

U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name:	Recognition & Awards	Session #:	n/a
Committee Chair:	Charis Anderson McCarthy Elizabeth Nymeyer – VC		
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	11/21/21 6:30 pm EST

Actions Taken:

1. Approved: none

Number of committee members present: 14	Absent: none	Guests: none
Committee members present: Marcia Benjamin (Pacific), Richard Burns (Pacific), Nadine Day (Indiana), Barb Deshler (New Mexico), Sally Dillon (Pacific Northwest), Jack Groselle (Florida), Mike Hillemonds (Illinois), Michael Moore (Pacific), Ray Novitske (Potomac Valley), Elizabeth (Beth) Nymeyer (Minnesota), Michael Moore (Pacific), Ray Novitske (Potomac Valley), Ginger Pierson (Oregon), Nancy Ridout (Pacific), and Laura Val (Pacific). Ed Coates (ex officio/VPLO)		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm EST.

1. Chair's Report

Charis had not yet received the committee assignments for 2022. She informed the committee that with the responsibilities of motherhood and her job, she was stepping down to the Vice Chair position and Beth would be the Chair in the coming year.

2. Progress Reports

- a. Web-based nomination forms: While the subcommittee did not meet, Nadine reported that the Ransom Arthur nomination form was completed. She will send the Google form to the committee so all can test it.
- b. Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award presentation: Anticipating that there might be an effort to award the 2022 RJA award at the upcoming Volunteer Relay, Nadine notified last year's nominators that the deadline to submit may be changed. From her point of view, it would be easy to speed up the award process to have it awarded in March. Discussion ensued as to whether the agenda for the Volunteer Relay included an awards presentation. Ed was unsure but said he would check. Charis reported that after Ray reached out to CEO Dawson Hughes about better promoting USMS awards and recognizing recipients, a Zoom call was set up in October to discuss the situation. Participants were Dawson, Charis, Ray, Nadine, Beth, and Sally. There were differences of opinions regarding the appropriateness of awarding the RJA at the Volunteer Relay. A move of the nomination deadline would be challenging for those submitting new nominations. Rich said he received an email from Daniel Pauling requesting an ad for the RJA award, but he was unsure what the deadline was in the ad. Apparently, it was too late to make a change for the January issue. There was concern about moving the award presentation from the Annual Meeting to an event that has never been held in the past. There was also concern that there would not be a RJA announcement at Spring Nationals, which has been a tradition since the award's inception. Regarding the Zoom call, Dawson recognized the need for the National Office (NO) to do better with the promotion of awards and he thought presenting the RJA at the Relay would accomplish that. Ultimately, he left it up to the R&A Committee to decide about the presentation. A concern was expressed that the NO might have changed the nomination date in the ad that Rich submitted. Charis polled the committee; the vote was 7-5 against presenting the RJA Award at the Volunteer Relay. *Note: Ed inquired about the ad and confirmed, post meeting, that it included the usual March 15 deadline.*
- c. Local & LMSC recognition: Beth & Nadine suggested that we reach out to LMSCs that would be giving awards at their annual meetings. The information should be shared on the USMS Facebook page and "tagged". Nancy shared that Pacific Masters' annual meeting recently took place and the award presentations were recorded. The video could be viewed on the Pacific LMSC website. Charis suggested that we need broader coverage of the special people who receive awards.
- d. Peer-to-peer event: The R&A Committee will host a P2P event on April 7th titled "LMSC Awards and Recognition". Beth requested help organizing the call. Charis suggested we offer guidance for writing a successful nomination. Sally noted that the R&A committee prepared sample award forms (criteria and application) that were posted on the USMS website. They seem to have gone missing, so she'll track them down.

3. Marketing & Promotion of USMS Awards and Winners

As mentioned in #2 above, some on the committee met with Dawson to discuss “How can we get better recognition for the award winners?”. More “airtime” for the award video was suggested; it seemed rushed. To raise awareness of those who win awards, Dawson agreed that they can do more to spread the word via social media in a variety of different platforms. There are set timelines and calendars. *Swimmer Magazine* has a long lead-time, and the other platforms need notice as well, but not as far out. Both the committee and the NO need calendars indicating when and what types of content will be covered. Ray said the ball is in our court to provide our requests, and that of other committees, so the NO will be ready for us. Not all awards belong in the magazine. We can use Streamlines and social media as well. Charis suggested we have a new subcommittee and asked that those interested email Beth or her if they want to serve. Beth noted that we need to know what the NO’s gaps and deadlines are. What promotions do we want to have and what platforms do we want to use? Michael Moore noted that Kyle Deery would be speaking to Pacific LMSC on 12/1 at 7 pm; it would be recorded. Ray noted that we need to finish some stories including those for the last few RJA award winners. Sally was about to finish the 2021 Dorothy Donnelly Award stories.

4. Update on the Volunteer Relay

Looking beyond the RJA award, Charis said it was her understanding that there was no plan in 2022 to change the timelines for other awards. The open question is whether there is any intention to recognize last year’s award winners at the Relay.

5. New Business

Ray asked Marcia if she received her Club of the Year banner; the answer was yes! She and her team were thrilled to receive it. A photo can be seen on the club’s website.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm EST.