

Minutes for the 2000 USMS Convention

Committee Name: Computer On Line Committee Session: 1

Day and Date of Meeting: Thursday, October 12, 2000 5:00-6:30 PM

Action Items

Attendance

Number of committee members present: 11 Number of committee members absent 2

Total number of delegates attending the meeting: 39

Minutes

(Follow Meeting Agenda - Expand as space is needed)

I. Review of 1999 Action Items:

Privacy Policy – A draft privacy policy has been accepted by the Legal Counselors Committee, and will be integrated into the USMS web site shortly.

Webmaster as a contract position – The HOD will vote on a proposal to accept the webmaster as a contract position at this convention.

Web site demonstration at convention – A proposal was made for a separate meeting to provide a walkthrough of the USMS web site at this convention. Unfortunately, there was not enough time in the convention schedule to allow this.

II. Review of Ongoing Projects:

The 2000 USMS rule book has not been loaded on the USMS web site this year (the 1999 version still remains). The practice of providing the rule book as multiple HTML files requires that a hand-editing, section-by-section copy of the rule book be made to these files every year, which is very time consuming. The 2000 rule book files were provided by Meg Smath in PDF format, but were not used this year because there are links throughout the site to specific sections of the rule book, referring to the HTML files. For 2001, we will switch over to the PDF version and modify the links to the rule book sections to use these files.

The LMSC officers listing on the USMS site is severely outdated in many areas. Manual updating of this information has been suspended until we can create a solution that integrates directly with the National Office database, to reduce the redundant efforts involved today. This will be a top priority once the USMS web site has been re-hosted to a new web server.

Registration forms were collected from LMSC Registrars this past year, but were not integrated into the USMS web site as planned. A listing of LMSC web site locations of registration forms is available for those LMSC's that have their own web sites, but posting of PDF forms for LMSC's that do not have their own web sites was not accomplished. This will also be addressed as part of the re-hosting of our site.

III. Web Hosting Options:

Our complimentary web site hosting agreement with Mindspring/Earthlink has expired, and we are currently paying \$94.60/month for the site and not receiving all of the services we desire. We are also paying a premium for exceeding our bandwidth allocation during busy months (i.e. nationals months).

We reviewed the requirements for a web hosting provider and the three classes of web hosting services that are available in the market today. An attachment details the features of these options and our requirements. Discussion of the merits of the various packages ensued. The consensus of the committee members and audience was that we should move directly to the dedicated hosting solution in order to gain the required power and flexibility that will be required over the next 2-3 years.

Motion to pursue a dedicated hosting option (J. Paque): seconded & passed unanimously.

Given our decision to move to a dedicated server, we next discussed the possibility of offering web hosting services on our new server to LMSC's, zones, and clubs. The decision was to offer this service to LMSC's and zones only. Since the webmaster will be providing sysadmin services to provide these services, it was felt that the burden would be too big to provide it to 400+ clubs. The consensus decision was also made to not charge LMSC's or zones for this service.

We then moved on to review a representative list of dedicated hosting options and prices, which was taken from DellHost's pricing plans.

IV. Priorities for 2001:

Adjournment at 6:30 PM

Tasks for Upcoming Year:

- Select a new web hosting provider by 11/15/00 and re-host usms.org web site here in time for the 2001 SC nationals information/on line entries (by 1/1/01).
- Offer LMSC's and zones the ability to host web sites on our new dedicated server.

- Make the new USMS records history database available on the usms.org web site (from the ISHOF nominating committee).
- Investigate methods of integrating the USMS registration database with the USMS web site to provide new features for members, keeping privacy issues in mind.