

President Jim Miller called the meeting to order at 8:32 PM EST. Present were Scott Rabalais, Sally Dillon, Lynn Hazlewood, Nancy Ridout, Patty Powis, and Tracy Grilli. Doug Church joined the meeting mid-way.

1. The next conference call will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 8:30 PM EST.
2. DECISIONS MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the April 8 conference call were approved, sent to the BOD, and sent to the Webmaster for posting on the USMS web site.
3. OFFICER REPORTS:
President: Jim was honored to present the Ransom Arthur award to Leo Letendre at SCY Nationals in Indianapolis. Leo's dedication and contributions to the organization are well known since his first convention in 1983. Leo was in attendance with his family to receive the award and spoke. Jim is continuing to promote the role of USMS within the aquatic community by accepting an invitation to present at ISHOF and serving in the ISHOF Congress May 7-9.

Vice President: Scott reported that the Championship Committee is studying the method for developing the LC National Championship Qualifying Times. Also, the committee is developing a survey for swimmers to comment on the length of our national championships. The Recognition and Awards Committee selected this year's winner of the Ransom Arthur award, which was presented at the Short Course Nationals. The winner was Leo Letendre.

Secretary: Sally reported that the delegate entitlement information has been distributed and LMSCs are already submitting their lists. Some At-Large requests have been received and we will follow the same procedure as last year and require the LMSC delegate list and a recommendation from the LMSC chair before making appointments. The Special Assignments and Liaisons will be offered At-Large spots regardless. David Diehl (Officials) is working on the reviews of officials from the SC Nationals and is collecting volunteers for LC Nationals. Leo Letendre (Rules) reports that no new proposals or questions have come up. He has been traveling out of the country quite a bit for business but was able to be in Indianapolis to receive the Ransom Arthur Award. Barbara Dunbar (History & Archives) reports that they have been inventorying and making sure that USMS has copies of as much important stuff as possible (such as Rule Books, Top Tens, USMS publications, Nationals Results, etc.) stored in the physical archive repository. They have been following up on ensuring that new copies will continue to be automatically deposited as they come out. Bill Volckening continues to make progress with the Rule Book History project and has more ideas. The assembled Rule Book covers create an interesting visual presentation and would make a great poster for convention. Barbara notes that a lot of committees are preserving their data and history. She is encouraged that an increasing amount of USMS historical data is available on-line and hopes that physical copies will eventually be stored in the USMS archive repository.

Treasurer: Doug reported that we are tracking through the first quarter on target for budget in both income and expense categories within reason and with no surprises. Several issues have come up that point out problems that should be addressed in both budget and FOG that restrict certain delegates, and in particular, BOD members from getting to convention in time for meetings when they can't be reimbursed for expenses incurred in arrival the day before convention starts and the Finance Committee has provided several thoughtful suggestions for future consideration in FOG and/or convention scheduling. The controller transition is working smoothly and a meeting is in the planning stages between our old and new controller to make sure that everything is working as planned.

Zone Chair: There have been many inquiries and 11 applications so far in response to the ad for hiring a web developer, which was distributed by email to 900+ addresses. This confirms the viability of this method of advertising. There should not be any difficulty finding a qualified person to fill the slot. The application period expires on May 16 after which applicants will be narrowed down to those we are interested in interviewing.

Past President: No report.

Legal Counsel: Patty continues to be involved in the grievance discussion with one of our LMSCs. She reported that Rob Copeland (Legislation) is working to prepare proposed policies for the National Board of Review. We are in the process of determining whether the appeal of another grievance should be heard using the new Part 4, which took effect on January 1, or the old Part 4, under which the original grievance was handled.

5. VICE CHAIRS - EMERGENCY LEGISLATION: Using the governance system currently in place, we would like to hold a midyear meeting for the BOD. A question has arisen as to whether a vice-chair could take their place as a voting member if a chair is unavailable. At this time the VC could attend, but they would not have a vote. Patty has discussed the situation with Rob Copeland who has noted that there are not many organizations that allow proxies for the BOD. The BOD will be contacted to see how their availability is for the suggested dates so we can plan for budgeting for the proposal that will come before the HOD at convention.
6. SWIM MAGAZINE PROOF READERS: The EC continued its discussion of the review of SWIM articles and agreed to ask Bill Volckening to present a proposal for a review process at the next EC meeting. The proposal should address both grammatical proofing and content of the article considerations.
7. WEB DEVELOPER – CONTRACT, TERM OF EMPLOYMENT, AND OTHER ISSUES: Lynn reviewed the process being followed for the search for an assistant to the Webmaster. It was agreed that Doug Church would join the management team to provide legal, financial, and business advice. The team will finalize the details of the proposed relationship with the contractor and convey the information to applicants as soon as the application period closes.
8. USMS SPONSORSHIP AT WORLD SCM CHAMPIONSHIPS: Doug reviewed information he has received from Dale Neuberger regarding USMS presence at the World Championships being held in the fall in Indianapolis. We have the opportunity to be a sponsor through ads in the program and/or hosting of a FINA dinner. Patty noted that we have two goals a) marketing of USMS (i.e. program ad) and b) obtaining recognition for masters on an international level (i.e. the FINA dinner). Jim added that we have a third goal – one of supporting Dale Neuberger and USAS – in appreciation for the support they have given USMS. USMS must recognize its role in the aquatic family as a full member under USAS. As such there is a need to support the efforts of the governing body as a whole. Doug will go back to Dale, discuss these ideas, and report back to the EC. We also discussed the web site presence that the event hosts are requesting. Our policy allows us to have a link for the event and we will make an effort to give it a presence on the home page.
10. IT FOR 2006 WORLD CHAMPS: Lynn noted that the host organization bid the USMS online entry system for the World Champs in 2006. This will require programming and other support services from the webmaster that will cost USMS funds for the webmaster salary as well as lost time for other projects. It was agreed that we should not provide this service for free. More information is needed concerning the scope of these services and Nancy will go back to the organizing committee in Pacific to get some answers.
11. USE OF USMS LOGO ARTWORK: Lynn brought up that we have no policy for allowing people to have legitimate use of our logo. Patty pointed it out that we need to a) protect the trademark, and b) make it easy for those we want to use it to access it. She suggested we put a form on the web site that allows those who would like permission to use a good version of the logo to request a copy. The form will ask the requester to explain who they are and the purpose for which they would like to use the logo. Once the form is finalized, we will give Tracy guidance as to which uses might be pre-approved (e.g. National Championships) and establish a procedure for deciding logo use permission for purposes that are not pre-approved. Scott will work with Marketing to see that the logo artwork is created.

12. FINA BID EXPENSES: Tracy received a request from the treasurer of Pacific for reimbursement. It was agreed that all requests for reimbursements go to the National Office and they will be handled, along with documentation, as per FOG.
13. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. Merchant Account update – Doug will be sending us information via the mail.

It was MSA to adjourn at 10:35 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by:
Sally Ann Dillon
USMS Secretary