

## U.S. Masters Swimming

**Committee Name:** Northwest Zone

**Committee Chair:** Jill Wright

**Minutes recorded by:** Sally Dillon

**Date/time of meeting:** June 3, 2024, 6 pm Mountain

**Actions taken:** MSA to approve Puget Sound Masters' bid to host SCM champs Nov. 23 & 24, 2024.

**Number of committee members present:** 17

**Absent:** n/a

**Guests:** none

**Attendees:** AK: Ken Winterberger, IW: Paige Buehler, Dave Cabrey, Margaret Hair, Rob Heath; MT: Jeanne Ensign; OR: Arlene Delmage, Christina Fox, Sandi Rousseau, Joy Ward, Tim Waud; PN: Sally Dillon, Dave Scott, Sarah Welch; SR: Jim Clemmons, Jill Wright; UT: Jerry Treiman

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 Mountain time by Chair Jill Wright.

### A. General business

#### 1. Actions taken between meetings:

- a. The March 4, 2024 meeting minutes were approved via email and are posted on the Zone and USMS websites.
2. Chair: Just back from the annual Lake Berryessa swim, Jill reported that she won her age group! Water temp was 71°, air temps close to 80°.
3. Finance: Ken reported that with no activity since the last meeting, the zone account balance is still \$8659.92. He shared an EFT reimbursement form, which will be posted on the website. Those requiring reimbursements from the NW zone will need to send the completed EFT to the USMS National Office prior to submitting a reimbursement form. Once approved, the funds will be deposited directly into the requestor's banking institution. Submit the EFT only once (unless the requestor changes banks). The reimbursement request should be sent directly to Ken, and he will submit it to the NO. Ken noted that he will be sending to the LMSCs the amounts per-swimmer that will be due to the zone. Sally reminded everyone that the zone funds can be used to financially support sending representatives to the Relay or National Coaches Clinic. The smaller LMSCs particularly, should not be shy about requesting financial help.
4. Webmaster: Dave Cabrey has kept up with records posting and newsletters. There has been more interest in posting upcoming swim meets that might be of interest to the NW Zone members overall (vs LMSC level). Ken will send Dave the aforementioned documents.
5. Records: Steve Darnell emailed to say that all Zone records (SCY, SCM, LCM) are up to date with information received through 6/02/2024.
6. Zone Chatter: Jill complimented Christina for another outstanding newsletter.
7. Secretary report: Sally reminded the LMSC chairs to let her know when changes to leadership teams occur so she can keep the volunteer email list and roster up to date.
8. NW Zone At Large Director report: Paige submitted the following written report for the Chatter. Elections! I am terming out as At-large Director from the NW Zone. The candidate application and nomination period run through June 20th. The candidate questions, nomination and letters of recommendation must all be submitted by that deadline to qualify for slating. See the [Elections webpage](#) for candidate qualification criteria. I would love to chat with anyone interested in running to give more insight into the time commitments, tasks and competencies for the role.
  - Awards - in case no one else mentions it, submissions for service and coaching awards are due July 1st.

- LMSC/Zone + Board of Directors Conversations - Kenny Brisbin and I will be meeting with as many volunteer leaders in the NW Zone as possible to have our annual BOD/Local Conversation. We'd love to hold this between June 11th and July 31st. We'll send a poll of some sort to collect availability from the LMSC Chairs and then extend the invite to all others.
- Membership is looking good compared to this time last year, Grown-Up Swimming has opened registration in some leagues and College Club Swimming ended with 1,250 participants higher than 2023.
- The focus of Volunteer Relay (October 18-20 - Houston, TX) is "Community Development" which is really broad and can appeal and apply to several volunteers in LMSCs. I hope you are working on identifying people to attend. A nice tie-in is that the National Coaches Clinic will be held in parallel with Relay. Make sure you are soliciting coaches to attend the NCC and helping with LMSC resources.
- LaneMate - be sure to look for the Streamlines announcement and overview of this new program offering targeted for the Independent Swimmer who doesn't have access to a club or can't make the swim practice times. Some of the benefits will be offered to traditional USMS members for an additional fee. The rollout of LaneMate is intentionally coinciding with interest in the Olympics.
- Upcoming Board projects include:
  - Reviewing the recent Board Assessment survey
  - Reviewing Comp & Benefits' recommended revisions to the CEO bonus criteria
  - BOD/Local Conversations

Paige added to her written report by announcing that the BOD will have their summer meeting July 13 via Zoom. They will be discussing feedback from the meetups with BOD members and LMSC leaders. Paige asked for questions or comments about her report.

- Rob Heath announced that he will be submitting his packet to run for the NW At Large Director position. Paige noted that it's an online process. The packets are due June 20 and go directly to the Election Committee. It was suggested that we endorse Rob, but since the EOG was revised, it was unclear if that is still required. No one else has indicated interest in running for the position. It was moved and seconded that we endorse Rob as the preferred candidate for the position (Jim/Sally). Jill said that the LMSC Development Committee discussed the AL-D positions in their meeting, and it was noted that the AL-D represents all USMS. Sally pointed out that there are directors from each zone, and we should be able to bring our local concerns to our representative and have them heard at the national level. A vote was not taken but it was clear that Rob had everyone's support.
  - Sandi asked about the LaneMate program. Paige said it is not a membership product; non-members can access the help, apparently for no fee. LaneMate's primary focus is stroke analysis with follow up (using video). Members have access, but for a fee. Sally asked how they would recruit these people. Paige says the contact info comes from people "visiting" the website. Rob wants to know if this is supposed to be a recruiting tool. Paige suggested we read the recent "release" about this program.
  - Sandi also asked about the changes to the CEO's benefits. Paige said the compensation and Benefits committee have been asked to research comparable positions and determine if there are better ways to evaluate the CEO's bonus.
  - Sandi asked about College Club Swimming (CCS) and how many have transferred to regular USMS membership. Paige said there is no direct translation to USMS so far. Regarding Grown-up Swimming, Jeanne said the acquisition supports our mission statement to provide swimming opportunities, regardless of whether participants join USMS. Rob said he was initially against this, but he thinks GUS fits into USMS's future.
9. NW Zone Championship events update: There were no bidders to host the SCY Zone Championship this year.

- OW Zone Championship: The event will be held June 29 at Broadside Harbor in Caldwell, ID. Jill is hoping to see participants from other NW Zone LMSCs. She has 20 registrations so far.
- LCM Zone Championships. The event will be held on July 6&7 in Federal Way, WA at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center. It too has only 20 registrations so far.
- SCM Zone Championships. Puget Sound Masters president, David McCarthy, submitted a bid prior to the meeting. The event will be held November 23 & 24, also at WKCAC. **MSA (Jim/Rob) to approve Puget Sound Masters' bid.**

## B. New business

1. Support for two separate Legislative proposals generated within the NW Zone.
  - a. Sandi spoke to the first legislative proposal. If passed, it would codify in the USMS Rules that USMS Board of Directors' meetings be "open to non BOD members who are USMS members" who can listen, but not contribute. Initiated by OR members, it addresses the recent decision by the BOD to "close" their meetings to visitors. The proposal was reviewed by others who have attended the meetings and or are concerned at the lack of transparency. The proposal was distributed to all (including the rationale). In addition to Oregon, the following LMSCs have signed onto the proposal: Inland NW, Pacific NW, Snake River, Pacific, and San Diego Imperial. The other LMSCs present were asked if they would like to sign on to the proposal, but declined since they didn't have a meeting scheduled to get a vote of their boards. Jeanne went on record to say she doesn't support this.
  - b. Sally spoke to the second legislative proposal. If passed, it would require House of Delegate (HOD) meetings to be held in person on an annual basis (unless an emergency prevents that). PN's Kathy Casey initiated the proposal, and she has worked with a few others in PN to prepare the language. Sally noted that she sees a correlation with the reduction of volunteers at the national level and the lack of in-person opportunities. Numerous people spoke up in favor of an in-person meeting requirement. Jeanne spoke against the proposal, noting that it takes approximately 1000 national office staff hours for an in-person meeting, but much less time, thus expense, for a virtual meeting, and reduces expenses on both the LMSC and national level. Other comments were:
    - Sandi - People are energized after attending convention.
    - Jeanne - Relay is the way to encourage enthusiasm. She doesn't come home from convention enthused.
    - Rob - Convention is a different procedure – it keeps volunteers enthused to continue as leaders. The Relay is for new people and is a training opportunity.
    - Dave Cabrey - With other organizations, the in-person meetings were far more rewarding.
    - Paige - The Annual Meeting is focused on the business of USMS.
    - Sandi - Reminded us that when we approved the unified fee, we were told that hotels would be covered. It was a commitment that has been disregarded with Zoom conventions.
2. Use of Zone funds: Jill noted we have \$8500 in our account and Ken said we'll be collecting ~\$2500. She encouraged the smaller LMSCs to request funds to send people to Relay and the National coaches clinic. Jeanne said our guidelines, as they are currently written don't allow Relay reimbursements. Sarah Welch said the wording should be flexible enough to allow financial support for Relay.
3. Financial guarantee for Zone Championship hosts: Jeanne noted that when MT hosts a Zone meet, it does not attract many (or any) swimmers from outside their LMSC, but only adds additional work.

She suggested the zone provide a minimum profit guarantee for zone meet hosts to make it worth their effort and to ensure we have a bid or bids for all Zone meets. The topic will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

4. Final comments:

- Next meeting date: TBD when the convention related meeting schedule is released.
- Jill will send the financial help request forms to the LMSC chairs and Dave Cabrey.
- Jill set a date for when request for financial support is due - June 30.
- The NW Zone/BOD conversation Zoom meeting is June 13 at 5:30 pm Pacific.

MSA to adjourn at 7:17 pm MTN