

# Recognition & Awards Committee Meeting Minutes

**Committee Name:** Recognition & Awards

**Committee Chair:** Megan Lassen

**Minutes recorded by:** Sally Dillon

**Date/time of meeting:** Monday, 1/14/19 7 pm EST

**Motions Passed with financial implications:** none

**Motions passed:** none

**Number of committee members present:** 18

**Absent:** 1

**Number of others present:** 2

**Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):** Charis Anderson McCarthy, Marcia Benjamin, Carolyn Boak, Ashley Braniecki, Rich Burns, Nadine Day, Sally Dillon, Dawn-Ann Dykes, Cathy Hallman-Kenner, Christine Maki, Sonny Nguyen, Beth Nymeyer, Megan Lassen, Ray Novitske, Lori Payne, Ginger Pierson, Nancy Ridout, and Laura Val. Ex Officio members: Chris Colburn and Onshalee Promchitmart.

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm EST by Chair Megan Lassen. She thanked everyone for attending at this time and promised to vary the meeting start times at future meetings. Sally offered to record minutes.

1. Each attendee was asked to state their LMSC, time on the R&A Committee, and other national committee membership. Charis – South Texas, 2<sup>nd</sup> year; Marcia – Pacific, 2<sup>nd</sup> year; Carolyn – Gulf, numerous years; Ashley – Lake Erie, 1<sup>st</sup> year, also on History & Archives cmte; Rich – Pacific, 4/5 years, Nadine – Indiana, 3 years; Sally – Pacific Northwest, 12 years, also on LMSC Development cmte; Dawn-Ann – Niagara, new; Cathy – North Carolina, 2 years; Christine – Southern Pacific, new; Sonny – North Carolina, new; Beth – Minnesota, new; Megan – North Carolina (formerly Florida Gold Coast), 4 years; Ray – Potomac Valley, 9 years; Lori – Ozark, numerous years; Ginger – Oregon, 2<sup>nd</sup> year; Nancy – Pacific, numerous years, USMS BOD members; Laura – Pacific, 5/6 years. Chris – Illinois, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, USMS BOD member, Onshalee – Florida, National Office staff.
2. Committee Communications: The R&A Committee has its own forum on the USMS website. Megan will distribute information relating to sign-on procedures. It can be useful for online discussions, but email will be used most often.
  - a. Addresses: Chair [awards@usmastersswimming.org](mailto:awards@usmastersswimming.org) Committee: [recognition-committee@usmastersswimming.org](mailto:recognition-committee@usmastersswimming.org)
  - b. Future conference calls for the year – 3+
3. Comments and evaluations of 2018 committee activities
  - a. Document revisions: Megan distributed a “tracked” copy of the committee policies. The document’s changes were approved at the December meeting. Nancy noted that changes made to the Communications Award last year are not reflected. She will submit those changes to Megan for approval at the next meeting. Also distributed were the revised information forms for the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award (DDSA) and the Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award (RJA). Both were reformatted and approved in December.
  - b. Increasing Nominations: A subcommittee reached out to LMSC leaders in an effort to determine their knowledge and use of the USMS Volunteer Store. Beth would like to be on this committee.
  - c. Award web page bios: Stories continue to be written for the DDSA honorees. Committee members have been challenged as they attempt to write stories about recipients from the 1990’s and early 2000’s.
  - d. Local recognition and the USMS Volunteer Store: As mentioned in “b” above, a subcommittee surveyed LMSC leaders about their use of the Volunteer Store.
  - e. IMSHOF: The committee continues to promote nominees for this award. Our nominee, Walt Reid, was honored in 2018.
4. Annual Awards, subcommittees, and activities – opportunities to participate
  - a. Ransom Arthur Award: Nadine will take the lead this year, with Sally continuing as a mentor. They will collect and review the nominations. The selection committee is composed of all members of the R&A committee, along with all currently registered former recipients of the award. The presentation locale was changed recently and that is reflected in the policies. In recent years, few (if any) of the recipients have been in attendance at the Spring Nationals, which

traditionally has been the location of the official announcement. Beginning in 2019, the award will be presented to the recipient at a location in their LMSC, where their swimming friends and family can be present for the surprise announcement. Recognition will still take place at the Spring meet with an announcement in the program (if timing allows) or during the meet. The final hurrah will be at the USMS Convention, as has always been done.

- b. June Krauser Communications Award: Nancy is the selection committee chair. The award goes to an individual or a group and all must be USMS members. It recognizes excellence in communication, which we all know is an important goal within our LMSCs. The award recognizes success at the local level. Selection members come from the R&A and other committees. Charis, Christine, Marcia, and Beth all volunteered to serve. Nancy noted that changes to the committee might occur in order to assure there is no conflict of interest.
  - c. Club of the Year Award: Laura is the selection committee chair. There are two categories for the award: Local and Regional Clubs. Regional Clubs have numerous workout groups within the club. Details can be found in the policies. More nominees are needed, and Laura will be reaching out to clubs that were nominated but did not get selected as well as to clubs that won more than 5 years ago. Ginger, Rich, Kathy, and Dawn-Ann volunteered to serve. As with the Communications award, changes might occur to avoid conflicts of interest.
  - d. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award (DDSA): The selection committee is the Chair, Vice chair, and USMS President; Megan, Ray, and Patty. Megan noted that Ray is serving as the VC for one year. She's welcome to talk with others who'd like to become the VC beginning in 2020.
  - e. Increasing nominations: A subcommittee needs to brainstorm and implement ideas that will increase nominations. Beth, Kathy, and Marcia volunteered.
  - f. Award website bios: This is an ongoing project to provide a paragraph detailing why each DDSA recipient was honored with the award. We are working on years where the nomination documents were not retained, so it has become increasingly more difficult to find the necessary information. Sally will share some ideas that are working for her; collaborating with others might help as well. Carolyn, Sally, Ashley, Ginger, and Lori volunteered.
  - g. Local recognition/Volunteer store: New swag ideas are needed. Beth, Charis, and Sonny volunteered; Ray will provide some history of this project.
  - h. International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame Award (IMSHOF): Rich is the committee chair. The entire R&A committee will vote to approve the committee's recommendation. Rich, Laura, Sally, and Nancy have served on this committee previously. Ginger asked to be on the committee. Notify Megan if you are interested.
5. Proposal for a new USMS Award: The USMS Long Distance Committee has submitted a proposal for a new award, which is titled: "USMS Long Distance National Championship Award". Nadine noted that there is already a National Championships Award and it doesn't specify that the award is associated with a "pool" meet. She asked why that award would not be sufficient to recognize an Open Water national event. Most agreed that the current award is meant for pool meets and it should state that in the information on the website, unless that is not the case. There was support for the concept of a new award, but concern was expressed by a number of people that it only focused on National Championship events, which would prevent other outstanding Long Distance events from being recognized. The "promotion of long distance swimming" was deemed more important and Megan was asked to suggest that "National Championships" not be the only focus. It was MSA to approve the award proposed by the Long Distance Committee "in concept".

---

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm PST