

USMS CONVENTION – Orlando, FL 2004

Committee Name: **Block 4** Session # (if more than one meeting): _____

Cmte. report #: **9**

Minutes recorded by: _____ Julie Heather _____ Date/time of this meeting: Wednesday, 9/15/04, 9:15 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS
PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

none

ACTION ITEMS

none

Committee Chair: _____ Julie Heather _____ Vice Chair(s): _____ N/A _____

Number of committee members present: 5 Absent: 0 Number of other delegates at this meeting: 27

Committee members present:

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at: 9:15 p.m.

1. How will proposed changes to governance affect our committees: It became clear that the audience had not read their packets so we went over the basics of the proposed changes to governance. Some points that were brought up include: the new format of the Board of Directors will actually add another layer of 'bureaucracy' to our organization, where communications will have to go from the Exec. Comm. through the BOD to the committee chairmen, and finally to the House of Delegates. If we're having trouble getting information in our current structure the new one won't help. It was also brought up that it might be more difficult to recruit committee chairs for the less visible or popular committees. Betsy Durrant gave an overview of the changes and answered questions.

2. What can we do to improve committee participation: Suggestions included send more emails, make sure you have an updated email list, since people change their email addresses often, and conference calls. The committee chairmen requested that members of the committee please take responsibility for letting chairmen know when they change their email addresses. We discussed the forums, the main difficulty is that committee members haven't signed up for the forums so they won't receive notices of the posts in their email boxes.

3. Brainstorm effective ways to communicate our (sometimes dry) information to members: SWIM Magazine, website, local newsletters, and through the coaches. The suggestion was made to use a "look" to our materials that changes regularly to draw our members in to read the information. Good writing, humor and catchy graphics.

4. Should USMS offer a wetsuit division for open water events: Peter Crumbine brought up that a potential sponsor has indicated that they will sponsor the national open water events if there is a wetsuit division. In USA Triathlon either everyone is allowed to wear a wetsuit, or not, depending on the water temperature. There are also rules concerning the thickness of wetsuits used. The costs of awards for USMS events is an issue. It was pointed out that we might get more participation in open water events, but there also might be some additional risks involved if these are borderline swimmers. The biggest concern is in allowing a potential sponsor to have any control over our events.

The meeting was adjourned at: 10:00 p.m.

TASKS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

none