

United States Masters Swimming (USMS)
Delaware Valley Local Masters Swimming Committee (Del Val LMSC)
Minutes of Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 21, 2012

Welcome

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laurie Hug in the Parents' Room of Germantown Academy, Fort Washington, Pa. at 1:30 p.m. Laurie extended a welcome to all and introductions were made. (Laurie also hosted a work-out in the GA pool prior to the meeting).

Attending: Chairperson Laurie Hug, Vice Chair Tom Patterson, Treasurer Pat Timmins, Dan Allen, Pamela Shepard, Melissa Krupa, Dick Jackson, Rich O'Shaughnessy, George Horan, Delia Perez, Sue Watts, Tina Woods, and Secretary Chris Schroeder.

Secretary's Report

Presented by Chris Schroeder

Chris made a correction to last year's minutes per feedback from Anna Lea Matysek in the USMS National Office (NO); the 2011 minutes stated (erroneously) that "the LMSC has not had to file yearly IRS reports as our balance has been less than the \$25,000 filing threshold". She corrected that we file IRS form yearly, the "easy 990N" (for an organization with gross revenues under \$50,000); Pat agreed. Corrected minutes M/S/P

Secretary's Notes: 1) The format M/S/P is used in the minutes to indicate that a motion (M) was made, it was seconded (S), and passed (P). The secretary has the names of those motioning and seconding; all votes were unanimous unless stated otherwise; 2) This year Laurie asked all committee chairs to submit written reports to the committee for review prior to the meeting. If an electronic report was submitted, it is posted on our website, www.dvmasters.org and will not be repeated verbatim in these minutes.

Treasurer's Report

Presented by Pat Timmins, Treasurer

The LMSC has again taken in more revenue than expended this past year (about \$500). As of 9/30/12 our balance was \$22,538.16, which was very close to our 9/30/11 balance (\$22,015.57). She noted that most of our registrations are done on-line, and our fiscal records are sound.

Pat indicated Del Val needs a new treasurer as it is time for her to step down; she will work with the new treasurer to ensure a smooth transition. She recommends that our ATM card (in the treasurer's name) never be activated to ensure accountability; instead, she uses a deposit card which works well. Our LMSC fiscal year is Oct. 1st to September 30th, but the NO fiscal year is the calendar year. Pat is willing to serve until the end 2012, and will do the annual report for the NO and file with the IRS. Treasurer's report was M/S/P

Registrar's Report

Presented by Rich O'Shaughnessy, Registrar

Rich reported that our membership numbers have increased to 911, up considerably from 787 last year; we now have more female than male members in the younger age groups (34 y.o. & under). He informed us about a letter he received from NO re: USMS ending use of Club Assistant. Many in attendance expressed surprise since Club Assistant seems to be working well.

USMS will e-mail members 11/1 to re-register for new year. Group agreed that we want to keep our local fee low. On-line registration seems to be working well, except for swimmers who are Unattached; they have difficulty picking a work-out group from the drop-down menu. Discussion ensued that this is confusing and unfair; Laurie indicated that she will e-mail Club Assistant about this problem. Dan agreed to post a notice on our web about the need to be attached to a club if you want to swim relays.

Registrar's report M/S/P

Sanctions Report

Presented by George Horan, Committee Chair

George summarized his report. Pat mentioned that the NO did not send us rule books in a timely manner last year; she will contact them about this problem. The Treasurer orders and pays for the rule books, which are sent to our Sanctions Chair. We also need to make sure meet officials have the summary page differentiating USMS from USAS rules. Tom proposed that the fee for recognized meets be increased to \$75 because they involve more work for LMSC, and that the fee for a sanctioned meet remain \$50; the motion was S/P.

Sanctions Report was M/S/P

Web Site Report

Presented by Dan Allen, Web Master

Dan has begun updating our "Places to swim" on the web; if a "verified date" appears, the information is current. If there is no "verified date" and anyone knows about the pool or contact person, send him the information. He also would like to verify the distance of the pool next year. A suggestion was made by Laurie Hug to differentiate our LMSC meets from others on the site, and also between sanctioned and non-sanctioned swims.

Web Site Report M/S/P

Top 10 and Records Report

Presented by Tom Patterson, Vice-President and Committee Chair

Tom summarized his report, with emphasis on preferring more sanctioned meets in our area. Del Val has had a nice increase in Top Ten times.

Top 10 and Records Report M/S/P

Coaches Report

Presented by Dick Jackson, Committee Chair

Dick indicated that he did not contact meet directors prior to our meeting like he did last year, but he has noticed that younger swimmers are not going to meets like they have in the past, maybe for economic reasons. Our LMSC subsidizes the memberships of swimmers 18-24 y.o. and over 70 y.o to encourage participation in those age groups. He also mentioned that Pennypack offers long course practices year 'round; contact Dick (215-673-1090) if you want to use the pool to get LC times. While Dick did not give an electronic copy of his report, the list of upcoming swim meets is on our website, and national meets are also on the USMS site.

Coaches Report M/S/P

Officials Report

Stephanie Walsh Beilman, the Committee Chair, was absent for personal reasons. The committee assumed if there had been any significant changes, she would have informed us. There was discussion about the range of fees for officials, which vary - some officials volunteer their time, while others receive \$100 each for a meet.

Open Water

Presented by Delia Perez, Committee Chair

Delia summarized the season and reported that our weather was pretty good this year for open water swimming. There were over 70 open water swims at the shore or nearby states. She mentioned that the Donny Fund swim, offered by the Pleasantville Yacht Club, is particularly enjoyable. The Nockamixon Steelman and A.C.'s Bridge-to-Bridge swims are the two sanctioned open-water swims in our area.

Open Water Report M/S/P

Marketing

Presented by Pam Shepard, Committee Chair

Pam reported that she sent the results of the survey conducted last year to NO to get their feedback. Many of the respondents are males and competitive swimmers, which is not really representative of our membership. In summary, respondents are seeking competition, fitness, socialization, and coached practices; one-third do triathlons. Some of the services respondents would like from our LMSC are summer meets and Del Val championships. Discussion ensued about the lack of 50 meter pools in our area. Pam is the Administrator of our Face Book page, which is doing well with about 130 "friends". Laurie asked if you have to be invited to join. Pam responded yes; there's a link to her address on our website. She wants to ensure that the content is kept appropriate, but usually just says "yes" to requests.

Our LMSC has been trying to encourage younger swimmers. Chris said this is consistent with USMS goals, and she would be willing to send our LMSC brochures to college swim coaches for distribution. She asked who has a supply of the brochures; some thought Linda Van Ocker did, so Chris will contact her. Chris also stated that Pam did a lot of work on the survey, which we could use as a guide for what we could do for our membership.

Marketing Report M/S/P

USMS Convention Reports

Presented by Laurie Hug and Christine Schroeder

This year the Del Val had four delegates (Laurie, Dave Diehl, Melinda Wolff, and Chris Schroeder) attending the USMS portion of the U.S. Aquatic Sports (USAS) Convention in Greensboro, N.C. Sept 12-16, 2012. The first three represented Del Val LMSC while Dave is on the USMS Executive Committee. The reports by Laurie, Chris, and Melinda are on our web. Chris pointed out that she attended several workshops on LMSC development which can benefit our LMSC (see page two of her report). Sue Watts said it would be important for us to have benchmarks for our yearly goals, which might provide the basis for follow-up membership surveys. She thought a sub-committee using teleconferencing would be a good way to start the process.

Convention Report M/S/P

Meet Schedule

Presented by Dick Jackson

Laurie asked if two meets are scheduled for the same day, how do we prioritize? In the past we always used seniority as the deciding factor for which team received priority in meet dates. We agreed that sanctioned meets should have first priority, so the priority would go as follows: sanctioned meet with seniority, sanctioned meet without seniority, recognized meet with seniority, recognized meet without seniority. At this point we have three tentative meets: Lower Bucks, Burlington County CC, and LaSalle. The UMLY 50 meter meet was cancelled because diving is prohibited, and the pool needs renovation. Because we are not hearing from past meet directors in a timely manner, we need to contact them to determine if the meet is to be offered again. Chris suggested waiving the \$50 sanction fee if meet directors notify George by a certain date, e.g. next year's annual LMSC meeting.

Team Reports

Once again time was running short, so team reports were very brief.

Colonials 1776 – Although the 1776 representative was absent, Laurie encouraged swimmers to enter the Upper Dublin short course meters meet on 11/3 and swim relays; also meet volunteers are needed.

Fins: George Horan reported they have six practices a week at Friends Select, their membership numbers are up (including younger swimmers), but they will need a pool for practice next summer. If anyone knows of one, contact George or someone on team. The Fins came in third in IGLA championships in Iceland with 20 swimmers, and ten Fins went to a meet in Paris the prior week.

Pennypack: Melissa Krupa reported they have forty-one swimmers, including new swimmers, who are active in local meets. They had several swimmers at George Mason, and six at Nationals.

New Business

Laurie stated that people are needed for the following positions:

- Newsletter Editor – There was discussion about ending the Lane Line newsletter since we have an active website and Face Book page. Rich stated that only 30 of our 911 members do not have e-mail. The group agreed to end the Lane Line.
- Social Chair - A motion was made to nominate Steve Dougherty and Geoff Meyers as Co-chairs of the Social Committee pending their approval; M/S/P.

- Fitness Chair - Sue Watts volunteered to be Fitness chair; M/S/P. Chris offered to help out, and thought Melinda Wolff may be willing to also, since she attended Fitness committee meetings at the convention. Sue asked that swimmers forward ideas to her for this committee.
- Treasurer: It was thought Melinda Wolff might be willing to serve, but in her absence, Rich is to send an e-mail to our membership soliciting a volunteer to fill the position; Dan will also post notice on web. Anyone interested in serving should notify Laurie and copy Pat by 11/30.

Solicitations - Laurie has been getting inquiries from people wanting to provide services to our membership (e.g. clinics, endless pools), or seek donations from them. There was discussion about how to handle these requests, and if there should be a distinction between for-profit and non-profit groups. The group felt that paid ads on the website might be an option but didn't want to make a hasty decision. The group recognized that there might be some events, e.g. clinics that would be of interest to our membership. Chris suggested that the NO might provide guidance. For the time being, Laurie will continue to refer these types of inquiries to local coaches. It was agreed that in no case will we give out our members' e-mail addresses.

USMS Registration fee increase – This is the last year of the planned USMS registration fee increase (for a total of \$35, of which our LMSC keeps \$2). Discussion ensued, and a motion was made to increase our total LMSC registration fee in 2014 to \$38, but to keep the fees for the 18 - 24 y.o. and 70+ age groups at \$10. Motion was seconded, and passed with one opposed.

New Sub-committee - The group voted to establish a new sub-committee called "Investing in Our LMSC" whose purpose is to explore and develop ideas for programs and services to benefit and grow our membership. The impetus for establishing the sub-committee came from convention workshops on LMSC development. The sub-committee will use teleconferencing to conduct business, so participants don't have to travel. Chris agreed to chair the sub-committee, and recommended that Sue, Pam, Pat and the new treasurer be on the committee as well as any other interested member. Rich agreed to include a call for volunteers in his e-mail to the membership. The sub-committee targeted the end of January for reporting their progress to the Board via teleconference.

Non-Recognized meets – George reported that he had fielded inquiries about non-recognized meets, e.g. Senior Games, and wondered what our position is. Laurie recommended that we separate non-recognized meets and swims from recognized and sanctioned ones on our web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Schroeder, Secretary
Electronic copy submitted to USMS National Office on 11/13/12