

# ILMSA Members Meeting by Video Conference

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

## DRAFT Minutes

### Board Members in Attendance:

Mike Abegg, Chair Records and Tabulations Committee; AJ Block, Chair Health and Fitness Committee; Leslie Ciaccio, Secretary; Michael Cowen, Chair Sanctions Committee and Championship Committee; Barb Delanois, Registrar; Mike Hillegonds, Chair Awards and Recognition; Molly Hoover, Vice President, Chair Coaches Committee; Tracy Lord, President; Liz Sands, Treasurer; Andy Seibt, Chair Long Distance Committee; Ed Stranc, Chair Officials Committee and Safety Committee.

### Other Members in Attendance:

Betty Bennett, Christina Brunka, Chris Colburn, Phil Dodson, Marilyn Kulak, Patrick Lahey, Joe Magiera, Ross Patronskey.

### **M, S, A = Moved, Seconded, Approved by vote**

#### I. Call to order

Tracy called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

#### II. Approval of agenda

**M, S, A to approve the agenda.**

#### III. Approval of spring members meeting minutes.

**M, S, A to approve the minutes.**

#### IV. Office and Committee Reports

##### a. Officer Reports

##### a. Chair, Tracy Lord

As we are all experiencing, 2020 has presented ongoing challenges to the entire swim community and a majority of ILMSA Teams and Clubs continue to be out of the water. When we canceled the 2020 State Meet we were hopeful that it could be rescheduled for a few months later.

ILMSA has pivoted and will continue to pivot as the pandemic dictates. We held annual elections that normally take place at the State Meet, to a virtual format and an online voting system that should be considered for future use. Liz Sands was elected to the Treasurer role and Molly Hoover to the Vice Chair role. This Fall Members Meeting also pivoted to a virtual format.

Membership will be a focus area moving forward. In 2019 ILMSA had 2216 members and we currently have 1930 – a decline of ~12%. We are hoping that the covid relief programs (USMS & ILMSA) will help offset incurred costs and revenue declines in helping get more swimmers back in the water. While there is hope on the horizon with the vaccines, we don't know what the overall impact will be on our membership and the teams and clubs. Once we have a better understanding of where things land, we will continue to adjust to support our members and answer the most popular topic – the return to meets and competitions.

b. Vice Chair, Molly Hoover

With all meets on hold since early March, many teams out of the water for the near future, and most business being conducted over the internet, it has been a quiet year in my time as the vice-chair. I have attended all meetings and been learning more of the goings on of our LMSC and it's operations. I attended my 4th National Convention (virtually) and have really enjoyed being more involved in the whole USMS organization through these conventions and by being on the National Coaches Committee. In an uncertain time to be a part of any organization, I want to help in any way I can to keep USMS and ILMSA running and ready to return to "normal" whenever that is possible.

c. Secretary, Leslie Ciaccio

I have arranged the virtual meetings and taken minutes for all of the scheduled monthly meetings of the Board.

d. Treasurer, Liz Sands

I became the new Treasurer in July 2020. I am still getting used to how things work. This has been a great group and they have been very welcoming. I attended the USMS Virtual National Convention this year. It was great to see and be a part of. We should have a 2021 budget ready to approve as soon as we better idea of whether we will be able to hold meets next year.

e. Membership Coordinator (formerly Registrar), Barbara Delanois

I have been going through a process of registering clubs and teams for free. I have registered 22 workout groups and 10 clubs. There have been 290 recent online member registrations. I have got 17 LMSC donation letters to print and I printed some LMSC donation letters 3 weeks ago so I've already got 17 to print. Time will tell. We really do not know what will happen. I am the person who sends all the information out to the clubs and groups and members. Whenever anyone has something to say, they say it through me. I always ask people to draft the document or the message so I send out the correct information.

## b. Committee Reports

### a. Finance Committee Chair, David Sims

No report at this time.

### b. Officials Committee Chair, Ed Stranc

My job, most importantly, is to staff the State meet with top quality officials which we have been able to do for many years. Also I work with Michael Cowan in the sanctioning where we approve the referees that come in on a sanction. I recruit officials to work the meets. We strive to get good people who can run the meet in an efficient and safe manner. We have been very fortunate to have some very good officials for the State meet in the past.

Tracy asked if it will be challenging getting officials once we get back to competition. Ed stated that a number of officials who have worked the state meet in the past have retired, but he knows a dozen officials that he can call for future State meets.

Guidelines for upcoming sanctions are on hold until we learn more from USMS.

### c. Safety Committee Chair, Ed Stranc

It is the referees' responsibility along with the meet host to have safety in the pool not only during the meet, but also in warmups. We strive to get good people who can run the meet in an efficient and safe manner. We have been very fortunate to have some very good officials for the State meet in the past. I am always open for suggestions from people so we can do a better job for our State.

### d. Records and Tabulations Committee Chair, Mike Abegg

As the Records and Tabulations Chair, a bit of an old-fashioned title from the days of paper meet results, I'm tasked with receiving and processing meet results, then reviewing those results for ILMSA and national/world records. I also prepare our Top Ten reports to contribute to the national Top Ten each year for the 3 courses (SCY, SCM, LCM).

Obviously, it has been a very light year. We had a few meets in early 2020 that were part of the 2020 SCY Top Ten and had 232 individual swims and 19 relays included in that. That's the largest number of individual top tens in SCY for us since 2014. Because of the cancellation of the State Meet, we did not set nearly as many relay top tens as in the past.

I continue to try to refine the database tools we have to store and manage times and detect records. I'm very much looking forward to the return to competition in 2021.

e. Coaches Committee Chair, Molly Hoover

Thanks to the pandemic, the three main things the coaches committee was to be a part of didn't happen. In the winter we took a survey of masters coaches and started a discussion with the coaches at Northwestern about hosting a clinic for Illinois Master's Coaches. We had narrowed down some days in May, but that was as far as we got.

There were supposed to be coaches' certification trainings in Chicago this summer. We had a level 1 and 2, level 3 and a stroke clinic scheduled, but all trainings were put on hold by the national office during the shutdown. This has not been rescheduled as of yet, and future trainings may look different moving forward.

October was supposed to be the National Coaches Clinic in Las Vegas. Two years ago we sent three Illinois coaches to this training, and we hoped to send more again this year. The clinic was cancelled in the spring and has not been rescheduled. Budget issues for 2021 will be the biggest factor determining when the next National Coaches Clinic will be.

Moving forward in 2021, we hope that teams are able to return to the water fully and rebuild their programs. The Coaches Committee wants to support coaches in whatever way we are able, and I encourage them to reach out to me if there is anything I can do to help.

f. Health and Fitness Committee Chair, AJ Block

It has been tough not seeing everybody in the pool, but I have to say I have enjoyed the Zoom calls with the Board. It's a great group of people. That is what masters swimming is all about. Since COVID, I have taken a different approach to swimming. It has become more about the relationships than the competition.

In terms of fitness events, I have not done anything in addition to trying to promote what USMS is doing. They came up with some really good fitness events that appeal to all types of swimmers and they are very inclusive.

I would like to revive "I Swam a Marathon". It works with COVID because it is not a competition you have to go to. You can do it anywhere, at any time and people can get some swag, have a goal and accomplish something. We have t-shirts already and it is COVID friendly.

I did channel my energy in working with Michael helped Michael and others on the State meet this year which did not happen. I have a box of awards and the towels. We need to consider what to do with the towels because they are dated.

Andy stated we can have the towels changed to say 2020 ONE.

g. Sanctions Committee and Championship Committee Chair, Michael Cowan

Sanctioned 6 pool meets in 2020 from Jan-March, compared to 16 in 2019 (including the 2019 state championship and national 1-hour e-postal).

USMS Phase 1 Return to Competition began on November 1. However, due to state and local laws and facility restrictions, we are unable to sanction in-person competition events for the foreseeable future, including the 2021 State Championship Meet.

ILMSA will continue to monitor for changes in state and local guidelines, as well as evolving USMS guidelines, to inform when we might be able to resume pool meets.

ILMSA will consider sanctioning ePostal (virtual) meets that can be completed in a workout setting (pool or open water).

We encourage ILMSA member participation in national ePostal and virtual championships for those with access to qualifying lap swim facilities.

Chris Colburn stated that he chaired the subcommittee that dealt with the USMS return to competition guidelines. It has not been an easy time. There has been a lot of debate. The guidelines that we have now are very much guidelines. There are parts of the country where some of those things don't apply. Chris stated that State and local guidelines are taking precedence over USMS guidelines at this point.

There is a meet in Indiana this weekend with 100 people total spread out over multiple sessions. South Carolina is also having their short course meters state championship this weekend with 200 swimmers in multiple sessions. The restrictions in IL make it impossible to do something similar. USMS is very much in a holding pattern as much as everyone else. One of the meet Directors of the South Carolina meet is the Vice Chair of the Championship Committee. Results of this meet can help to determine what changes need to be made for future National Championship meets.

Michael Abegg gave his perspective from California where most of the pools are outdoors. It is vastly easier to host at an outdoor facility. The limitations on space and air are much less. Illinois should look for outdoor facilities to host.

AJ, Ed and Mike H discussed the high school season including dual meets and virtual meets. These ideas may be built upon and may be used by masters in the future when the time is right.

h. Open Water/Long Distance Committee Chair, Andy Seibt

In May and June, I promoted swimming practice in Lake Michigan. In summer we were able to get some LCM swims a using the COVID protocols. It worked out well.

For the USMS epostal competitions, in the 5K/10K competition Illinois had some success. We had National Champions. The 3,000/6,000 epostal completion was completed on November 25.

The Mighty Mac was virtual this year. Swimmers recorded their distance and their time and submitted them.

On the national level, USMS has the 1 mile fitness challenge.

Right now, Andy's main concern is getting people swimming.

i. Awards and Recognition Chair, Mike Hillegonds

The 2020 John Sloan Service Award was given to John Carroll, from Central Illinois Masters Team.

The 2020 Coach of the Year Award was given to Chuck Roth of North Aquatics Masters.

There are many people working hard to get swimmers into the water these days and we plan on giving awards again in 2021. An email for nominations will be sent in the next few weeks.

I am always open for ideas and thoughts on how we can recognize more of our members in the coming years.

c. Other New Business

a. Club Relief Grants

We have processed and/or have spent a little over \$14,000 and we are going to get about \$6,000 of that rebated from USMS. Net cost to Illinois is about \$8,000. It includes paying about \$1,000 in club registration fees

If there is anyone out there who hasn't submitted a grant request, it is still not too late, but the deadline is fast approaching. Tracy asked if the deadline was December 1. Phil stated that USMS encouraged clubs to have their grants submitted to the LMSC by December 1, but the LMSC has until December 31 to submit the reimbursement request to USMS.

b. Investment Committee

**M. S. To establish an Investment Committee by approving the proposed By-Law change submitted to our Secretary and appoint Phil Dodson as the Investment Committee Chair.**

Tracy clarified that Chairs are selected by the Executive Committee of the Board.

Chris Colburn stated in 2009 there was an ad hoc investment committee when he was Chair. The committee consisted of Phil, Barb and himself. At that time, a portion of the ILMSA surplus was placed in an investment account that Phil has been maintaining on an ad hoc basis for the past 11 years at a return well above what we see in the markets. Chris wanted to let everyone know that having he feels that an Investment Committee and having some directions for those investments is important.

Phil asked Barb, the ILMSA Legal Counsel and author of the By Laws the following question: The By Laws are clear that the Executive Committee appoints the Chair of the committees, but can the members approve such a motion? Barb stated she did not think that was the case.

Michael Abegg stated that it is the sense of the group that Phil is a good choice for the Executive Committee to make. The Treasurer's responsibility is for current accounts and the Investment Committee is to protect and grow our asset base so that we can have a reserve of funds to do the relief grants that we have done this year. It makes sense to have two groups if we have enough people to staff both and I heartily am in favor of this proposal.

Phil stated: Should the Executive Committee appoint me as Chair, I would have 3 main goals: 1. Revise the current investment policy because it is out of date based on our current portfolio. 2. Recruit members of the committee that are in the industry. 3. Have the Investment Committee make a recommendation to the Executive Committee no later than June 1 for who the Chair should be going forward.

**The motion was amended.**

**M. S. A. To establish an Investment Committee by approving the proposed By-Law change submitted to our Secretary.**

VI. Adjourn

**M, S, A to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm.**