the most consistent form of exercise throughout her life and she was looking forward to being back. I had the privilege of meeting her coach, Greg Jennings. He told me Sally is the most positive person he's met and he couldn't think of a better person to be our 50,000th member. It is the Sally Bradleys of USMS that we are humbled to serve.

Membership. Foundationally, our membership program is good. This past year we took steps to strengthen the value of membership. MyUSMS, a new password-protected site of USMS.org, was put in place. If you want access to coached workouts, you have to go through MyUSMS. Go the Distance, our fastest-growing program within USMS with more than 1,000 members participating, was previously a very time-consuming project serviced daily by volunteers, is now available online through MyUSMS and the Fitness Logs. If you have not signed up for a MyUSMS account, I highly encourage you to do so. Our members now receive a monthly e-newsletter. The professionally written e-newsletter is filled with valuable information and inspiring stories. With a more than a 40 percent open rate, we know our members are enjoying this new benefit. In June, we conducted a survey amongst 10,000 random USMS members. An astounding 1,900 of you responded. The goal was to measure your satisfaction and expectations with our communication vehicles such as *SWIMMER* magazine. You'll notice in the September/October issue of *SWIMMER* magazine some new features that are a direct result from the survey. "Both Sides of the Lane," for example, is an avenue for members to take opposing viewpoints on various issues. For our first "Both Sides of the Lane," what other topic could it be than suits! In the January/February issue there will be a pullout poster that promotes all of our national championships and key events. While all of these are nice new improvements to membership, we can do better. We are, for example, seeking additional new insurance benefits to offer within an annual membership. We are also seeking to create a national sanctioning database so that those members who do want to compete can get better information on competitions, whether they are pool, open water or fitness events.

Club and Coach Development. Under the leadership of Club Development Coordinator Mel Goldstein and with support from the Coaches Committee, we have visited more than 15 states and helped incubate or register more than 60 new Masters clubs. Our club visits are informative and educational, both for those we are visiting as well as us. During our club visits, many coaches told us they wanted resources for their programs. So we developed some exciting tools such as brochures, window stickers, "Adult Swimming Programs Offered Here" stickers, bag tags and swim caps. You each should have in front of you samples of these new resources. We will even produce a co-branded banner with your club logo and USMS logo at no cost to the club. We offer all the marketing resources for free to any club or coach and simply ask they pay the shipping cost. If a club program can't afford the shipping, no worries: We'll still send them anyway. Our coaches are our greatest ambassadors. They are the ones that show up each and every day. They help their swimmers set goals, and motivate and encourage. They are the daily connection to our members. Many of them are volunteers. We appreciate our coaches and want them to know that USMS is here to support them.

Under the direction of our Club Development Program, and with appreciation to The Woodlands Masters Swim Team for hosting the inaugural event, we created the first ever Masters coaches clinic. SwimFest was a three-day interactive coaching experience. Seven mentor coaches participated—sharing and learning themselves—valuable dry-side and wet-side knowledge. USMS provided 10 scholarships to coaches that attended. In total, more than 35 Masters coaches and 100+ Masters swimmers attended SwimFest. 2010 SwimFest is already in the planning stages and will be June 4–6 weekend in San Diego.

Masters coaches certification is additionally an important ingredient in our Club Development Program. Certification is something that every Masters coach should strive for. ASCA has agreed to promote and administer the Masters certification program. The coaches certification program is in

development and being led by our Coaches Committee. The goal is to have a Masters coaches certification program in place in 2010.

Marketing and Promotion. The new logo you've seen in the brochures, *SWIMMER* magazine, on swim caps and stickers is the perfect example of our volunteer-staff collaboration. A branding task force was developed in 2007. Over a one-year period, the task force did tremendous research that included surveys and focus groups trying to answer the question: "Who is Masters swimming?" They handed to the staff a comprehensive and well-thought-out position paper. That position paper served as our road map to develop our new logo and brand identity. Some key conclusions were drawn by the task force. One of those was that Masters swimming has become and will continue to grow as a unique blend of fitness swimmers, competitive swimmers, open water swimmers, beginning swimmers and recreational swimmers. The task force also looked considerably at the word "Masters" and whether it could contribute to our growth or become a hindrance. The conclusion was that significant equity had been built in the word "Masters" and that while it could evoke a sense of competition amongst some, the look and application of our new logo should not take a competitive theme. Armed with this direction, the staff worked very closely with a professional graphic designer in our brand development project. We reviewed more than 30 different types of concepts. The logo we know today was our unanimous recommendation, which the Board likewise unanimously selected. With our new logo, we have a clearly definable icon that is inviting to any swimmer. The swimmer icon does not always have to be used with the words "U.S. Masters Swimming" to be recognizable, just as the "swoosh" is not always used with the word "Nike." Our icon is now being applied to our various other assets such as pool and open water championships and the Go the Distance program. A companion style guide with illustrations was also developed and is available on USMS.org, along with the logo in every format that anyone might need for use.

This past year we entered into some exciting new partnership opportunities. One partnership that has tremendous potential, especially for our local Masters programs, is with the American College of Sports Medicine. ACSM is a membership organization comprised of 20,000 medical doctors, therapists and exercise trainers. The ACSM has incubated a program called Exercise Is Medicine. The goal for the Exercise Is Medicine program is that when you visit your local doctor, your doctor would prescribe medicine if necessary and also prescribe an exercise program. If your choice of exercise is swimming, for example, your doctor would be able to access USMS and refer you to a local Masters program. From the USMS standpoint, for this program to have meaningful success, two things need to happen. The first is that Masters coaches will pursue certification. The ACSM understandably wants assurance that patients they refer are truly going to qualified Masters swim instructors. The second is that we have to overhaul our Places to Swim. Under our current system, Places to Swim is often outdated or not updated frequently. We are planning to build a club registration interface. When a club then annually registers itself, key information is gathered and can be auto-populated into Places to Swim.

It seems like every month we read about a college swimming program being dropped. So when a college swimming program is started, we celebrate. Such was the case this winter when Daytona State College announced it was starting a men's and women's swim team. To show support for the swim team, the university hosted a Splashdown fundraiser in which Olympian Ryan Lochte raced Masters swimmer and USMS member Charlie Lydecker in the Daytona State College pool. I was invited to attend and co-emcee the event with Rowdy Gaines. All the food was provided by Stonewood Grill, a local restaurant that is owned by Masters swimmer and USMS member Doug Sullivan. Nearly 1,000 spectators paid \$100 apiece and filled the pool to watch Ryan and Charlie swim a 200 IM. The event raised \$150,000, with a matching state grant of \$150,000. All told, it was a terrific evening for swimming and one that the Masters community can be proud of.

On the sponsorship front, we successfully renewed every partner for 2009 and added new partners in Gold Bond, Icy Hot, BullFrog, InfoArmor and blue seventy. We have also seen increased activation from our partners. More of our partners have tagged their advertising with "Proud Partner of U.S. Masters Swimming" and many have placed the U.S. Masters Swimming logo on their websites and other forms of communication. As we look, though, into the future, the challenges of the economy are catching up with some of our sponsors. While we will do everything we can within our power to renew our partners, we do expect the reality of the financial hardships will not allow some to renew for 2010. We are, though, engaged in conversations with some new potential sponsors and look forward to welcoming them to the USMS family.

As a matter of financial review, U.S. Masters Swimming is in relatively good shape. With our anticipated move, establishing of a headquarters, hiring of professional staff, investment into club

development services and marketing ourselves, we projected 2009 would be a net loss. Fortunately, membership growth of 11 percent has been greater than projected, new hires have been delayed while we get settled, and the headquarters will cost less than expected. Rather than have a year end-deficit, 2009 will end up with a net positive. If 2010, though, follows form according to the budget draft, we do expect there to be a slight net loss. Nonetheless, we remain committed to working closely with the Board and Finance Committee to ensure financial transparency and that decisions are made in the best interest of USMS.

There is an undeniable buzz in the air for Masters swimming. Many swimmers are following our success and I'm constantly asked, "How can I help?" My answer unequivocally is to continue to serve your swimmers and believe in the mission of USMS. As you support the mission, we also ask you to support USMS membership. As our membership grows, so too will the level of service and benefits we can provide back.

From a communication standpoint, I provide a quarterly business report from the national office. The business report is made available to the entire membership. I encourage you to review the report and share it with your local programs.

So, in conclusion, while 2009 has been an incredible year, we could not have done it without the support of you and our Board of Directors. I especially, though, want to thank our president, Rob Copeland. Rob has faithfully served USMS for more than 30 years. Under Rob's leadership, USMS has taken some monumental steps. We now have online registration, a permanent headquarters and we registered 50,000 members for the first time in our history. Rob epitomizes the USMS spirit. He unselfishly serves our organization, always with a smile. While your term, Rob, may be coming to an end, we know you remain committed to USMS.

And to our next president, as you take over the presidency, we look forward to your leadership and continuing to move our organization forward.

Thank you.

Election—Nominations from the floor. Election Committee chair Debbie Morrin-Nordlund announced the current slate, then asked for nominations for officers from the floor. **MSA closing nominations for president, vice president of community services, vice president of local operations, vice president of member services, vice president of national operations, treasurer and secretary.** Debbie then announced the Meet the Candidates forum that night at 6:15 p.m., and that the vote would be held in Friday afternoon's House of Delegates session and conducted by paper ballot.

Governance Committee of the Board of Directors report. Patty Miller, chair of this committee, gave an overview of the committee's activities in the past year. She noted we have undergone many changes in the last few years, beginning with the 2003 task force led by Betsy Durrant, which recommended an overhaul of our structure. As part of this overhaul, the size of our Board of Directors was cut from 46 to 16, and all voting positions are now elected. Since then, we have been moving toward an organization with a more active Board and an executive director working with a highly functioning staff that is performing many formerly volunteer functions. In light of this, the Board concluded that the time had come for more fine-tuning.

The Governance Committee is responsible for ongoing review and recommendations to enhance the quality and future viability of the USMS governance structure, including the Board, elected offices, committees and local and regional divisions of USMS. In addition to Patty, members of the committee are Anthony Thompson, Don Mehl, Nancy Ridout, Michael Moore, Julie Heather and Sean Fitzgerald. The Governance Committee, after careful study, recommended dissolving the Communications Committee, because much of that committee's work is now being done by the national office; the Publications Management Committee, also because much of that committee's work is now being done by the national office; the International Committee, whose mission was in conflict with the reality that most liaison work with international organizations is done by the president and national office; the Marketing Committee, because much of that committee's work is now being done by the national office; and the Zone Committee. The members of the Zone Committee do most of their work within their respective zones, but also had been called upon to work on LMSC development. The Governance Committee recommended that the zone representatives focus on local work and that a new committee, LMSC Development, be formed for this task. Governance also recommended that the Finance Committee be changed from a committee of the House of Delegates to a committee of the Board of Directors, because the BOD is responsible for fiduciary oversight of the organization. If approved, the new Finance Committee of the Board would be composed of BOD members and outside subject matter experts, which will improve the organization's ability to make strategic decisions. Governance also

recommended splitting the current Open Water and Long Distance Committee into two committees, because of too heavy a workload for one committee. Two different legislative proposals have been made to effect this split, one favored by the Open Water and Long Distance Committee and another by the Governance Committee. Governance recommended changing the name of some of the vice presidents to more accurately describe those offices' functions. They also recommended moving the description of the Executive Committee in the rule book to the same area that describes the Board of Directors, as well as updated descriptions of the treasurer's duties to better reflect current and best practices. Finally, Governance better defined the powers of the Board of Directors. The Governance changes having to do with the Zone Committee and LMSC Development Committee will also complement the minimum standards for LMSCs.

Actions of the Board of Directors that require House of Delegates approval. At its midyear meeting in February, the Board suspended our Professional Management Guidelines, because they were no longer functional with our new structure of an executive director and professional staff. At the same meeting, the Board enacted an Executive Limitation Policy, which granted the executive director authority to manage USMS except for the specified limitations. The Board recommended that the House of Delegates formally abolish Professional Management Guidelines. **MSA abolishing PMG.**

Recess. The meeting was recessed at 9:47 a.m.

Friday, September 18, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll for delegates who had not yet been certified.

Remembrance of those who have passed away since last convention. President Copeland read the following names submitted by the delegates and led a moment of silence: Dorothy Riordan (Kentucky), Jan Morrow (Kentucky), Paula Smart (Southern Pacific), Frank Tillotson (Florida), Patrick Moore (Southern Pacific), Petey Smith (New England), Lynn Surlis (Wisconsin), Ron Johnson (Arizona), David Harrison (Delaware Valley), John Cox (Florida), Mickey Eaton (Wisconsin), Don McKenzie, Victoria Chidester (Colorado), Rob Lavanture (Florida), Dottie Whitcomb (Southeastern), Ellen Tait (Pacific), Sara Snoek (Pacific), Jack Bertram (Pacific), Richard Harley (Pacific), Jesse Coon (South Texas), Raymond Edelhoff (Maryland), Austin Newman (New Jersey), Perry Rockwell (Wisconsin), George Viguie (Pacific) and Abrasha Brainin (Florida). USMS extends its deep sympathy to these members' families.

Recognition of delegates. President Copeland asked delegates to stand and be recognized based on how many years they have attended convention. Ted Haartz (Arizona) and Jennifer Parks (Michigan) were the longest-serving delegates.

President Copeland left to attend another meeting, and Vice President of National Operations Leo Letendre took over chairing the meeting.

National Championship Meet Award. Hill Carrow and George Simon, representing Raleigh Area Masters and the North Carolina LMSC, announced that the winner of this year's award was Barry Fasbender (Pacific).

Reports of staff, liaisons and special appointments. These reports were printed in the pre-convention packet. The membership coordinator (Tracy Grilli), webmaster (Jim Matysek) and controller (Nick Florio) had nothing to add to their written reports. USMS representative to the FINA Masters Technical Committee (Nancy Ridout) announced that the committee will meet Sept. 26–27, and rules for technical suits for Masters will be on the agenda. She asked that delegates let her know of any comments or concerns they would like her to bring up at the meeting. The risk management coordinator (Jim Wheeler), International Swimming Hall of Fame liaison (June Krauser, who was not present), National Board of Review chair (Laura Kessler), rule book coordinator (Susan Ehringer), International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics liaison (Jessica Seaton), USMS liaison to USA Swimming (Ted Haartz) and Union Americana de Natación representatives (Mel Goldstein and Jim Miller) had nothing to add to their written reports.

Task force reports. There were no additions to reports to be considered.

Endowment Fund Board of Governors report. Chair Doug Church reported that the Endowment Fund has made grants of over \$50,000 on topics as varied as cardiovascular research and dryland training. This past year the fund received its first bequest, from the estate of Petey Smith (New England). Although the fund has received over \$200,000, the Board of Governors feels it needs to have a higher profile, to encourage more donations and applications for grants. Doug asked that any delegates interested in serving on the Board of Governors, because they have a particular interest or expertise, contact him. **MSA the Board of Governors' report.**

Board of Directors report. Postponed.

Fitness Education Committee report. Chair Marcia Anziano had nothing to add to the committee's written report. **MSA the committee's report.**

History and Archives Committee report. Chair Barbara Dunbar drew attention to her committee's action items: "(1) Request the approval of an additional 2010 budget expense of \$700 for the purchase of a four-drawer lateral file cabinet to house additional USMS archives at the Henning Library in the International Swimming Hall of Fame, which is the repository for the USMS permanent physical archives. (2) Request the approval of an additional 2010 budget expense of \$500 for shipping uncataloged USMS documents to History and Archives Committee members for the purpose of sorting, itemizing and archiving USMS documents from and to the USMS archives at the Henning Library at the International Swimming Hall of Fame." **MSA the committee's action items. MSA the committee's report.**

Communications Committee report. Chair Hugh Moore announced that the committee was in support of legislation proposal L33, which will dissolve the Communications Committee. Their main concern was to make sure their current projects continue to move forward. **MSA the committee's report.**

Doug Garcia (Colorado) came forward to present the Newsletter of the Year Award, and recognized Ray Novitske (Potomac Valley) and Margie Hutinger (Florida), who helped select the winner: the Mountain View Masters Swimming and Social Club, edited by Shannon Schwartz. The award was accepted by Chris Campbell (Pacific). The other finalists were the newsletters of Swim Las Vegas, New England Masters, Colorado Masters, Davis Aquatic Masters, West Hollywood Aquatics and Wisconsin Masters. Doug noted that this will be the last year for the Newsletter of the Year Award, which is being retired in favor of recognizing clubs or LMSCs for overall communications excellence.

Hugh came forward to present the June Krauser USMS Communications Award to USMS Secretary Meg Smath.

Sports Medicine and Science Committee report. Chair Jane Moore drew attention to her committee's action item: "Request a \$2,000 allocation for the sports medicine lectures at Nationals and at the convention. This will cover the costs of room rental, videotaping the lectures and possibly broadcasting them." **MSA the committee's action item. MSA the committee's report.**

Recognition and Awards Committee report. Chair Sally Dillon noted that the committee will buy 10 years worth of Ransom Arthur awards, provided the national office has room to store them; Rob Butcher indicated willingness to store them. Therefore, the committee's action item was to add \$1,000 to the budget to purchase the awards in bulk. Sally also congratulated this year's Ransom Arthur Award winner, Julie Heather (Southern Pacific). **MSA the committee's report.**

International Committee report. Chair Laszlo Eger announced that the committee held its last meeting at this convention, as it will be dissolved, assuming the legislation is approved. The committee approved of this legislation. **MSA the committee's report.**

Overview of LMSC minimum standards. Vice President of Local Operations Julie Heather gave an overview of this project of the Zone Committee. The Zone Committee put together the original draft, and then it was

reviewed by the Board of Directors, followed by last year's House of Delegates. She then asked the delegates their feelings about having minimum standards. Mary Pohlmann (Ozark) said she agreed we should have minimum standards but felt we should recognize that LMSCs are run by volunteers. She would like to see a preamble to the document acknowledging the volunteer status and thanking the volunteers for their service. Ann Marie Stevens (North Carolina) asked for examples of LMSC deficiencies, which were cited as the reason the standards are needed. Julie gave as an example an LMSC refusing to mail registration cards to members who requested them. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) felt the standards are needed because the whole is only as strong as its weakest part, and we need to help underserved areas perform better. Nan DeStafney (Southeastern) agreed with Nancy and said it was a needed resource for the LMSCs. Don Mehl of Border, one of the smallest LMSCs, but doesn't agree with the argument he's heard that small LMSCs won't be able to comply with the standards. He feels the standards will actually simplify matters for their LMSC. Paula Smith (Alaska) supports the standards but felt that the limitations of small LMSCs should be taken into consideration. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) said he had originally had concerns about the bylaws requirements, but then saw that there will be a remediation process that will guide the LMSCs through the process of bringing their bylaws into compliance. Julie added that one of the roles of the LMSC Development Committee would be to help with compliance. Jennifer Parks (Michigan) asked if there will be a phase-in period for LMSCs that have been doing business in a certain way for a long time. Julie answered that certain financial requirements will have to be implemented right away, but that the Zone Committee understands some other requirements may take a while to implement. Jennifer asked if there was a schedule or priority, and Julie said there was not. Anna Lea Matysek (Missouri Valley) noted that USMS is a corporation and its LMSCs are subsidiaries; most corporations have operating rules and we should be no different. Janet Renner (Hawaii) suggested that the guidelines be divided into categories to make it easier for smaller LMSCs to incrementally attain them as they grow larger. She also suggested changing the title from "minimum standards" to something more encouraging. Carolyn Lambert (Pacific) spoke of the need to assess compliance and suggested that certificates be provided for LMSCs who meet the minimum standards. Doug Garcia (Colorado) felt the standards are a great idea but we need to be respectful of the demands on our volunteers, and acknowledge that not all LMSCs have enough volunteers. Barbara Delanois (Illinois) asked how the standards would be enforced. Julie explained that there is a remediation procedure on the last page of the document; the philosophy is to work with an LMSC to help it attain the minimum standards. Barbara then asked how we would discover lack of compliance; Julie answered that it would be through complaints, and we could also ask for self-assessment. Carolyn Boak (Gulf) complimented Julie for sending the document out for comment, and hopes that process continues. Michael Collins (Southern Pacific) suggested we implement gold, silver and bronze levels for LMSCs, similar to USA Swimming's designation for clubs, to recognize continuing improvement. Tom Boak (Gulf) said this document spells out what is expected of LMSCs. He also said we should not assume that small LMSCs can't comply with these standards. Patrick Quinn (Adirondack) suggested we send letters to the LMSCs in which we ask them how we can help them. Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) suggested we not look at compliance as a competition in which awards are won, but instead treat it as we would striving for good health. Katherine Longwell (Allegheny Mountain) said she comes from a small LMSC in which she has to do it all, yet she expects her LMSC to meet all of the minimum standards. Cathy Kohn (Ozark) said her LMSC already complies with most, if not all, of the standards, and that she appreciates knowing what's expected of them. Chris Stevenson (Virginia) recommended that we rely on self-assessment for compliance, and incorporate it in the standards.

Recess. The meeting was recessed at 9:07 a.m.

Friday, September 18, 2009, 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. President Copeland called the roll for delegates who had not yet been certified.

Board of Directors report. President Rob Copeland noted that the Board's report contained no items requiring action by the House of Delegates. **MSA the Board of Directors' report.**

Election—Voting. Written ballots were distributed and a roll-call vote was conducted. The Zone Committee retired to count the votes.

Coaches Committee report. Chair Chris Colburn introduced Ahelee Sue Osborn (Southern Pacific) to present the winners of the Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award: Jay Christiansen (Central Valley All Stars), Chris Colburn (Academy Bullets Masters), Dyann Charette Dancy (Germantown Maryland Masters), Linda Gilchrist (Alameda Aquatic Masters) and Dana Kirk (South Palo Alto Masters). Chris asked for discussion of the committee's report. Kathy Casey (Pacific Northwest) suggested that for the first sentence in item 2 of the committee's report, the word "ruling" be changed to "recommendation"; that "comply with" be deleted; that "for Masters" be inserted after "FINA"; and that "are recommended to" be inserted between "which" and "begin," so that the entire sentence, as amended, would read "MSA to support the USMS recommendation to FINA for Masters swimsuit standards, which are recommended to begin January 1, 2010." The same changes should also be made for item 4. She also asked what was meant by "new" in the second sentence of item 4 ("Note: this new standard from FINA applies only to meters meets, and has no bearing on short course competitions."). Chris offered to strike the word "new" from the note. Kathy also suggested inserting "meters" between "short course" and "competitions" in the note. Matt Hooper (Florida Gold Coast) explained that the use of the word "new" was meant to distinguish this FINA ruling from the earlier ruling that only one suit may be worn during competition. Mary Pohlmann (Ozark) suggested that in item 1, "minimum standard" replace "ruling," so that the entire sentence, as amended, would read "MSA to approve of the proposed minimum standard to require a designated coaches chair on each LMSC board." Chris accepted all as friendly amendments. **MSA the committee's report, as amended.**

Marketing Committee report. Chair Chris McGiffin drew attention to item 2 in their report, which states that the Marketing Committee supports legislation proposal L43, which dissolves the Marketing Committee. **MSA the committee's report.**

Rule book coordinator's announcement. Susan Ehringer announced that the winning cover design was by Kristin Heath (Inland Northwest), and that the design was inspired by the new USMS logo. She also announced that the 2010 rule book will be dedicated to Bill Volckening, former editor of *SWIMMER* magazine, who has the distinction of designing more rule book covers than any other artist.

Presentation of awards. Recognition and Awards Committee Chair Sally Dillon and Vice Chair Hill Carrow presented the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Awards in a very entertaining rhyming format that Dr. Suess would have been proud of. The winners were Marcia Anziano (Colorado), Jerry Clark (North Carolina), Chris Colburn (Illinois), Lisa Dahl (Pacific Northwest), Barbara Delanois (Illinois), Janet Renner (Hawaii), Chris Stevenson (Virginia), Christie Ciraulo (Southern Pacific), Bill Cleveland (Southern), Paul Freeman (Pacific Northwest) and Mark Sells (Minnesota). Sally announced that there was a tie between the Mission Viejo Nadadores (Southern Pacific) and Noblesville Adult Swim Team (Indiana) for the Club of the Year Award, and presented banners to representatives of each club. Manny Sanguily (Connecticut) announced that the winner of the 2009 David Yorzyk Award for the best performance of a 400 IM at short course nationals is Alex Shestakov. Manny stated that the House of Delegates voted to create this award after David's tragic death in an automobile accident in 1984. Manny challenged the Recognition and Awards Committee's decision to no longer present this award during the House of Delegates, a decision he feels is unfair. Mark Gill (staff; Kentucky) presented the inaugural Staff Appreciation Award to Ted Haartz (Arizona) and announced that the award will be named after him henceforth. Ted thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve USMS for the past 40 years. He said that the award (an engraved walking staff) was the most useful gift he has received in all of his years with USMS, and that it will be put to good use in his hikes with the Green Valley Hiking Club.

Records and Tabulation Committee report. Chair Ed Tsuzuki called attention to the committee's End-to-End Event Management project database, especially thanking Jeanne Seidler (Wisconsin) and Jim Matysek (staff; Missouri Valley) and all the volunteers who have been submitting their meet results. The project is still in the pilot phase, running parallel to the Top 10 compilation; he urged all LMSCs to submit their results so that the competitors can compare their times with times from other meets across the country. **MSA the committee's report.**

Officials Committee report. Chair Charlie Cockrell thanked Kathy Casey (Pacific Northwest), chair of the Rules Committee, for her help in educating officials on our rules, and also Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) for being a liaison from the Championship Committee. He called attention to his report's action item concerning revision of the minimum standards for officiating contained in the LMSC minimum standards. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific)

made a point of order that the proper time for discussing the LMSC minimum standards would be during the time set aside on the agenda for this purpose, not during the Officials Committee's report. Charlie agreed, and also mentioned that the Officials Committee will be updating the Officials section of the USMS Guide to Operations during the coming year. **MSA the committee's report.**

Election results. President Copeland announced that Jeff Moxie (Southern Pacific) had been elected president; Michael Heather (Southern Pacific), vice president of national operations; Nadine Day (Illinois), vice president of community services; Ed Tsuzuki (New Jersey), vice president of local operations; C.J. Rushman (Kentucky), secretary; and Ralph Davis (Michigan), treasurer. A runoff was necessary for vice president of member services, between Dave Diehl (Maryland) and Doug Garcia (Colorado) because neither candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote.

Zone Committee report. Vice President of Local Operations Julie Heather noted that the committee approved the legislative proposal that would dissolve their committee, as well as the proposal that would create the LMSC Development Committee. **MSA the committee's report.** The Zone Committee also proposed changes to the Election Operating Guidelines, and explained that the Zone Committee has always brought amendments to this document before the House of Delegates, even though it is not required. The most significant changes were that the Board of Directors will maintain the Election Operating Guidelines rather than the Zone Committee; and that the zones would endorse or not endorse candidates for at-large directors rather than slate candidates, with all candidates' names going forward, with or without the zone's endorsement. **MSA the amendments to the Election Operating Guidelines.** Julie also noted that Nadine Day (Illinois) had just been elected vice president of community services, and therefore the Board of Directors would need to appoint a replacement for the final year of her term as an at-large director. The Great Lakes Zone will recommend a replacement for Nadine to the Board of Directors, and following adjournment of the House of Delegates on Saturday afternoon, the new Board will appoint Nadine's replacement.

Roll-call vote. New written ballots, printed in a different color, for the runoff for vice president of member services were distributed and another roll call vote was conducted. The Zone Committee retired to count the ballots.

Consideration of LMSC minimum standards. Vice President of Local Operations Julie Heather explained that each section of the standards would be considered separately and asked for comments on the Preamble. **MSA the Preamble.**

Leadership section—**Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) moved to change "Appoint or elect" for the third item of both the required and suggested columns to "Appoint or elect people responsible for the following functions." His motion was seconded.** Nan DeStafney (Southeastern) asked for clarification on whether having a coaches chair was a requirement or a suggestion. Julie confirmed that it is a requirement, and that one person may hold more than one position. Michael Heather (Southern Pacific) clarified that this requirement was so the Coaches Committee would have a point of contact in every LMSC. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) asked if the phrase "appoint or elect" also include hiring; Julie said it did. Tom Boak (Gulf) commented that if the amendment passes, this section would need to be reworded to list functions rather than positions. Julie said that would be taken as a friendly amendment. **The amendment was approved. MSA the Leadership section as amended.**

Bylaws and Administration section—Jane Moore (Pacific Northwest) asked why the dispute procedure must be part of the bylaws and asked if having the procedure in an LMSC's policy/procedure manual would be acceptable; Julie said several years ago USMS began requiring LMSCs to have a dispute procedure in place, and that it was significant enough that it should be in the bylaws. Jane explained that the procedure for amending her LMSC's bylaws was cumbersome, so they would prefer to have the dispute procedure in their policy/procedure manual, and have a statement in the bylaws that refers to the policy/procedure manual. Julie felt that would be acceptable. **Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) moved that the word "procedure" be replaced with "provision," and then the provision could direct the reader to a policy/procedure manual. Her motion was seconded.** Mary Pohlmann (Ozark) suggested that "written procedures" replace "bylaws." Julie explained again that a decision was made some years ago that the dispute procedure should be in the bylaws because that is a more prominent location. **The amendment was approved. MSA the Bylaws and Administration section as amended.**

Registration section—**Julie moved to amend item 4 in the required column by changing "15 days" to "14 days." Her motion was seconded. The amendment was approved.** Emmett Hines (Gulf) said that Oct. 31 was too late to notify clubs that registration was open for clubs. Julie explained that Oct. 31 was the bare minimum for notification, and that Oct. 1 was the suggested (and preferred) deadline. **Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) moved to add**

an item to the Suggested column: “Deposit checks and cash at a minimum monthly.” Her motion was seconded. The amendment was approved. Arni Litt (Pacific Northwest) asked if retaining scanned copies of paper registration forms and destroying the originals would be acceptable for the last requirement in this section. Mike Lemke (Zone Committee; Kentucky) explained that the wording, “Maintain paper registrations (dry, secure and safe) for legal time period as required by state law,” was settled upon by the Zone Committee because the laws for document retention vary from state to state. Julie suggested deleting “paper” (“Maintain registrations . . .”). Legal Counsel Patty Miller was out of the House at the moment and unable to give advice. **MSA tabling discussion on this requirement until Patty Miller returned.** Barbara Delanois (Illinois) was concerned that, as treasurer, the sixth requirement would make her accountable for money someone else (i.e., the registrar) says has been deposited (“Deposit checks and cash for registrations in a timely manner and reconcile registrations, donations, etc., with money received. The registrar (or designated person other than the registrar) who makes the deposits, shall keep the treasurer informed as to the deposit amounts and categories.”). Barbara asked the Finance Committee to address this issue. Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) commented that any concern that registrars are not depositing funds is a much greater problem than this requirement is intended to cover. This requirement is not meant to be foolproof, and an LMSC should establish the internal controls needed. Mike Lemke (Kentucky) said that this requirement merely affirms that it is ultimately the treasurer’s responsibility to see that checks are deposited. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) noted that with today’s online banking capabilities, a treasurer can quickly verify deposits. Barbara Delanois (Illinois) felt this requirement would make us susceptible to embezzlement. Julie pointed out that a requirement under the Finance section stipulates that someone other than the one depositing checks must reconcile the bank statements. Phil Dodson (Illinois) suggested tabling this requirement until the Finance Committee met again and could discuss the issue. **MSF tabling discussion of this requirement. MSA Registration section as amended, except for the requirement about document retention.**

MSA tabling discussion of LMSC minimum standards in order to announce election results.

Runoff election results. President Copeland announced that the vote for vice president of member services was tied and that another vote would have to be taken. He also asked delegates to call any other delegates they knew who were out of the House and ask them to return to the House for the vote. Paige Buehler (Inland Northwest) asked that the two candidates address the House once more for one minute and remind the delegates of their qualifications. Dave Diehl (Maryland) reiterated his years of experience in all aspects of aquatic sports, and stated that he was one of the founders of and wrote the bylaws for Potomac Valley Masters. Doug Garcia (Colorado) stated his platform that for USMS to move forward, we will need to find the right place for volunteers alongside staff, and that we need to provide great benefits to our members. New written ballots, printed on a different color paper, were distributed, and another roll-call vote was conducted. The Zone Committee retired to count the ballots.

Resumption of consideration of LMSC minimum standards. MSA removing consideration of LMSC minimum standards from the table. Communications section—There were no comments on this section. **MSA the Communications section.**

Finance section—Leianne Crittenden (Pacific) felt the requirement to have two different people review bank statements each month was burdensome (“LMSC bonding insurance provided by USMS, which covers LMSC officers, requires the following: (a.) Bank accounts be reconciled monthly by a person other than a person who is authorized to sign checks. (b) Dual signatures are required on all checks of \$5,000 or more.”). Julie noted that this was the single item that received the most concern from the House of Delegates when it was distributed for comment before convention. She suggested we ask our treasurer if there were other ways to comply with this requirement. Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) suggested moving the word “monthly” so that the reconciliation doesn’t have to be done monthly, even though the statements are received monthly. Julie said she thought monthly reconciliation was a requirement of our bonding insurance. Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) did not believe that was a requirement of our “crime insurance” (the actual correct terminology). **MSA tabling this requirement until the crime insurance requirements could be researched. MSA the Finance section except for the tabled requirement.**

Top 10 section—Ed Tsuzuki (Records and Tabulation Committee chair; New Jersey) moved to add “and that all rules for Top 10 consideration as listed in the USMS Guide to Operations are followed” following the first requirement. His motion was seconded. The amendment was approved. Ed moved to add a new requirement: “Ensure that all records applications are processed in a timely manner.” His motion was seconded. The amendment was approved. Ed moved to add the suggestion, “Submit all meet results to the

USMS Meet Results Database in a timely manner.” His motion was seconded. The amendment was approved. MSA the Top 10 section as amended.

Officials section—Charlie Cockrell (Officials Committee chair; Virginia) moved to replace the requirement (“Ensure that all events meet minimum requirements as described in the USMS Rule Book (e.g., at least one official certified at stroke and turn level by a recognized body”) and suggestions (“Maintain good communication with LSC in order to grow the officials list and keep them updated on the rule differences. Ensure that officials are experienced and certified for the position they are working, and the number of officials is appropriate for the facility and event.” and “Appoint an Officials chair who is knowledgeable in the rules for Masters swimming and who is certified by a governing body (e.g., USA Swimming, NCAA, YMCA, USMS)) with the following requirements:

- The LMSC shall ensure that all events meet the minimum requirements in the rule book for the number of required officials.
- The LMSC shall ensure that qualified referees are assigned for all sanctioned meets.
- The LMSC shall ensure that all officials are briefed on USMS rules, including current interpretations and updates, prior to all sanctioned meets.
- LMSC Officials chair shall have a current copy of the rule book. Duties would include keeping a list of certified officials for meets. Meet directors can go to the officials chair for help in locating officials.”) and the following suggestions:
- The LMSC officials chair should provide meet referees with updates on rules interpretations and points of emphasis prior to sanctioned meets.
- Individuals certified at only the stroke and turn level should receive additional training on duties of the referee, administrative rules, and starting rules before serving as a meet referee.
- The LMSC officials chair should have attended a USMS-sponsored LMSC officials workshop within the previous four years.
- LMSC officials chairs should maintain a roster of officials in their LMSC who are qualified to officiate at USMS sanctioned meets.
- LMSC officials chairs should receive reports from meet referees at each USMS sanctioned meet in their jurisdiction. Reports should include, at a minimum, a roster of officials working the meet, their certification levels, and any significant issues relating to officiating at the meet. Reports may be verbal, by electronic mail, written report or any other means deemed appropriate by the LMSC.
- All noncertified deck officials (starters and stroke and turn judges) working at USMS sanctioned meets should have attended a USMS-sponsored officials clinic within the past two years.
- If desired, work with the USMS Officials Committee to establish a certification program to increase the pool of available qualified officials.

His motion was seconded. Carolyn Boak (Gulf) stated that the Officials Committee had been invaluable to her when she was a national championship meet director, and she recommended accepting their amendment. Julie was concerned that the amendment was more of a process than a standard. Mary Pohlmann (Ozark) questioned the Officials Committee’s second requirement, pointing out that our rules do not require a referee to be certified as a referee. She also asked who would be responsible for providing rule books to the officials chairs. Charlie said his committee’s intent was to reference the qualifications stated in our rule book. He thought each LMSC officials chair already received a copy of the rule book. **Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) moved to delete the second requirement because he believes it is redundant. His motion was seconded.** Charlie explained that the Officials Committee realizes the second bullet may be redundant but wanted to emphasize requirements for both number and qualification of officials. And they also wanted to promote communication between officials chairs and meet officials. Mike Lemke (Kentucky) explained that the bullets were added to clarify our requirements for officials from other certifying bodies. He also pointed out that a rule book is always available online. Patrick Quinn (Adirondack) said he favored the proposed amendment because it provides specificity. He also suggested that the entire document should be called “Minimum Standards and Suggestions.” **Charlie called the question. His motion was seconded. The House approved calling the question. The amendment proposed by Hugh Moore to the Officials Committee’s proposed amendment failed. MSA the amendment (i.e., the replacement language proposed by the Officials Committee). MSA the Officials section as amended.**

Events, Sanctions and Recognition section—Ed Tsuzuki (Records and Tabulation Committee chair; New Jersey) stated that his committee discovered that according to the rule book, the LMSC Top 10 chair is responsible for submitting records, not the sanction chair; he therefore **moved to strike “Submit USMS and World record**

applications within 60 days and submit results to the USMS Meet Results Database,” because this requirement has been added to the Top 10 section. **His motion was seconded. The amendment was approved. MSA the Events, Sanctions and Recognition section.**

MSA removing from the table discussion on the requirement in the Registration section to maintain copies of paper registration forms. Patty Miller (Legal Counsel; Virginia) recommended keeping the paper copies so that we would have the original waiver signature, if needed. Arni Litt (Pacific Northwest) said she had no room to keep paper copies of every registration. Julie pointed out that with online registration, we have fewer paper copies to retain. And she said we could work with LMSCs that have a problem with storing the paper copies. **Barbara Dunbar** (San Diego-Imperial) asked if “paper” was absolutely necessary and **moved to replace “paper registrations” with “original registration documents.” Her motion was seconded. The amendment was approved. MSA the requirement as amended.**

MSA tabling discussion of LMSC minimum standards in order to announce election results.

Runoff election results. President Copeland announced that the second runoff election also ended in a tie. New written ballots, printed on yet a different color paper, were distributed, and another roll-call vote was conducted. This time the roll call was conducted more slowly so that each delegate deposited his or her ballot in the ballot box as his or her name was called, rather than the roll being called continuously as the previous three votes had been conducted, in order to verify exactly which delegates had voted. The Zone Committee retired to count the ballots *again*.

Resumption of consideration of LMSC minimum standards. MSA removing consideration of LMSC minimum standards from the table. MSA removing the requirement of the Finance section concerning monthly reconciliation of bank statements from the table. Leo Letendre (New England) reported that he had discussed the requirements of our crime insurance with Sandi Blumit, our insurance broker, and Sandi stated that the reconciliation did not have to be done monthly. **MSA amending the reconciliation requirement of the Finance section by deleting “monthly.”**

MSA tabling discussion of LMSC minimum standards in order to announce election results.

Runoff election results. President Copeland announced that Dave Diehl (Maryland) had won the runoff election for vice president of member services. **MSA to destroy the ballots.**

Recess. The meeting was recessed at 4:40 p.m.

Saturday, September 19, 2009, 1:30 p.m.

President Rob Copeland called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Resumption of consideration of LMSC minimum standards. MSA removing from the table consideration of LMSC standards. MSA adding a suggestion in the Finance section, “Monthly bank accounts be reconciled quarterly by someone other than the person who is authorized to sign checks or the registrar.”

MSA approving the Remediation procedure.

MSA to reconsider Leadership section. MSA replacing “Obtain approval from USMS National Office before allowing a third party to use the logo on merchandise, or when a club or sanctioned event uses or contracts to use the logo” with “Obtain approval from USMS National Office before allowing a third party to use or contracting with a third party to use the logo on merchandise.”

MSA the LMSC minimum standards document, as amended.

Championship Committee report. Chair Mark Moore commented that USMS had held two successful championships in 2009. He reviewed the motions passed by the committee at its first meeting and announced that before convention the committee voted to award 2011 short course nationals to Mesa, Ariz., and long course nationals to Auburn, Ala. **MSA the report for session 1.** The Mesa, Ariz., hosts made a presentation about 2011 short course nationals. Mark reviewed the motions passed by the committee at its second meeting. **MSA the report for session 2.** The Auburn, Ala., hosts made a presentation about 2011 long course nationals. Mark concluded with

the observation that the new bid process went well, and the winning and losing bidders were pleased with the process as well.

Announcement. Vice President of Local Operations Julie Heather announced that the zone representatives elected during the zone meetings were Breadbasket—Rebecca Friedlander, Colonies—Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Dixie—Debbie Cavanaugh, Great Lakes—Mike Lemke, Northwest—Wes Edwards, Oceana—Joan Alexander, South Central—Jill Gellatly and Southwest—Nancy Kirkpatrick-Reno.

Registration Committee report. Chair George Simon had nothing to add to his written report. **MSA the committee's report.**

Publications Management report. Chair Heather Hagadorn noted that the committee supported legislation proposal L34, which dissolves the committee. **MSA the committee's report.** Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) thanked Heather for her good work chairing this committee.

Open Water and Long Distance Committee report. Chair Marcia Cleveland called attention to her committee's action items, and said that the committee supports legislation proposals L70 and L71. **MSA the committee's report.** She thanked her committee members for their hard work and service over the last four years.

Legislation Committee report. Chair Sean Fitzgerald announced that the legislation proposals would be considered in three groups: Approved and Approved as Amended, which require a simple majority to pass, and Not Approved, which requires a two-thirds majority to pass. He asked delegates to pull any proposals they wished to discuss. In the Approved section, the following proposals were pulled: L48 (Tom Boak—Gulf) and L51 (Jim Wheeler—Pacific). **MSA the remaining proposals in the Approved section.**

Tom Boak (Gulf) said he was concerned that L48 would result in the zone representatives not being utilized except as gatekeepers. He was also concerned that the responsibility for election procedures was being taken from the zone representatives and given to the Board of Directors. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) said there has always been great variety in how zone representatives are utilized from zone to zone, and it would be up to the zones to determine how to use their representatives. She also pointed out that the day before the Election Operating Guidelines had given responsibility for updating the guidelines to the Board of Directors. It is only maintaining the procedures that will change, not the rules in the rule book. She also commented that it had been difficult sometimes for zone representatives to mediate LMSC conflicts, because of conflicts of interest, and this would be better handled by the proposed LMSC Development Committee. **MSA L48.**

Concerning L51, Jim Wheeler (Pacific) was worried that USMS has no safety education function. He felt delegates should vote for the proposal but keep safety on our radar. **Barry Fasbender (Pacific) moved to add the following new subsection: "B. Safety Advisor—The safety advisor shall advise LMSCs, clubs and event directors about event safety provisions to promote the safe participation of our members." The motion was seconded.** Patty Miller (Virginia) said that Jim Wheeler's point was well taken, but was concerned that this amendment was hasty and not well considered, and not the best way to do it. Charlie Cockrell (Virginia) supported the proposal. Doug Garcia (Colorado) said he appreciated Jim and Barry's comments, but was concerned that Barry's proposal only covered events, and not practices. Jeff Moxie (Southern Pacific) said that he would add this topic to the agenda of the Board of Directors' meeting on September 20. Point of order: Bill Tingley (Parliamentarian; Kentucky) stated that Barry's proposed amendment was actually a replacement, not an amendment that is germane to the original motion. **Sean therefore ruled Barry's amendment out of order. MSA L51.** Point of information: Nancy Ridout (Pacific) asked how Barry's proposal could have been properly considered. Bill Tingley (Parliamentarian; Kentucky) said that a new legislative proposal would have had to have been submitted from the floor. Nancy stated that the insurance coordinator position had included an element of safety coordination, so she felt Barry's proposal was germane, in that it still eliminated the insurance aspect of the position but would retain the safety aspect. Jim Wheeler (Pacific) said that the description of the insurance coordinator had no language about safety. He felt the Governance Committee did the appropriate thing in eliminating the insurance coordinator position; all he was trying to do was make sure we continued to think about safety.

In the Approved as Amended section, the following proposal was pulled: L40 (Charlie Cockrell—Virginia). **MSA the remaining proposals in the Approved as Amended section.** Charlie stated that he supports L40, but wanted to point out that other entities could work with LMSCs besides the LMSC Development Committee. **Charlie**

Cockrell (Virginia) moved to insert “The committee may consult with other committees, coordinators, special appointments and staff as necessary to achieve this purpose” after “shall assist them in achieving compliance,” so that the entire passage would read: “The committee shall review and identify LMSCs that are not meeting LMSC minimum standards as defined by the Board of Directors and assist them in achieving compliance. The committee may consult with other committees, coordinators and special appointments as necessary for this purpose.” **The motion was seconded.** Tom Boak (Gulf) said it was clear that the Records and Tabulation and Officials Committees were specifically included in the minimum standards, and wondered if any other committees were included. The answer was that many committees and entities would be included. Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley) said initiatives could also be undertaken with staff, and offered a friendly amendment to add “and staff.” The friendly amendment was accepted (so that the passage would read “. . . consult with other committees, coordinators, special appointments and staff as necessary for this purpose”). Michael Heather (Southern Pacific) felt that all standing committees, staff and appointments are expected to work together toward one goal, pointed out that no other committee definition has such language and suggested the amendment was inappropriate. **The amendment to L40 was approved. MSA L40 as amended.**

In the Not Approved section, the following proposal was pulled: L69 (Leo Letendre—New England). **MSA the action of the Legislation Committee regarding the remaining proposals in the Not Approved section.** Leo said he pulled this proposal so the House could discuss “the elephant in room.” He felt USMS needs to register chapters of regional clubs so that we know which subgroups are out there so that staff can serve them as they have been charged, and allow those belonging to them to compete legally. Susan Ehringer (Kentucky) pointed out that many registrars helped write this proposal and said that whether you agreed with the regional model or not, this legislation will help registrars do their jobs and help members. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) was concerned with the term “chapter” and preferred the term “workout groups.” **Nancy moved to replace “chapters” with “workout groups.” Her motion was seconded.** Betsy Durrant (Virginia) said she found the term “workout groups” confusing because there are other meanings for the term within one concise club. Victor Buehler (Florida) did not think “workout groups” was the correct term either. **The amendment to L69 was approved.** Al Prescott (New England) pointed out that last year a rule was passed regarding regional clubs and scoring at Nationals, and he was concerned that only a year later, if this proposal passed, we would be assessing fees. And he pointed out that USMS is “not the only game in town.” Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) said that according to article 202.1.1F(6), which states, “A swimmer’s valid affiliation and age must be displayed after the name on the heat sheet or in the program,” that swimmers could not compete under their workout groups unless L69 is passed. Patty Miller (Virginia) said that the regional model issue may be the elephant, but that this proposal was not the way to deal with it because it is not fully thought out. She said the issue needs to be addressed by a task force, not on the convention floor. Doug Garcia (Colorado) agreed with Patty, and felt we were confusing operation of our organization with competition. Jennifer Parks (Michigan) said that the big issue for her was fees, and what a club would get from them. Susan Ehringer (Kentucky) moved to strike subsection (C) from the proposal. Her motion was seconded. Jeanne Seidler (Wisconsin) supported the amendment because she felt that charging a fee for both a club and a workout group would amount to double taxation. Doug Garcia (Colorado) felt the fee was not the primary issue. Michael Heather (Southern Pacific) pointed out in response to the suggestion to form a task force to study the issue that a task force was created for dealing with this issue more than a year ago and it never met once. Carolyn Boak (Gulf) asked if a swimmer could compete in a zone meet as a member of a workout group (as opposed to the parent club). Leo Letendre (New England) agreed that competing as a workout group was technically against our rules, and felt we should correct the problem, but that it was more important for us to understand how our clubs are operating. Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) encouraged the House not to pass this proposal because it has so many parts to it that the delegates can’t agree on what the issues are, let alone a good solution. She urged working on it and coming back with a good solution. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) agreed with Patty Miller’s assessment, and also asserted that if he competes, for example, for Pacific Northwest Aquatics–Federal Way Masters this does constitute his valid affiliation. Betsy Durrant (Virginia) said she thought the rationale that this legislation is needed so that USMS can gather information is bogus. **The amendment to strike subsection C was approved. MSA the action of the Legislation Committee regarding L69 (i.e., L69 was not approved by the House of Delegates).**

Jennifer Parks (Michigan) moved to reconsider L59. Her motion was seconded. Reconsideration of L59 was approved by the House. Skip Thompson (Michigan) was confused about the Feb. 15 deadline for proposals to be submitted to the chair of the LMSC Development Committee. He asked if all proposals would be screened by the LMSC Development Committee and then be disseminated to the Rules, Open Water or Legislation Committee, as appropriate. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) explained that the Feb. 1 deadline was intended only for proposals under the jurisdiction of the LMSC Development Committee; the July 10 deadline would remain for proposals submitted to the other committees. **Meg Smath (Kentucky) moved to reword L59 so that it reads: “The deadline**

for changes submitted by an LMSC to the chair of the LMSC Development Committee is Feb. 1. The deadline for changes submitted by an LMSC to the chair of the Rules, Legislation or Open Water Rules Committee is July 10.” Her motion was seconded. The amendment was approved. Doug Garcia (Colorado) asked if L59 should specify that only proposed border changes are under the jurisdiction of the LMSC Development Committee. Barbara Delanois (Illinois) explained that it was already defined elsewhere which committee has jurisdiction of border disputes. **MSA L59 as amended.**

MSA the report of the Legislation Committee.

Finance Committee report. Chair Ralph Davis thanked Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) for taking minutes of the committee’s meetings. Homer Lane (New England) gave an overview of the committee’s proposed Financial Policy document. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) asked which entity has ownership of the document (i.e., who would be responsible for updates). Homer answered that the Finance Committee would make recommendations, but the Board of Directors would approve those updates, since the Finance Committee is now a committee of the Board. Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) explained that the amendment procedure is covered in Part B of the document, but that it wouldn’t hurt to clarify this more later. **MSA the Financial Policy document.**

Phil Dodson (Illinois) gave an overview of the changes to the Financial Operating Guidelines. He explained that the Finance Committee had created a new manual of accounting procedures in order to give the committee greater flexibility. **Rob Copeland (Georgia) moved to replace “approved by the House of Delegates” to “approved by the Board of Directors” in the last sentence of the Purpose section. His motion was seconded. Ralph Davis (Michigan) suggested “Finance Committee” rather than “Board of Directors,” since the Finance Committee will now report to the Board of Directors. Rob accepted Ralph’s wording as a friendly amendment. The amendment was approved. MSA the Financial Operating Guidelines as amended.**

Ralph began discussion of the 2010 budget by explaining that the biggest change between the 2009 and 2010 budgets is increased revenue from increased membership and dues. The 2010 budget projects a \$63,000 deficit. The following line items were pulled for discussion: 4020 (Julie Heather—Southern Pacific), 5280 (Susan Ingraham—South Texas), 4060 (Kristin Heath—Inland Northwest), 5010 (Mary Jane Caswell—Oregon), 5701 (Terry McGinnis—Pacific), 5630 (Nancy Ridout—Pacific). **MSA the remaining line items.**

Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) moved to change the club fee in line item 4020 from \$30 to \$0 because she did not feel it was fair to charge clubs if workout groups were not being charged. **Her motion was seconded.** Jim Miller (Virginia) said the topic of registering workout groups and charging them a fee has been discussed for days, and now was not the time to address the issue again. **The adjustment of line item 4020 from \$30 to \$0 failed. MSA line item 4020.**

George Simon (North Carolina) explained that the amount in line item 4060 should be \$12 rather than \$10 because of the dues increase. **MSA adjusting line item 4060 from \$10 to \$12 as housekeeping. MSA line item 4060 as amended.**

Mary Jane Caswell (Oregon) asked for an explanation of line item 5010, the insurance broker’s fee. Tom Boak (Gulf) explained that we are charged a flat fee of \$10,000 instead of a charge per member. **MSA line item 5010.**

In regard to line item 5701, Terry McGinnis (Pacific) commented that multiple copies of *SWIMMER* magazine are delivered to her home, because more than one USMS member lives there, and asked if there were alternative means to get information out to the membership other than the magazine. Rob Copeland (Georgia) said USMS was working with the publisher and looking at methods to avoid multiple copies being delivered to one address. Lynn Morrison (North Texas) asked if the default could be to deliver one copy per household rather than one copy per member. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) said that as a registrar, when she gets complaints about receiving multiple copies of the magazine, she remedies the problem in the registration software. Parliamentarian Bill Tingley (Kentucky) ruled this discussion was not germane to the line item. **MSA line item 5701.**

Susan Ingraham (South Texas) asked why the \$6,000 the Coaches Committee had requested to cover expenses for coaches to go to the World Championships was not in line item 5280. Ralph said that expense was not approved by the Finance Committee. Susan asked if a lesser stipend could be approved. Chris Campbell (Pacific) explained that the Coaches Committee said they would determine how many coaches would be attending Worlds, then use that number to determine appropriate funding, and would request that amount as an overbudget expense. Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley) said that the International Committee agreed that coaches provide support for our members at Worlds and felt a stipend was an appropriate expense. Michael Collins (Southern Pacific) said the on-deck coaching program at Worlds has been highly successful in the past, so he felt it was inappropriate to completely remove funding for it from the budget. He also suggested we should look for additional ways to fund coaching at Worlds in the future. Tom Boak (Gulf) noted that there had been concern on the Finance Committee that many USMS members would attend our long course nationals in Puerto Rico instead of attending Worlds, so it

might be appropriate to consider sending coaches to Puerto Rico instead of Sweden; therefore, they left it to the Coaches Committee to make a recommendation. Betsy Durrant (Virginia) felt that sending coaches to Puerto Rico was a good idea, but there was no documentation to support it. Rob Copeland (Georgia) supported providing services to our swimmers, and suggested we send someone to Puerto Rico to scout the area and provide a detailed plan. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) asked what the motion was that was on the floor. **Michael Collins (Southern Pacific) moved to add \$6,000 to line item 5280.** His motion was seconded. Chris Colburn (Illinois) said we need to decide how we want to represent ourselves to the rest of the world at the World Championships; if we want to show a unified national team presence, we need to provide adequate financial support. **The amendment to add \$6,000 to line item 5280 was approved. MSA line item 5280 as amended.**

Nancy Ridout (Pacific) said she submitted a budget for line item 5630 (FINA representative) but it had evidently been left out, as the budget showed \$0. **MSA adding \$800 to line item 5630.**

MSA the 2010 budget as amended. MSA the Finance Committee report.

Rules Committee report. Chair Kathy Casey explained the procedure used to craft the proposal concerning swimsuit rules sent to FINA via U.S. Aquatic Sports. She reported that the Rules Committee voted to consider rules proposals R1 and R2 emergencies, and then recommended approval. **MSA rules proposals R1 and R2.**

She asked for a sense of the House as to their preference for a date for the swimwear regulations to take effect for USMS short course yards competition. The options were: (1) Immediately on the date that the FINA Masters swimwear rule is adopted, with the earliest date being Oct. 1, 2009. (2) The same date as for meters competitions, as stipulated by FINA Masters. (3) June 1, 2010 (or later if FINA Masters adopts no standard). Tom Boak (Gulf) reported that USA Swimming adopted Oct. 1, 2009, as its effective date. He said he was in favor of the earliest possible effective date because some swimmers have felt they were at an economic disadvantage because they could not afford the high-tech suits. Barry Fasbender (Pacific) pointed out that this year's short course yards season started June 1 (because of the National Senior Games) and that if the effective date is before the end of short course yards season, then two sets of rules would govern the season. Lynn Morrison (North Texas) stated that FINA set an effective date of Jan. 1, 2010, and USA Swimming a date of Oct. 1, 2009, and felt we should not go against the leaders of our sport. Rob Copeland (Georgia) said that without having any idea of what FINA Masters will do, he is leery of setting an early deadline. He preferred option 3, which would allow us to go through the short course yards season. He also noted that in these difficult economic times some manufacturers and retailers will not survive, and he would like to see us do what we can to support these members of the swimming community. Michael Collins (Southern Pacific) said he supported option 1, and that relatively few meets have already occurred with the high-tech suits, so we should stop allowing them as soon as we can. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) felt most people have already made their choice about whether to buy a suit or not. She also pointed out that we already have some differences with FINA, so it is not mandatory that we always follow FINA's rules. And she said she has observed that most competitors want suits with long legs and that extend to the shoulders. Ginny Miller (Ohio) felt the suits enhance performance, and in an informal survey of her team she found that most swimmers wanted to get rid of the high-tech suits. She felt we should listen to what the swimmers have to say; new swimmers are intimidated about what type of suit to buy, and if we keep them through June 1 we'll discourage attendance at meets by those who don't own the high-tech suits. Nadine Day (Illinois) favored option 1, and said if we keep changing the date, there will always be meets that don't meet the criteria. Matt Hooper (Florida Gold Coast) believed FINA is looking to us for guidance, and we should send a clear signal that we want the suits gone. Sally Dillon (Pacific Northwest) said we should follow the same rules as the rest of the world. Jack Groselle (Lake Erie) favored option 3, and noted that many people saved up their money to buy the suits and would like to use them. Chris Campbell (Pacific) stated that swimmers will invest in technology commensurate with what they hope to get out of it, but felt we should go along with whatever FINA decides. **Doug Garcia (Colorado) called the question. His motion was seconded.** Those already in line at the microphone were allowed to speak. Zach Gray (New England) favored option 3, and said that the decision to restrict the coverage of the suits was a knee-jerk reaction, and FINA is taking the technology back too far. Cathy Kohn (Ozark) pointed out that no other country but the United States swims short course yards meets, so she recommended option 3. Graham Johnston (South Texas) said as long as we are under FINA's jurisdiction, we have to abide by their rules. Leo Letendre (New England) wondered how we would immediately communicate our decision. **The House approved calling the question. The sense of the House was that it preferred option 1 (option 1: 101 votes, option 2: three votes, option 3: 93 votes).**

Kathy presented the Rules Committee's recommendations on USA Swimming rules that affect USMS rules. **MSA U1, U2 and U3.** In reference to U4, Charlie Cockrell (Virginia) pointed out that our rules use the term "recall rope" rather than "false start rope." Kathy accepted this change as housekeeping. **MSA U4 as amended. MSA U5.** In regard to U6, Matt Hooper (Florida Gold Coast) pointed out that the language the Rules Committee deleted in U6

("or swimsuit") had been deliberately added by FINA this summer. Kathy explained that the Rules Committee considered a swimsuit a device, for the purposes of this rule, and felt the language was redundant. Chris Campbell (Pacific) asked for clarification that tape on the body would be allowed if the referee was consulted; the answer was yes. Jim Matysek (Missouri Valley) asked if USMS would provide guidance on allowable tape; Charlie Cockrell (Virginia) answered that we were waiting for guidance from USA Swimming. Jane Moore (Pacific Northwest) pointed out there are legitimate medical reasons for using tape. **MSA U6. MSA U7.**

MSA the Rules Committee report.

Adjournment. President Copeland thanked the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, the House of Delegates and staff for their contributions over the past four years. He also thanked Jim Miller for being a mentor as past president, and handed over the gavel to the new president, Jeff Moxie. **MSA adjourning at 5:50 p.m.**