

## 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>	August 21, 2022, 7:05 pm EST

### Actions Taken:

#### 1. MSA to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2022 meeting.

<b>Number of committee members present:</b> 12	<b>Absent:</b> 1	<b>Guests:</b> 12
<b>Committee members present:</b> Charis Anderson McCarthy, Marcia Benjamin, Richard Burns, Nadine Day, Sally Dillon, Mike Hillegonds, Nancy Kryka, Ray Novitske, Beth Nymeyer, Ginger Pierson, Nancy Ridout, and Laura Val.		
<b>Not present:</b> Hill Carrow		
Ex officio attending: Ed Coates (VPLO) and Daniel Pauling (National Office)		
Guests attending: Becky Cleavenger (SP), Jeff Commings (AZ), Marilyn Fink (SD), Cheryl Kupan (FL), Diana Dolan LaMar (SP), Michael Moore (PM), Sandi Rousseau (OR), Robin Smith (SP), Carrie Stolar (MN), Frank Thompson (MI), Meegan Wilson (FL), and Jill Wright (SR)		

### Minutes

Beth Nymeyer called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm Eastern.

1. **Introductions:** Beth asked the committee members to introduce themselves and indicate their LMSC and committee involvement. In random order we heard from Ed (South Texas LMSC and Vice President of Local Operations), Beth (Minnesota and R&A committee chair), Charis (South Texas and R&A vice chair), Ginger (Oregon), Nancy R (Pacific and June Krauser Award subcommittee chair), Sally (Pacific NW, committee secretary, and award story writer/editor), Nadine (Indiana and Ransom Arthur Award chair), Rich (Pacific and MISHOF), Ray (Potomac Valley, award site manager, and producer of the convention video), Nancy K (Florida and writing Club of the Year stories), Laura (Pacific), Mike (Illinois and Club of the Year award chair), Daniel (Florida and National Office liaison to the committee), and Marcia (Pacific and P2P webinar).
2. **Minutes approval:** MSA to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2022, meeting.
3. **Subcommittee Reports:**
  - a. **June Krauser Communications award (JKC):** Nancy R reported that there were 5 excellent nominations. Selection committee members were Nancy, Ginger, and Hill plus Leo Letendre, Mary Hull, and Leslie Scott from other committees. They reviewed the nominations for a week and have selected a recipient. The award is given to person or group who best demonstrates June's passion for communicating to USMS members. She created the first USMS newsletter in the 1970's. It was hand typed and mailed to members around the country. The award honors excellence and creativity in communication.
  - b. **Ransom J. Arthur M.D. award (RJA):** Nadine noted that 4 previous recipients serve on the subcommittee (Hill, Nancy R, Sally, and herself), which reviews the nominations for thoroughness. RJA is the most prestigious award given to a USMS volunteer. The eight nominees were: Dan Cox, Ralph Davis, Phil Dodson, Barbara Dunbar, John King, Anna Lea & Jim Matysek, Mark Moore, and Ed Saltzman. The selection committee included all members of the R&A committee and all previous RJA award recipients who were still registered with USMS. Anna Lea and Jim Matysek were honored this year. The announcement took place in March via Zoom with committee member Nancy K showing up on Anna Lea and Jim's doorstep with a substitute award! The official award was presented to them in Florida soon after. Unlike the other USMS awards, nominations are due March 15 each year and the selection is made within a month of that date. The recipients are typically recognized at the Spring National Championships. Plans for presentation at convention will be discussed later.
  - c. **Club of the Year award (COYA):** Mike Hillegonds led the subcommittee for the first time and thanked Rich for his guidance. Other members of the selection committee were Marcia, Laura, Rich, Mary Jurey (Fitness), and Tim Waud (Coaches). The selection has been made and Jessica Reilly (NO) is ordering the award banner. The announcement will take place at the annual meeting in Denver, and he is working on having someone present the banner to the winning team at their location.
  - d. **Dorothy Donnelly Service Award (DDSA):** Ray said there were 21 nominations this year and up to 15 can be awarded. The selection committee was Ray, Beth, Charis, Sally, and USMS President Peter Guadagni. The

honorees have been chosen. Ray noted that he also participated in the P2P webinar, and he posts the stories written by Nancy K and Sally.

- e. Award bios/stories: Sally explained that the process to provide short bios/stories about every award recipient has been ongoing for many years. She recently completed the last JKC story, and we are now up to date with stories for the RJA, DDSA, and JKC awards. Nancy K has been working diligently to work through the COYA stories. As soon as the annual meeting concludes, Nancy and Sally will get to work writing stories for the newest award recipients. Volunteers interested in working on this ongoing project should contact Sally.
  - f. Spreading the word about awards: An ongoing project, Beth recognized Rich, both Nancys, and Ray for their contributions.
  - g. Peer-2-Peer Webinar promoting awards for volunteers: Beth thanked Marcia for her help in editing the materials for the event, it was very informative and well received by those who attended.
  - h. MISHOF: Rich noted that Covid has disrupted Hall of Fame communication and efforts to select inductees. He suggested the R&A Committee reestablish connections. The location of the induction ceremony needs to be discussed – possibly bringing it back to convention. This year it was combined with ISHOF. Ed said the BOD and NO have been discussing this issue with Hall of Fame staff and the R&A Committee may need to coordinate with Dawson Hughes or Peter Guadagni. Beth noted that Rich did a good job but hit some roadblocks. Ed Evely (Canada) informed Nadine that there is a MISHOF task force of masters around the world. While Rich may be our US representative, he should know that there was one.
  - i. Acknowledging accomplishments this past year: Beth noted that we have received more and better nominations, hosted a successful webinar, and worked with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee to approve a new award. For her, recognizing the new award was the “coolest thing” we did this year. She noted that all award winners will be announced at the annual meeting. Beth said she was happy that she accomplished a reduction in the number of RJA members that are required to be on the committee and noted that while it was controversial, people will have an opportunity to discuss it on the USMS online forms and the Legislation forum. Finally, she noted that the committee met approximately every 6 weeks this year.
4. Award Presentations 2022: Nadine noted that since 2020, the RJA recipients have not been recognized in person. She asked if an effort will be made to recognize Skip Thompson, Bob Bruce, and the Matyseks at this year’s annual meeting. Ed was unsure about if/when that might be done, and Nadine emphasized that the RJA recipients need appropriate recognition. Ed said he will see if all can be “pinned” before the HOD at some point in the weekend.

Regarding the video that has been done in recent years, Ray has information about how it will be set up online and suggested we not do the video. He has not received the recipient information from most of the award givers – including those selected within our committee and time is running short to gather the information. He also said it would be important to recognize people “live” when possible, as we’ve done in the past. He suggested the live presentation would have a screen of the slides and a smaller screen with the presenter and recipient at the podium. Beth suggested a hybrid presentation where those present receive their awards with an audience and a video shows the others. Ray said the slide show should be all or nothing. Nadine said the people attending will see it regardless. Jill Wright said Long Distance will present two awards and she does not think either recipient will be there. She needs information about what to do and was assured it is forthcoming. Ed said he is not sure how well the camera situation will work for both audiences. He thought we had already decided to do a recorded video for all awards. He also noted that the remembrance video will be available online but not viewed at convention. Ray noted that the last You Tube video of the presentation had very few views and he said that the quality of some of the recorded presentations were of poor quality. Ed thinks we should do a video presentation as has been done the last 2 years and Beth volunteered to help Ray put it together. A September 9<sup>th</sup> deadline was set for the video to be completed. Ed also suggested Ray work with Jessica Reilly on the recordings since she already has experience with the candidate videos. Ray said he is able to edit the presentations if they are too long.

5. 2023 Projects and Committee Goals: Beth hopes to streamline procedures. She would like to complete an inventory of awards, expand the use of Google Forms for awards other than RJA, revise the process for RJA announcements, and deal with all award nominations. She encouraged the attendees to consider joining the R&A committee.
6. Other business: Ray needs photos of the award recipients. While some are in the USMS database and come up automatically, he’ll need help finding others. Beth noted that she has photos for most of the nominees. Ray also mentioned that the other award-giving committees need to make a commitment to providing stories about their recipients.

It was MSA to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm Eastern.