

U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name: Recognition & Awards Committee

Committee Chair: Elizabeth Nymeyer

Minutes recorded by: Sally Dillon

Date/time of meeting: Sunday, June 4, 6 pm Central

Actions taken:

- **MSA to approve the 4/23/23 meeting minutes as amended.**
- **MSA to approve the changes to the policies for the Club of the Year Award as amended.**

Number of committee members present: 10 **Absent:** 1 **Guests:** 1

Attendees: Stacy Abrams, Hill Carrow, Sally Dillon, Mike Hillegonds, Mary Jurey, Nancy Kryka, Michael Moore, Ray Novitske, Elizabeth Nymeyer, Nancy Ridout, and Ed Coates (VPLO).

Absent: Rich Burns

Guests: Crystie McGrail

The meeting was called to order by Beth Nymeyer at: 6:01 pm (Central).

Beth noted that Elise Shank dropped off the committee prior to the April meeting.

A. General Business:

1. Approval of minutes: The 4/23/23 meeting minutes were amended to remove Ann Marshfield, who was inadvertently listed as present. It was MSA to approve the minutes as amended.
2. Date for upcoming meetings: The next meeting will be on July 16 at 6 pm Central. The Annual Meeting was set for August 20 at 6 pm Central.
3. Executive Committee update: Ed said that the board is busy planning the Sept. 8-10 USMS Annual Meeting. It will be both virtual and in person. The R&A committee will approve its Annual Meeting minutes via email so they can be posted online prior to the USMS meeting.
4. Club of the Year Award Policies: Mike H and Sally submitted changes to bring the policies in line with current practice. A small amendment was approved. MSA to approve the policy revisions as amended.

The Rationale for the proposed changes is:

E.2 – the regional category had been eliminated and it was determined that workout groups are “clubs” since they pay the same fees.

E.6 – The Fitness committee is being sunsetted and a VP is not necessary.

E.7 – Split #7 into 7 & 8, to separate the two topics. We also recognize that it’s possible to have two recipients. Renumber the following item.

E.8 – Change in procedure for ordering award banners.

B. Subcommittee Reports

1. Ransom Arthur Award: no report
2. June Krauser Communications Award: Nancy R has not received any nominations. She will contact previous nominators to encourage submissions.
3. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award: Beth has received a handful of nominations. She wants to re-read last year’s nominations (that didn’t get honored) so she can make recommendations for improvement.
4. Club of the Year Award: Mike H hasn’t received any nominations and he will be contacting nominators from the last two years.

5. Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame Award: No official announcement has been made by the Hall of Fame. Nancy R said the deadline to vote was March 28.

C. Committee Projects:

1. Social Media Outreach and Email Outreach effort: Combining the report, Beth said she is maintaining the “master spreadsheet”, which is a GoogleDoc. She apologized for not sending the information to the committee and offered to do it following the meeting. The deadline to nominate for all awards is July 1. Volunteers committed at the last meeting to reach out to the following zones: Breadbasket (Beth), Colonies (Ray), Southwest (Mary), Southeast (Nancy K). Sally has already reached out to the Northwest Zone. The following commitments were made at the meeting: Oceana (Nancy R), Great Lakes (Mike H), and South Central (Stacey). Nancy R said it is important for everyone to “visit” the master spreadsheet and indicate on it exactly who has been contacted (she wants names!). Beth offered to remove the previous contact information so it’s clear who has been contacted in 2023. Everyone working on the outreach project needs to determine what LMSCs are in their zone. The information is on the USMS website; everyone’s LMSC chair would know as well. Michael M suggested we provide the name of the LMSC for the recipients on the DDSA award site. Sally said that would be very difficult to do with ~15 recipients every year since 1997. She maintains a list of all DDSA recipients that is updated each year. It lists them by year of receiving the award and alphabetically. Sally offered to send it out to all committee members. They can share it with the Zone and/or LMSC leaders.
Beth will distribute a small graphic that can be used on social media. Outreach needs to be accomplished within one week and Beth will check back with volunteers in this group to determine if the task has been done. If it hasn’t, she’ll pass on the information to Nancy R, who can pick up the slack. Nancy suggested we provide everyone with a copy of the USMS letterhead. She will see that Beth gets a copy so it can be shared.
2. Awards “reel”: Ray would like help finding photos of recipients for the annual awards video. Otherwise, there are no tasks until the honorees have been selected.
3. Bios for award recipients: Ray said that he has provided the Fitness committee with an updated list of bios needed. He’s received bios for the Coach of the Year and Kerry O’Brien awards and there is still much to do.

Adjourn – MSA to adjourn 6:54 pm (Central)