

Meeting Summary for Az LMSC Annual Meeting

Mar 19, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Barb Sloan from the Board of Directors, the following were present.

Barb Sloan/Chair

Kelly Harrigan/Vice Chair

Rome Yount/Treasurer

Lisa Harris/Secretary

Marnie Whitley/At Large

Katy James/At Large

Jim Rowland/At Large

Lindsay Urbatchka/At Large

Gini Baker/At Large

There were 32 people present.

Gini Baker moderated the discussion

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Team Size Classifications for Meets

The meeting participants discuss team size classifications for swim meets. They consider using either the number of USMS members on a team's roster or the average number of entries in recent meets to determine small, medium, and large team categories. Barb plans to ask other LMSC chairs how they handle this. Allen suggests using team size classifications as motivation for coaches to encourage more participation in meets. The group also touches on the challenges of requiring USMS membership for all club members.

Zoom Meeting Technical Setup Discussion

The meeting organizers discuss technical aspects of the Zoom meeting, including screen visibility, participant views, and audio settings. Gini explains the structure of the presentation, including periodic question and answer segments, and emphasizes that all questions will be addressed at the end of the meeting. The team also discusses how to manage the chat box and mute participants.

Arizona LMSC Annual Meeting Summary

The Arizona LMSC annual meeting begins with Gini Baker Bradley as the facilitator. She reviews meeting mechanics, including muting microphones, using the chat box for questions, and

recording the meeting. Barb Sloan, the board chair, calls the meeting to order and leads the approval of minutes from the previous meeting. The meeting aims to cover all agenda items within 59 minutes.

Arizona Master Swimming Annual Meeting

In the meeting, Barb discussed the agenda for the Arizona Master Swimming annual meeting, which included a board report, virtual events, achievements, and updates on various aspects of the organization. She highlighted the board's strategic plan, which includes increasing membership, improving retention, ensuring financial stability, and enhancing organizational development and volunteer engagement. Barb also mentioned the addition of two new meets for the 2025 season and the upcoming Swim Across America event in May 2026. Gini then shared updates on the organization's website, which is currently being updated by a volunteer staff.

Adult Learn-to-Swim Program Success

In the meeting, Barb discussed the success of the adult learn-to-swim program, which has been running for three years and has put over 200 swimmers through it. She also mentioned the upcoming grown-up swimming event in Tucson, which is scheduled for April 27th. Gini and Lisa discussed the possibility of spreading the word about the event and encouraging people to participate. Sam, the meet director for the grown-up swimming event in Tucson, clarified that participants can register as individuals or as part of a team. Liz, the sanctions chair for Arizona, announced upcoming meets and championships, including a dual meet in April and the Arizona Championship in May. Kelly, the records chair, updated the records for Arizona at the end of each season and encouraged swimmers to submit their times for consideration.

USA Meet Results and Open Water

In the meeting, Lindsey explained the process of submitting USA meet results, which involves providing the sanction number, meet name, address of the pool, events swam, and personal information. She also clarified that a verified pool measurement is not required for USA meet results. Barb suggested that Lindsey's explanation be typed up and shared on the web page for wider dissemination. Marnie, the open water chair, discussed the lack of sanctioned events in Arizona but highlighted various open water swimming opportunities, including the Chili Burros, One Multisport, and Arizona Desert Endurance. She also mentioned upcoming national open water swimming events. Gini offered to compile the information from the website for easier access.

USMS Rule Changes and Swimmer Etiquette

Rome Yount, as the officials chair, reviews recent USMS rule changes and important rules for swimmers to remember. He highlights that the club transfer waiting period has been eliminated, and swimmers can now change clubs up to three times a year. Rome emphasizes the importance of wearing legal swimsuits without zippers, ties, or fasteners (except for waist ties), and prohibits the use of therapeutic elastic tape. He also reminds swimmers about proper warm-up etiquette, including circle swimming and not using equipment like fins or paddles. Rome stresses the need for quiet starts during meets and proper behavior during relay events to ensure accurate timing and fair competition.

Volunteers and Officials for Dual Meets

Rome discussed the need for volunteers and officials for dual meets and encouraged teams to organize mini clinics to train swimmers interested in officiating. He also mentioned the possibility of setting up bi-weekly Zoom meetings to discuss rules. Allen clarified that triathlon suits would not be eligible for competition due to their fasteners. Jeff, the head coach of the Dolphins of the Desert Masters in Tucson, reported that Arizona is trending upward in membership, ranking second in the Southwest Zone. He also highlighted the need for more clubs in pools without USMS teams and discussed the new Lane Mate initiative aimed at independent swimmers.

USMS Board Member and Participation Strategies

Jeff concludes his presentation and invites questions about his role as a USMS board member, mentioning that his term ends in September 2026. He encourages interested individuals to reach out if they want to serve on the board. The discussion then shifts to strategies for increasing participation in masters swimming programs. Barb suggests using tools like Lane Mate for virtual coaching and emphasizes the importance of understanding why lapsed members have left. Stephen raises concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on swimming programs and suggests promoting masters swimming to country clubs as a profitable venture.

Arizona LMSC Annual Meeting Overview

The Arizona LMSC board holds its annual meeting via Zoom, with 36 participants attending. Barb, the president, discusses strategies for growing membership, including college club outreach and identifying lapsed swimmers. The board reviews the meeting format and content, considering it successful despite lower than hoped attendance. They discuss ideas for future meetings, such as combining virtual and in-person events, attaching meetings to swim meets, and focusing on specific topics to generate more interest. The board agrees to post the meeting recording, PowerPoint slides, and minutes on the website, and to submit financials to the national organization by April 30th.

Quick recap

The Arizona LMSC held its annual meeting via Zoom, covering various aspects of the organization including team size classifications, technical meeting logistics, board reports, and updates on programs and events. The meeting addressed rule changes, membership growth strategies, and the need for volunteers and officials, while also discussing the success of existing initiatives such as the adult learn-to-swim program and open water swimming opportunities. Participants reviewed the meeting format and content, considering ways to improve future meetings and increase participation in masters swimming programs.

Next steps

Rome & Barb: Submit annual meeting minutes and financials to national organization by April 30th

Barb: Follow up with other LMSC chairs during next week's zone call with Arlette to understand how they handle team size criteria for competitions

Lisa: Monitor chat box during the meeting and notify Barb of any questions that need to be addressed

Barb: Answer all chat box questions from the meeting within the next few days

Lindsay: Write up instructions on how to submit USA Swimming meet results for USMS records and send to Lisa for website publication

Lisa: Add USA Swimming meet results submission process to the website once received from Lindsay

Sam: Continue recruiting swimmers for the Tucson Grown Up Swimming League starting April 27th

Dolphins of the Desert: Organize and host a swim meet in September

Barry Roth: Submit short course yards records to USMS for approval

Kelly Donatell: Update Arizona records after USMS approval of short course yards submissions

Marnie: Work with Lisa to post open water swim events on the AZLMS website in addition to Facebook

Katy: Work with Jessica to identify lapsed swimmers for membership retention efforts

Rome: Set up bi-weekly Zoom meetings to discuss swimming rules and officiating

Barb: Follow up with Skyline Pool regarding Swim Across America event scheduled for May 23, 2026

Board: Discuss summer meeting schedule at next board meeting on April 9th

Lisa: Post annual meeting recording and PowerPoint slides on AZLMS website

Marnie: Coordinate with volunteers interested in helping organize open water events in Arizona

Jeff: Begin search for replacement Southwest Zone at-large director

Gini: Fix the word "President" to "Chair" on the last slide of the presentation

Rome: Ensure to save all chat messages at the end of the meeting for future reference

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