

Chair Sally Dillon called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm Pacific time. Also present were Vice Chair Hill Carrow, Andrea (AJ) Block, Margie Hutinger, Katherine Longwell, Hugh Moore, Son Nguyen, Walt Reid, Nancy Ridout, Gail Roper, and Robert Zeitner.

1. **Ransom J. Arthur Award**

2010 honoree: Four outstanding candidates were nominated by the March 15th deadline. Sally distributed the ballots to voting members on March 19th (two by mail, the rest by email). The 39 eligible voters are currently registered past recipients of the RJA award and all members of the R&A Committee. Ballots are due back to the chair by April 1 and the award will be announced/presented in Atlanta at the Short Course Nationals.

RJA bios on USMS website

Sally asked for volunteers to do interviews and/or research to complete bios for previous RJA honorees so they can be included on the Awards website. Katherine committed to this project once she is finished with a project for the Coaches committee. Sally will provide a list of those whose bios need completing and hopefully others will volunteer as well.

Plaque order

At convention we were given authority to purchase up to 10 of the shadow-box frames that are used for the RJA award, and to store them at the National Office. Sally reported the cost savings for various bulk purchases to the committee. She recommended that we purchase just 4 awards, to be stored with her while she is chair of R&A. We're still saving money with a small break in cost for each award and a significant break in shipping. This will allow the award to be made and get to nationals (or the recipient elsewhere) without too many other people getting involved. There was a consensus in the group to accept Sally's recommendation.

RJA plaque medallion

The original medallion used on the RJA plaques is no longer available and substitutes have been used for the past 3 years. The RJA "voters" are in the process of doing an email "vote" as to whether to adopt a new medallion or use something temporarily until the right one can be found. Committee members were encouraged to talk to their local trophy shops and/or search online for medallion suggestions.

2. **Club recognition**

From convention minutes: **"It was moved and seconded that we implement the club recognition proposal in 2010. It was MSA to table the discussion until the next conference call."** It was MSA (Carrow/Hutinger) to remove the motion from the table. In September, a subcommittee presented suggestions for a way to honor numerous clubs at the national level. As a group, they looked into the USA-S program but determined that their recognition was more measurable than what we could do for USMS. The subcommittee suggested that clubs who applied for the Club of the Year award (COYA) be honored with Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards with 3 of each category being given out each year. Sally reviewed comments that were made at convention: "need to refine process", "need descriptions for each level including a point system and categories", "awards most everyone for just applying". Margie suggested that specific levels of points should be met before getting the award. Nancy suggested we should not judge all-sized clubs equally. Larger ones have more resources, etc.

Sally shared suggestions from Ray Novitsky, a member of the 2009 COYA selection committee, who thinks the criteria is too narrow. It bundles all clubs into a narrow focus on how they can be an outstanding club – not allowing for diversity. Margie pointed out that the letter to be submitted does allow a club to bring forward more individual accomplishments. Other discussion included: 10 awards is too many, we should divide clubs into competitive and fitness groups, we should have small, medium, and large divisions, and we should consider "honors" for runner's up – to a certain amount. The original intent for expanding the club recognition was to reward successful clubs and to also allow them to be a model for like clubs to be successful. We're not fulfilling that mission to provide models. The excuse for not expanding in the past is that there have not been enough submissions. It was suggested we define this and do a better job of advertising. We could have COYA in 3 levels and then have an "honored" group. We discussed the influence of having a good coach and Katherine mentioned that she would be happy to share info from the coach's curriculum as needed. It was agreed that we should honor more clubs and do it more fairly. A vote was taken on the original motion made back in September: **"It was moved and seconded that we implement the club recognition proposal in 2010". The motion failed. A**

committee to address the issues was formed: AJ, Robert, Sally, and Nancy. They will get to work right away, as the “call for nominations” for the COYA award will be announced in May. **Others are welcome to join!**

3. **Sub-committee assignments**

Yorzyk Award

Sally reported on the recommendation made by Leo Letendre this past fall regarding the Yorzyk award. He has determined that the award should be a USMS award, contrary to this committee’s recommendation and the EC’s decision in March 2009. The award is to be presented at SC Nationals in Atlanta and a volunteer or two are needed from this committee. We had no objection to this, considering it was our recommendation that the appropriate venue for this award is at the SCY National meet. Margie and Son both volunteered and Sally will pass on their names to Leo. Hugh wondered whether the decision by the EC last spring had been rescinded and Sally responded that she didn’t think so. She will follow up with Leo regarding that issue.

Club of the Year

Sally will need a volunteer or two to serve on the selection committee but they will be solicited once we see who is nominated so we can avoid a conflict of interest.

Rulebook dedication

AJ volunteered to represent the R&A committee on this selection committee, as my representative.

June Krauser Communication Award

Hugh has agreed to lead the selection committee for this award. He explained that the original setup for this award included committees that are no longer in existence. He thinks the award needs to be discussed as to whether it should or could be done differently. Hugh will check with those who have served in the past. Hill volunteered for the committee but **other volunteers are needed from this committee.**

4. **R&A workshop at convention – Thursday at 6 PM** “Recognition of Volunteers at the Local Level” -

During the discussion of this topic last September, the committee agreed that we should consider putting on a workshop with this topic. It would allow us to share what we know AND to get more information so we can put together an excellent package to be shared with others. Sally asked for volunteers to help organize the workshop and Margie and Nancy “signed up”! **Others are needed so please volunteer.**

5. **ISHOF/IMSHOF**

Walt reminded us that the process for nomination for ISHOF changed a couple of years ago. The “Swimmer” category is based on a point system (like IMSHOF) so nominations cannot come from an organization. Our committee may nominate someone to IMSHOF for “Contributor” and we have done so this year by nominating Mel Goldstein. The nomination has been accepted and he is one of three candidates on the ballot. Mel was submitted to ISHOF Contributor category a number of years ago but that slipped through the cracks and we were told to nominate him for IMSHOF. So Walt gets credit for getting Mel submitted this time around. A nomination could be deemed “unacceptable” but once nominated, you are on the list for 10 years. We can also nominate for the “Coaches” and “Open Water” categories. They do not select from these categories every year.

Walt mentioned that he thought Ted Haartz would be an excellent candidate for the “Contributor” category. He suggested we move forward in building a resume for Ted and submit him as a contributor for next year. It was MSA (Ridout/Carrow) that we nominate Ted Haartz in the “Contributor” category for IMSHOF. Walt will obtain the data and Sally volunteered to write up the nomination materials.

Finally, Walt noted that there were no Masters inducted into ISHOF in 2010 and Karlyn Pipes-Neilsen has been our candidate for a few years. Our last was Laura Val in 2003. Unfortunately, only 2 Masters swimmers have been inducted into ISHOF since IMSHOF’s first class in 2003 (Yoshiko Osaka (JPN) in 2005 and Jane Asher (GBR) in 2006).

Seeing no further business, it was MSA to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 PM.

Minutes prepared by Sally Dillon