

2020 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Virtual

Committee Name:	Recognition & Awards	Session #:	#1
Committee Chair:	Megan Lassen	Vice Chair:	Charis McCarthy
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	Monday, August 31, 8 pm EDT

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. none

Motions Passed:

1. none

Number of committee members present: 17	Absent: 3	Number of other delegates present: 14
Committee members present: Megan Lassen, Charis McCarthy, Marcia Benjamin, Richard Burns, Nadine Day, Barbara Deshler, Sally Dillon, Jack Groselle, Ray Novitske, Elizabeth Nymeyer, Ginger Pierson, Nancy Ridout, and Laura Val. Also Ex-Officio: Ed Coates (EC Liaison) and Onshalee Promchitmart (National Office)		
Committee Members Absent: Carolyn Boak, Dawn-Ann Dykes, Jessica Reilly (Ex-Officio)		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 pm EDT. EC Liaison, Ed Coates, provided information about meeting management on Zoom.

1. Chair's Report: Megan thanked the committee members for the amount of work accomplished this past year. She reviewed for the audience the information in the committee's annual report, which is available on the convention page. Highlighted was the selection of Frank "Skip" Thompson as the recipient of the 2020 Ransom Arthur Award. A record eleven nominations were received; the other nominees were Bob Bruce, Dan Cox, Ralph Davis, Peter Guadagni, Anna Lea Matysek, Jim Matysek, Chris McGiffin, Mark Moore, Ed Saltzman, and Ally Segal.
2. Budget Review: With a virtual convention, there were no expenses for swag to distribute at convention. The 2021 budget will be the same as 2020 since no expenditures for DDSA and RJA pins are needed.
3. Updates on annual awards:
 - a. Capt. Ransom J. Arthur Award – Nadine announced that proposed amendment to the policies (new business item 5/a) will be deferred until we take on the upcoming review of all of the committee's policies in October. As mentioned in Megan's report, Skip Thompson is the 2020 RJA honoree; there were a record eleven nominees.
 - b. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award – Charis reported that 14 outstanding recipients have been selected. The nominations have been more complete since we revised the form.
 - c. June Krauser Communications Award – Nancy thanked the selection committee (Marcia, Beth, and Barb) and noted that the decision was unanimous. The award will be delivered on 9/21, prior to the award ceremony at the HOD.
 - d. Club of the Year Award – Laura noted that the revised nomination form yielded more complete applications. She thanked the selection committee: Megan, Rich, Ray, Ginger, and Jack. Ray will get the banner ordered ASAP.
 - e. Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame Award – Rich announced that Kerry O'Brien was nominated in the Contributor category. Due to the pandemic, the Hall of Fame chose to not select a 2020 class of MISHOF honorees. Nadine noted that an ISHOF class for 2020 was selected and they will be inducted in May of 2021. The Hall plans to induct a 2021 MISHOF class next year when the USAS convention takes place in Atlanta, GA. Sally noted that historically, the Hall has retained nominations so any nominees from this year will carry over to 2021. Still, it would be a good idea to remind them by January 1, 2021 that Kerry O'Brien is our nominee.
4. Progress reports on 2020 projects
 - a. Bios for award web pages – Ray thanked Sally, Carolyn, and Barb, who wrote many new bios this past year. He and Sally are working on the last two years for the DDSA award; both have been challenging. Once finished, the subcommittee will get started on bios for the other awards the R&A committee manages. Ray has asked the leaders of other committees to provide their award bios, which we will post.

- b. Increasing nominations for USMS awards – Megan noted that Dean Hawks, leader of the subcommittee, dropped off the R&A Committee, so nothing was accomplished. Beth has picked up the slack and has suggested looking at LMSC websites and Facebook pages to generate ideas.
 - c. Increasing opportunities for recognition at the local level – Charis was spearheading an effort to get a newsletter out to LMSC leaders, which would share ideas about ways to promote recognition at the local level. The objective was to follow the #usmsvolunteer campaign by spreading the word and learning from others. The newsletter idea was nixed by the national office in order to limit the number of emails heading to LMSC leader’s mailboxes. Brainstorming ideas continues. We are exploring the idea of creating a comprehensive communications calendar, to provide the National Office with the “what and when” we’d like to have certain information shared.
5. New Business
- a. Proposal to amend the Policies for the Ransom Arthur Award – deferred to the Policy document review (item b).
 - b. Post-convention project to review the R&A Committee Policies - Sally explained the project: the policies are separated into 10 different sections. The objective is to have a few committee members assigned to review certain sections of the document. It’s important that the procedures we follow accurately match what is set forth in the policies, and they need to be reviewed accordingly. Charis suggested we allow some flexibility in our policies and that consistent wording is used throughout the document. Ed noted that 2021 is the last year scheduled for USAS and changes to the convention format may affect our policies in the future. Committee members volunteered or were assigned to sections. The proposed changes will be presented in the same fashion as we see at conventions for rules and legislation amendments and using rationales when appropriate.
 - c. Awards Presentation – Ed reported that all awards will be presented on Friday, 9/25 during the HOD meeting. Ray is preparing slide show that will include all awards, except the Coach of the Year and Ransom Arthur awards. They will be done separately and the National Office is working on that aspect of the presentation. The event will be posted afterward for viewing by the general public. Coming soon – the National Office is working on a communications policy, which will spell out the various communication mechanisms and who to contact. Ed noted that in the Sched App and website, we will be able to find a link for non-delegates to watch the HOD meetings. Ray clarified that we will have a slide presentation with recorded “voice” presentations embedded. Each presenter has 20-30 seconds to announce the honoree. Ray is waiting on two committees regarding their nominees. Sally asked about the mailing of awards and Onshalee said the National Office will mail the DDSA certificates and pins to the recipients. Fitness Chair Emily Cook was present and reported that they did not receive any nominations this year.
 - d. Set a date for the next meeting/s – Sunday, November 1 at 7 pm EDT; focus to be on the Policy revisions. Wednesday, December 1 at 8 pm EDT, if needed.
 - e. Closing comments – Megan opened the floor for comments; there were none. She thanked the committee again, for their help this year. Ed reported that the committee assignments will be determined as they’ve been done in the past few years.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

- 1. None stated

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm EDT
