

## U.S. Masters Swimming

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Recognition & Awards	<b>Session #:</b>	n/a
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Elizabeth Nymeyer		
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Sally Dillon	<b>Date/time of meeting:</b>	2/9/2022 7:30 pm EST

### Actions Taken:

1. MSA to eliminate the Regional category for the Club of the Year Award.
2. MSA to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2021, meeting.

<b>Number of committee members present: 13</b>	<b>Absent: 1</b>	<b>Guests: 2</b>
<b>Committee members present:</b> Charis Anderson McCarthy, Marcia Benjamin, Richard Burns, Nadine Day, Barbara Deschler, Sally Dillon, Mike Hillemonds, Nancy Kryka, Ray Novitske, Beth Nymeyer, Ginger Pierson, Nancy Ridout, and Laura Val.		
<b>Not present:</b> Hill Carrow		
<b>Guests:</b> Ed Coates (Ex Officio) and Daniel Pauling (National Office)		

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm EST.

1. Chair Beth Nymeyer called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm EST. She noted that this is her first year as Chair after serving last year as the Vice Chair. She and Charis have switched roles. Beth welcomed everyone to the 2022 Committee. Nancy Kryka is a new member and Hill Carrow is returning after an absence. All others are veterans.
2. Minutes: MSA to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2021, meeting.
3. Meeting schedule: There were no objections to meeting on Sundays at 7 pm ET. Beth suggested we meet every 6-8 weeks. The next two meetings were scheduled for February 27 and April 24.
4. Interest survey: Prior to the meeting Beth distributed an interest survey on Google Docs. She noted that not everyone has completed the survey and encouraged all to do so. "Getting the word out" about awards was a popular goal and it might be the main task in the coming year. More volunteers are needed for some of the awards. Only 18% committee members indicated they would be attending the Relay 2022 event in Denver; a handful are a "maybe". Beth will assign tasks when she receives more responses.  
Charis, Beth, Ray, Sally, and Nadine met with Dawson Hughes and Daniel in October to discuss promotion of USMS awards and recognizing recipients. Nadine asked Daniel about the suggestion that social media be utilized to recognize members who receive LMSC awards. The concept was to have USMS upload and tag the information. Daniel wasn't aware of the request and will investigate the request.
5. Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award: Nadine reported that she had received one "test" of the new Google Form nomination. It was distributed to everyone after the November meeting, and she expected more members to test the form and provide feedback. She will update the form for the 2022 RJA nominations. There were no objections to proceeding with the Google Form format for the RJA award. It was suggested we apply lessons learned before converting the other awards to Google Forms.
6. Award Proposal – Diversity & Inclusion: An outline was received for a new USMS award. Beth sent the submitter some suggestions and would like the criteria to be clear. Sally suggested we form a subcommittee to amend our form and work with the requestor to ensure they fill it out correctly. The nomination form they proposed needs work as well.
7. Club of the Year categories: Concerns were expressed that there have not been Club of the Year selections in the "Regional" category. The subcommittee has mentioned this before. Rich said there haven't been any nominations in recent years; Sally didn't think there has been much of an effort to encourage previous nominees to resubmit. Ray noted that the criteria for the two categories differ significantly. He also said that some workout groups indicated they would like to be considered for the award. There was discussion as to whether WOGs were clubs because they are required to register so swimmers can represent them locally. Ed said that since they must register for USMS, they are clubs. It was MS to eliminate the "Regional" club category for the Club of the Year Award. Nancy suggested that we should first consider why we separated them in the past; she recalled that the criteria of the two types differed significantly. Daniel asked if this would include WOGs since they do not represent their club at all levels. Ray considered that a technicality and said WOGS should be eligible. Ed suggested a subcommittee can work out the wording. The motion passed 9-3.
8. MISHOF: Rich asked if anyone had suggestions for a nominee and Ray asked if there is a list of people from the past that we should consider. Ed will ask Peter Guadagni and Dawson Hughes if they have candidate suggestions.

9. Peer to Peer video call: Beth will try to move the R&A event to May.
10. March Relay 2022 event: Beth asked those who are attending to drop her an email.
11. New Business: Regarding integrating award notices into the USMS press, Daniel noted that:
  - a. he needs the list of award recipients in July, and
  - b. the board has directed the National Office to focus on clubs, community, and events.They want to highlight local volunteers who are helping the growth in these areas. Beth asked about using social media to promote volunteers and Daniel responded that Facebook is their main “marketing” channel. He suggested using *Streamlines for Volunteers* to provide stories about those making a difference. Beth suggested forming a subcommittee to coordinate with the National Office Publications, however, and as mentioned in #4 above, an informal group met with Dawson and Daniel earlier to discuss how the committee can better work with the various USMS channels and publication calendars to promote the awards and recipients. This could become an official subcommittee to continue to develop the coordination discussed at the earlier meeting. Ray suggested we send recent DDSA nominations to Daniel, who had requested the committee provide names of members deserving recognition.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm EST.