

USMS Convention — Jacksonville, Florida. 2011

Committee Name:	Recognition & Awards	Session #:	1	Report #:	5
Committee Chair:	Sally Dillon	Vice Chair:	Hill Carrow		
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	Sept. 15, 9:45 to 11:15 AM		

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

MSA to approve the proposed budget of \$560.

Motions Passed:

MSA that we automatically resubmit the 2nd and 3rd place Club of the Year applications for the next year, giving them the opportunity to update their paperwork.

Number of committee members present: 11	Absent: 5	Number of other delegates present: 32
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Andrea Block, Carolyn Boak, Hill Carrow, Sally Dillon, Heather Howland, Margie Hutinger, Hugh Moore, Walt Reid, Nancy Ridout, Kelly Sharitt, Laura Val, and Ed Tsuzuki (EC).		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:55 AM.

- Members of the committee and new delegates were introduced.
- Sally presented the official pin to the 2011 Ransom J. Arthur M.D. recipient, Rob Copeland. Rob's long time service to USMS on the club, LMSC, and national level was recognized.
- Chair's report
Budget: Sally distributed a copy of the committee's budget that totals \$560 in expenditures – mainly for the Club of the Year and Communications awards. **It was MSA (Howland/Boak) to approve the proposed budget.**
Legislative proposal from our committee (L-24): Committee members used the R&A discussion forum this past year to discuss the proposal and voted on the proposed change via email. The objectives for the proposal are to clarify that we deal with service awards, not competitive awards, and that we see a need to lessen the specific numerical requirements that are in the current committee description.
Recognition of Volunteers: The survey and workshop conducted in 2010 led to a document that provides suggestions for recognizing volunteers at the local level. The Zones have been asked to share the information at their meetings this weekend, and the document has been posted on the LMSC Guide to Operations webpage under a new Awards section.
June Krauser: Sally reported that June's daughter Janice has said that June is doing much better. If anyone wants to give her a call the number, Sally can pass on June's phone info. She no longer does email.
- Captain Ransom Arthur M.D. Award: Sally reported that we had three outstanding nominees this year: John Bauman, Rob Copeland, and Kerry O'Brien. The presentation to our winner, Rob Copeland, took place in Peachtree, GA with President Jeff Moxie flying in from California to do the honors. Mike Heather made the official announcement at SCY Nationals with a dozen or so past recipients present. The project to provide narratives on the USMS website for all recipients is finally up to date! Sally distributed a copy of an "ancient" article from *Swim Master* (1973) that tells the original "story" of the RJA award. It was noted that the criteria for selection has evolved over the years. Jeff Roddin brought up the presentation of the RJA award at nationals and wondered if we're not disrespecting the recipient by doing the presentation there. Quite a bit of discussion followed including when/where would be a better place, why it needs to be a surprise, whether the Coach of the Year and Club of the Year awards could or should be presented at nationals (Sally offered to discuss the last one with the Coaches chair). Other comments were that a national award should be presented at a national venue, that nationals is a good place for the announcement because many of the national leaders are also present, that a better time for the presentation should be considered – such as immediately after the national anthem. Hill volunteered to do one award each day if it was agreed to present the Coach of the Year and Club of the Year awards at the meet. It was agreed that a dynamic announcer could do an excellent job of orchestrating the presentation and assuring

that more people are listening. When possible, a video clip of the honoree should be shown during the presentation. Further discussion will take place this coming year via the R&A committee discussion forum.

5. U.S. Masters Swimming Dorothy Donnelly Service Award: Hill reported that, after an extended deadline, we exceeded our quota by a good number to make it more compelling and competitive. The selection committee was Jeff Moxie, Hill, and Sally. Hill has composed another outstanding poem for Friday's presentation! It was suggested that the nominators for those who were not selected be encouraged to re-submit the following year, which is currently being done. Efforts to generate nominations for this and all other awards were discussed at length. The committee was in agreement that we should be able to contact the LMSC leaders to remind them of nomination deadlines and to encourage them to spread the word about the various awards available. Sally experienced difficulties in trying to get the word out through the National Office but others in the audience shared that they have used the various alias email addresses to do this on their own. Discussion of strategies for promotion of the awards will take place during the coming year on the committee forum.
6. U.S. Masters Swimming June Krauser Communications Award: Hugh reported that, for the most part, the selection committee members are doing the nominating for this award. They have an outstanding recipient this year, who will receive the award Friday.
7. U.S. Masters Swimming Club of the Year Award: During the past year sub-committee members revised the nomination forms so we could vary the questions slightly for the Regional and Local divisions. The selection committee included Doug Garcia, Don Mehl, Gail Roper, Linda Shoenberger, Ray Novitski, Hill, and Sally. The number of nominees was too small (4) but the competition was stiff and the decision difficult. Two clubs will be honored Friday – one from each division.
8. Report on ISHOF and IMSHOF: Walt reported that he has recently been appointed to replace June Krauser as the USMS Liaison to ISHOF. IMSHOF is controlled by ISHOF, not our committee. Rankings of World Records, World Top10 and World Championships, are considered. Contributors are honored due to other criteria and our current nominee is Mel Goldstein. Two USMS members: Rich Abrahams and Jeff Farrell are the IMSHOF Swimmer Honorees this year and a reception and ceremony will take place Friday evening. It is open to all USMS delegates. Regarding ISHOF – once inducted into IMSHOF, you can become a candidate for ISHOF. For swimmers, it is also based on points. ISHOF does not select from each sport, in fact they have selected only two from Masters Swimming since IMSHOF was founded - neither from the US.
9. Club of the Year issues: Sally asked that the committee clarify the focus – are we honoring club of the “past” year or the “best” nominee? The issue came up during this year's selection process as a couple of those on the selection committee thought they should only look at the club's past year's accomplishments. The Club of the Year (COYA) concept was introduced 2004, amended and adopted by the committee in 2005, and the first award was presented in 2006. The historical documents do not specify that the award should go to a club due to their accomplishments in the past year, and historically, that has not been done. Discussion followed with various comments: we should look at what a club has “built” over a period of years, a successful club can't be determined in just a year's activity, a COYA should be able to be a mentor, and pay attention to the heritage of a club but the most recent activity could be a “tie-breaker”. Opposing comments: add another category of “young team of the year”, and change the title to “Outstanding Club” so it doesn't imply the award is just for the “year” they're honored. We revisited the concept of automatically re-submitting nominations and it was **MSA (Boak/Val) that we automatically resubmit the 2nd and 3rd place Club of the Year applications for the next year, giving them the opportunity to update their paperwork.** Further discussion introduced whether we should expand the award system to include “Chapters”. The committee will pursue this issue on its discussion forum.
10. Lack of nominees for awards: We need ideas for stimulating nominations for all service awards. It was suggested that we talk with the LMSC Development committee. Could we add the “nomination process” to the minimum standards or suggested standards? As time was short, the committee agreed to discuss this further online.
11. Redesign and order of DDSA and RJA pins: A committee was formed (Nancy, Laura, and Kelly) to develop a design and research prices for new Service Award and Ransom Arthur award pins. The stock for both is running low and pins need to include the new USMS logo. Numerous recommendations have been made to make the RJA pin a bit larger as it is very small and hard to handle. We will consider ordering enough RJA pins in case past recipients would like to “upgrade”. The intention is to order new pins in 2013.