

Potomac Valley LMSC
2019 Annual (Fall) Meeting
Sunday October 27, 2019
2:00pm
Minutes/Reports

Meeting came to order at 2:00pm

INTRODUCTIONS (Attendees)

- ALEX – Ray Novitske, Stephanie Gauzens
- ANCM – Jeff Roddin
- ARMS – Debbie Dixon
- CandO – Octavia Wright
- DCAC – Christina West
- DCWW – Mary Kawewski
- GERM – David Robinson
- GMUP – Cheryl Ward
- L4S – Frank Marcinkowski
- RMST – Aram Thomasian
- TRI3 – Elizabeth Baumgarten
- UMAC – Mollie Grover, Jeff Strahota, Natalie Taylor

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chair – Stephanie Gauzens

Treasurer – Tim Timmons

Secretary – Jeff Strahota

Registrar/Membership Coordinator – Jeff Roddin

Top Ten – Mollie Grover

Vice Chair/Rules – Dave Robinson

Sanctions – Stephanie Gauzens

Officials – Natalie Taylor

Newsletter – Cheryl Wagner

Awards – Angela Fu

Fitness – Christina West

Long Distance/Open Water – Peter Lee

Coaches – Frank Marcinkowski

Webmaster – Ray Novitske

Communications – Vacant

Other & New Business

- Approve Summer Meeting Minutes

- Elections
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- Long Haul Meet Recap
- Bylaws Housekeeping Updates
- Travel Per Diem
- USMS Membership for 2020
 - Annual Membership Fee
 - Club Membership Fee
 - One-Event Membership Fee
 - Online Waiver for 30 day trial Period
- Schedule Next (Spring) Meeting

MINUTES/REPORTS:

Chair – Stephanie Gauzens

We have a lot of interesting topics to discuss at this meeting and most of them have to do with money. USMS has a vision of modernizing the way we pay our yearly dues, but first that requires all of the LMSCs to come together under a unified fee plan. We will be discussing all of the various aspects of this plan under new business. I have been working closely with our Treasurer, Tim, to get his feedback on these initiatives and also had an enlightening email exchange with Dawson Hughes, USMS CEO, which you can find under new business.

Treasurer – Tim Timmons

As of 1 October 19, we had a total of \$50,921.16 in our checking and savings accounts combined. Since the beginning of the calendar year, we have gone \$3,991.75 in the red. For those first nine months for the year, our income has been \$12,981.41 and our expenses have been \$16,973.16, again for a loss of \$3991.75. The four biggest areas of expenditure have been: Convention, Club Assistant Rebates, our Distance Meet, and Meet Sanction fees charged by USMS.

At the beginning of the year we knew we would operate in the red at the current level of membership fees. My recommendation of going to the \$60 membership fee level for next year and subsequent years still stands. There are multiple ways we can increase our spending should we go to the \$60 level.

// SIGNED //

TIMOTHY T. TIMMONS
Treasurer, PVLMSC

Secretary – Jeff Strahota

Draft minutes of the Summer report were sent with meeting reminders for this meeting. Will need to approve (see Other (and New) Business.

MSA Approve Summer Meeting Minutes (Robinson, West).

Registrar/Membership Coordinator – Jeff Roddin

Please continue to review your club listings on the PV website (<http://pvmasters.org/newsite/index.php/clubs/>) and let Ray or I know if anything needs updating.

Individual Membership totals for this time of year:

October 31, 2014 – 2960

October 31, 2015 - 2847

October 31, 2016 – 2830

October 31, 2017 – 2704

October 31, 2018 – 2417

October 27, 2019 - 2345

We have 35 registered clubs (vs 34 last year).

As of 10/26/19, 21 clubs have renewed for 2020: ALEX, ANCM, ARMS, CANDO, DCAC, DCWW, DUFF, FBST, GERM, GMUP, JCCN, MASH, NCYM, NXWV, RIPM, RMST, RWW, SDS, TRI3, TOLL, UMAC.

As of 10/26/19, 16 clubs have not yet renewed for 2020: DCM, DCRP, DCTC, L4S, LMAC, MMSP, MSSC, NAMI, PMM, SFAF, STJS, WAV1, YBCC, YSS.

Aquatic Stars (Piney Branch, Takoma Park) have renewed club membership (they'd been inactive for a few years).

DCAC had 56 OEVT at their Swim 4 Life Open Water event this summer.

Top Ten – Mollie Grover

For 2019 LCM, there were 197 individual swims and 1 relay swim submitted for Top Ten. There were no potential national or world records this year.

Starting in 2020, all recognized events must have explicit permission from the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) to use the word "Olympic" or "Paralympic" in event names. If they do not have documentation of that permission, USMS Sanction Chairs will not be allowed to grant a recognition to these events. This has been the case for sanctioned events for a long time, so the rule change is just to make the rule for two types of events the same. The rule change will potentially impact the Maryland Senior Olympic meet, but they claim to have permission. Neither the sanctions chair nor I have gotten any documentation of that permission yet, and the event organizer has been asked for it for the 2020 meet.

Rules – Dave Robinson

- No report

Sanctions – Stephanie Gauzens

Since our last meeting, we have had the following events:

- PV Long Haul 8/17/2019
- DCAC Capital Classic 10/12/2019
- GMUP Sprint Classic 10/27/2019

We have also sanctioned the Solstice SCM meet on 12/7 (Saturday) and will need an evaluator.

Upcoming meets:

- Solstice has been sanctioned – Sat Dec 7 2019
- Tropical Splash – Sun Jan 26, 2020
- Albatross – Sat Feb 29 2020 (TBD)

Officials – Natalie Taylor

2020 Summer Nationals are in our backyard (Richmond, VA) and it would be great to have a local Officials presence at the meet. To that end, I am asking that each club identify 2 people who would like to become certified officials so we can host a clinic and increase our Officials corps in the area. We would need at least 10 people to do this, and would be targeting late spring.

The USMS Officials Committee has updated the Officials section of the USMS website with the most relevant information concerning certifications and current officials. It is a great resource for any officials in the area. The PV LSC website (www.pvswim.org) is also a useful resource for officials who want to improve their craft.

USMS Referee Program is up and running. <https://www.usms.org/admin/lmschb/content/officialscert>

Newsletter – Cheryl Wagner

The September 2019 PV newsletter was published on Oct 2.

The deadline for submitting articles, news and photos for the January 2020 newsletter is December 15, 2019.

Awards – Angela Fu

Swimmers of the Year and Top Performers for 2017 and 2018 (sorry about 2017 being so late) were announced in the Summer meeting report. As 2019 is still ongoing, those award winners will be announced in summer of 2020!

Stephanie would really like to have some sort of LMSC gathering in 2020. Are thinking of maybe doing an Olympics Watch Party (or parties)?

Fitness – Christina West

USMS has announced tentative dates for 2020 Adult Learn to Swim Certification courses. They are currently scheduled to offer the course in DC on Sept. 20, 2020. More information is here: <https://www.usms.org/alts-central/alts-instructor-certification>.

The USMS Fall Fitness Challenge is a 1-mile swim. The event dates are Nov. 15-30. More information is here: <https://www.usms.org/events/fitness-events/fitness-series/fall-fitness-challenge>.

USMS also encourages fitness swimmers to log their laps with Go the Distance. More information is here: <https://www.usms.org/events/fitness-events/go-the-distance>.

Long Distance/Open Water – Peter Lee

Peter continues to work on the suggested Emergency Management Action Plan as suggested at previous meetings.

Coaches – Frank Marcinkowski

Coaching Certification dates have been posted on the USMS website @ Coach Central (<https://www.usms.org/coach-central>). Looks like the weekend of September 19 and 20, 2020 (convention is the following week, September 22-27 in Jacksonville, Florida).

- Saturday 9/19/20: Level 1,2,3; Stroke Clinic Course for Coaches
- Sunday 9/20/20: ALTS Certification; Stroke Clinic

Looks like there will be a similar weekend in Philadelphia May 30-31 (though no Level 3 being offered). An ALTS Certification class will also be held in Charlottesville VA on March 28.

Other things:

- Coaches Committee is reviewing the Level 4 criteria.
- National Coaches Clinic – October 16-19, 2020 Las Vegas
- Frank has a report from the USA Worlds coach; we'd like to get this linked up on the PV website.
- Thinking of having an AU Sunday evening coaches workout.

Webmaster – Ray Novitske

The web content, Wordpress, Wordpress template, and plugins continue to be updated as needed. The Coaches page was recently populated with USMS coaching resources. One note: The videos added to the page do not appear to show up in the responsive design (hand-held devices.)

If there are any PV resources, content, or links that should be included, please send suggestions along to the webmaster.

I plan to tweak the events calendar and club links pages in the future to mitigate the issues with tables not rendering well in a responsive design. Right now, these sections are mostly included as tables.

Swimmers can self-subscribe to an email list that will notify them of updates to the PV website. Link is on the home page.

Communications – vacant

- No report.
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Other (and New) Business

Elections for Secretary and Treasurer

- Treasurer – Tim Timmons nominated (Roddin, Robinson)
- Secretary – Jeff Strahota nominated (Roddin, West)

Long Haul Recap (Novitske)

Some quick-hitting highlights!

- 25 swimmers entered the meet, planned for 30.
- Paid for 3 hours of meet time, but only needed 2 hours with the number of swimmers.
- Was able to assemble enough backup timers from different clubs to meet needs.
- Budgeted cost of \$2050 - actual cost was \$2,285.
- St. James pool generally worked well for this meet.
- Could discuss repeating again next year.
 - Tentatively shoot for July. UMAC meet will have to be in June due to facility schedule. July 13 will be the entry deadline for 2020 Summer Nationals

Ray thanked Arlington, Trimasters, Alexandria, Reston, ANCM and UMAC Masters groups for helping run the meet (timing). We Thanked Ray for taking the meet on as Meet Director.

Housekeeping – Bylaw updates pursuant to L1/12 rules changes (Roddin/Gauzens)

At convention, the HOD passed L1 and L12. L1 changed the title of Registrar to Membership Coordinator. L12 modernized the Registrar job description to Membership Coordinator. This will necessitate a few housekeeping changes to Section 1.3.1 B (1) of our Bylaws. Unless there is an objection, I ask for your approval to make those changes and submit them to our webmaster and USMS after 1 Jan 2020, when the new rule book changes take effect.

MSA to Update PV Bylaws to reflect legislation for 2020 as updated by USMS at convention (Roddin, Novitske).

Travel Per Diem (Taylor)

It is \$35/day currently. I think it should be raised to \$40 or \$45. Most of the time when travelling to convention, you are in a major city, where food prices are not cheap. If you attend all meetings, there is very little time to leave the hotel for meals, so you end up spending more by purchasing food from hotel restaurants and shops. \$40 or \$45 per day would be

more in line with the current costs. While there have been years with many convenient/free options, the last several conventions have been limited, and the currently scheduled future ones are at some of these limited places.

Note from the Chair: I asked our Treasurer (Tim) if he felt that we could raise the per diem and if we were comfortable with \$40 or \$45, or if we would like to peg it to something like the government per diem rate. He said we could easily raise the per diem if we were raising our individual membership to the \$60 rate and thought the government rate would be a good benchmark.

MSA Propose to raise the Per Diem by \$15 (\$50/day) for USMS travel (Novitske, Taylor). Original motion was for raising by \$10 and was amended to \$15 (MSA Roddin/Robinson).

USMS Membership for 2020 (Roddin)

- Annual Membership Fee
 - Club Membership Fee
 - One-Event Membership Fee
 - Online Waiver for 30 day trial Period
1. We need to set the 2020 Individual Registration fee. Here is the recent history:
 - 2014: overall fee increased from \$40 to \$45
 - 2018: overall fee increased from \$45 to \$50 (PV portion was \$7 in 2018 and \$5 in 2019)
 - 2020: USMS is suggesting \$60 overall fee (\$48 to USMS, \$12 to PV)
 - Jeff Roddin provided some history on our (PV) fee history: 2014 we went from 40-45; in 2018, we went to \$50. Jeff Roddin and Jeff Strahota provided some examples and benefits of this Unified Fee as has been presented this far. Links to presentations on the Unified Fee have been posted here:
 - [Unified Fee Memo](#)
 - [Unified Fee Presentation](#)
 - MSA to set the 2020 total fee to \$60 (Roddin, Strahota)
 - MSA to set our LMSC fee at \$15 (Taylor, Novitske)
 2. The club fee has remained unchanged for 2020: \$100 total (\$45 to USMS, \$55 to PV with an option for a \$50 rebate at the end of the year for those clubs who host a sanctioned event or attend a board meeting that year). We concur to wait to set CLUB fees until next year when we can get some additional information on potential incentives on club registration.
 3. We need to set the 2020 OEVT fee. Here is the OEVT recent history:
 - 2018: \$30 (\$15 to USMS, \$15 to PV)
 - 2019: \$30 (\$20 to USMS, \$10 to PV)
 - 2020: USMS is suggesting \$15 (\$12 to USMS, \$3 to PV)
 - We had 176 OEVTs this year (in essence, a \$1200 loss).
 - MSA Propose to adopt the unified \$15 fee for OEVT fees, with the 80/20 (\$12/3) breakdown (Taylor, Gauzens)
 4. Online Waiver for 30 day trial Period
 - USMS Waiver is available online. All clubs should make sure they have set up the “30 day free trial” registration in their Gold Club portal.

Note from the Chair: I have spoken with both our Treasurer (Tim) and Dawson about the USMS recommendations for the annual membership fee, the club membership fee, and the one-event membership fee, especially because the latter two took us by surprise. Tim thinks we will be fine reducing the one-event fee for 2020, especially if we are moving to the \$60 individual membership level. Regarding the club membership fees: USMS has recommended that LMSCs move to the \$60 level (\$48 to USMS, \$12 to PV). Since this suggestion was made a week before we needed to set our club membership levels in September, we chose not to opt-in for 2020. I brought this up in my email exchange with Dawson, excerpted below:

“As you may know, Potomac Valley offers an incentive to our teams who host events or attend an LMSC meeting (a rebate of 50% on their club dues). The unified fee will significantly change the way we operate in that regard and has required further research into how this policy came about and how well it is working. I anticipate a robust conversation at our meeting. If you have any thoughts on how we could address this matter, I welcome them. I am hesitant to ditch the incentive altogether because I do not want our LMSC meetings to become a gang of 8 making decisions for 3000 swimmers.”

Dawson’s response:

“I agree that PV shouldn’t eliminate a benefit for clubs. Discounting the club fee as incentive for implementing desired members benefits (e.g. hosting events) is the exact reason we are hoping to unify club and workout group fees nationally. If the LMSC pays a rebate, you should simply continue to do that. Since the LMSC will have more revenue you might even consider raising the rebate to cover the entire fee. As we proceed through the transition of the fee structure and our technology – the plan is to offer ‘promo codes’ for specific incentives like these (and many other ideas). In this instance the LMSC could let the National Office know about the rebate and we could either credit their club account for the following year’s registration, give a promo code to reduce the cost at registration, or other mechanism to support the local incentive. Frankly, we (national office/budget) want to be partnered with you in these efforts so the national budget also supports or absorbs part of the rebate (e.g. if we collectively offer a 50% rebate the LMSC only has to absorb their part of the rebate (20%) and nation would absorb their share (80%). It would make us better partners in the effort and provide opportunities for more attractive incentives.”

Given this exchange, I think we should have a plan in place by the July meeting, in case we must comply with the unified club membership fee in 2021. I will continue to work with the National Office to ensure that we can offer our rebate, and it meshes well with the other rebates they would like to offer in the future.

Other Topics:

- How to spend our extra money?
 - Hosting 2 events (as an LMSC)
 - Something with CCS? CCS is already 3 years ahead of numbers projections/budgeting.
 - Scholarship opportunities (students, seniors, furloughed) – we’ve talked about this in some cases in the past and would like to continue to think about going onwards.
 - L4 gives students 50% club discounts; seniors get 33% discount.
 - Scholarships to meets? Something for 2020 Summer nationals in Richmond (Paying for relays? Hospitality for PV Swimmers?)
- Task for us LMSC reps: How do we bring in new swimmers to our organization?

Next Meeting

Our Spring Meeting typically takes place in March, and the last several years, we have conducted this meeting over a conference call. We may meet prior to the Albatross meet, but also look into doing a phone call. This will be determined in the next month or so once the Albatross date is finalized.

Meeting Adjournment (Robinson, Roddin): 3:47pm.