

U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name:	Recognition & Awards	Session #:	n/a
Committee Chair:	Charis Anderson McCarthy		
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	4/23/2021 6 pm EST

Actions Taken:

1. Approved: none

Number of committee members present: 13	Absent: 1	Guests: none
Committee members present: Marcia Benjamin, Richard Burns, Nadine Day, Barbara Deshler, Sally Dillon, Jack Groselle, Mike Hillemonds, Charis Anderson McCarthy, Michael Moore, Ray Novitske, Beth Nymeyer, Ginger Pierson, and Nancy Ridout. EC liaison Ed Coates was also present.		
Not present: Laura Val		

Minutes

Charis Anderson McCarthy called the meeting to order at 6 pm EST. Congratulations are in order . . . Charis announced that she is 20 weeks pregnant!

1. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Ransom J. Arthur Award: Charis reported that the honoree has been selected but the results have not yet been made public. A surprise presentation will be made soon and USMS will make an announcement on Social Media as soon as that takes place. Committee members and former RJA recipients will be notified as well.
- b. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award: Charis and subcommittee are discussing via email, ideas and goals for increasing the number of nominations. Only 15 were received in 2020 so an increase to 20 or more is desired. The group will be looking at ways to better advertise the award, such as contacting LMSC leaders and past recipients.
- c. June Krauser Communications Award: Nancy's subcommittee has been active by email and she's received suggestions and other input. In keeping with the goal of increasing the number of nominations, they plan to contact past recipients to see if they are aware of other worthy nominees. They will also contact LMSC chairs and ask for recommendations of others within their LMSCs. Nancy composed a letter that can be sent by individuals on the committee. The committee has access to a spreadsheet with email aliases for all LMSC, Zone, and national officers. They have a meeting next week and plan to divvy up responsibilities for making contact in order to prevent any one leader from receiving numerous messages.
- d. Club of the Year: Rich noted that the updated nomination form is posted on the website. The committee hasn't convened and no nominations have been received. The ad promoting all nominations is in the upcoming issue (May/June) of *Swimmer* magazine (page 46). Rich suggested that nominators this year should be encouraged to explain how their clubs have managed during COVID. If a club hasn't been active in the last year, they should still be encouraged to apply. Rich hasn't yet reached out to the clubs who were previously nominated and not selected. Charis said she has found a volunteer from the Coaches committee and expects to have one from Fitness soon. It was suggested that the Zone Chairs be encouraged to spread the word about nominations.
- e. MISHOF: Rich reported that the International Hall of Fame has not yet made plans for an induction ceremony in 2021. Rich has shared the USMS National Championship schedule with Brent Rutemiller, ISHOF CEO. The committee submitted Kerry O'Brien as our candidate for Honor Contributor last year and the nominations still stands.

- f. Zone/LMSC Communications: Beth has taken the spreadsheet listing LMSC leaders (previously referenced by Nancy) and converted it to a Google sheet. The objective is to have our committee members sign up on the sheet to make contact with people we know personally when soliciting nominations for a specific award. The contact message should also include information about the other USMS awards. The objective is to avoid having multiple emails going to any one person. The spreadsheet allows each of the committees to “claim contacts”, but there may be other contacts within the LMSC that can be reached if one is not available. Charis noted that we’re looking for all committee members to individually reach out. It was suggested that LMSC newsletter editors would be a good target for a “call for nominations”. Beth said she has received approval from Dawson for R&A to host a webinar about USMS awards. Details will be forthcoming.
- g. Award Bios: Ray reported that there was not much progress this past month. He will set up a schedule for contacting all other “award giving” committees with a standard request of short bios for their award recipients. He’ll provide deadlines, requirements, a sample, and ask for each committee to assign someone as a point of contact for our committee. Sally is close to finishing 2002 DDSA stories, the last year in need of bios.
- h. Award Forms: Sally reported that review of the RJA, COYA, JKC, DDSA award information and nomination documents is complete. Barb and Nancy were a big help with this project.

2. Other business

- a. Online forms: Ray asked Ed if there is news regarding using online forms for our awards. Charis, Beth, and Ed had a discussion with CEO Dawson Hughes. We can do this but it has not been determined how to implement the project. It is unclear how much time the IT team would need to build the project. It was suggested that we pilot one award to get started. There are concerns about the ability to save work and come back to it. It’s not always possible to create a nomination without pausing to get opinions from others or other information. It would be tedious but possible to develop responses in a Word document and then paste them into a Google Doc. Google spreadsheets might work as well. Ray volunteered to help prepare the forms. Nadine asked about the PDF fillable form that was used for the RJA award this year. Feedback indicated the process wasn’t easy for some; some fields became too small. Charis noted that online submission might help prevent nominations from getting misplaced.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm EST.