

**United States Masters Swimming (USMS)  
Delaware Valley Local Masters Swimming Committee (DVLMSC)  
Minutes of Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 28, 2018**

**Welcome**

The annual membership meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Patterson in the Parents' Room of Germantown Academy, Fort Washington, PA at 12:45 p.m. Everyone introduced themselves. Attending: Chairperson Tom Patterson, Vice Chair Jeremy Gross, Treasurer Steve Dougherty, Chris Schroeder, Kimmie Inverso, Geoff Meyer, Laurie Hug, Dave Diehl, Gary Sangmeister, Dan Allen, Dave Schneider, Janet Jastremski, Pamela Shepard, George Horan, Hannah Plimpton, Louise Darlington, and David Kalb. USMS clubs represented were: Colonials 1776, Spring Valley Y, FINs, Penn Heron Open Water Swimming (OWS) and Unattached.

**Secretary's Report**

Presented by Christine Schroeder for Barbara Burke, Secretary  
Barbara Burke submitted the minutes from our 2017 Annual Meeting to USMS, which along with our Treasurer's report, were posted on the [USMS](#) website. They and committee reports were also posted on our [LMSC website](#).

The Secretary's Report, detailing significant actions and / or decisions made by the officers and /or Board of Directors (BOD) during the time between annual meetings was also posted on our website. Chris addressed the following in the Secretary's Report:

- 1) Officer's terms begin 30 days after their election per Article 5 of our By-Laws.
- 2) The Chair appoints a Nominating Committee per Article 3 of By-Laws.

Geoff Meyer motioned to accept the Secretary's Report/S/P

**Registrar's Report**

Presented by Janet Jastremski, Registrar  
DVLMSC has 959 members as of 9/17/18 (down from 1,084 last year), 35 registered clubs, and 71 self-identified coaches. We took in \$3,047 in membership fees, and received \$890 in individual donations. Currently we charge a \$3 individual fee and a \$5 club transfer fee. Laurie learned from the USMS CEO that we have the lowest LMSC membership fee in the country.

There has been difficulty this past year offering the one-event USMS membership fee; see report for details. The USMS portion of the individual membership fee increases to \$45 for 2019; the group opted to hear the Treasurer's report before deciding the LMSC fees.

Jeremy Gross motioned to accept the Registrar's Report/S/P

**Treasurer's Report**

Presented by Steve Dougherty, Treasurer  
Steve discussed the interim report from 1/1/18 to 9/30/18 (final report must go to USMS 12/31/18). At the end of 2017 our balance was \$22,331.97; it is \$16,791.23 as of 9/30/18. The budget is the average of prior years. Expenses so far this year are about \$9,500; the 2018 LMSC Championship meet cost about twice as much this year as last; we provided t-shirts and more people attended the social this year. Revenue is about \$3,900, but will increase as memberships are renewed by the end of the year.

Discussion about USMS requirement that two signatures are required on checks above \$5,000. Chris stated Article 8d of our By-Laws requires two signers for checks exceeding \$500, so we are well-within the USMS standard.

Discussion about promoting USMS with College Club swimmers. They can join USMS for \$25 and then swim in our meets. We can waive the entry fee through Club Assistant for College Club swimmers at our LMSC championship meet if we want.

Discussion about the need to have a Finance Committee per By-Laws Article 8.  
Chris Schroeder motioned to re-establish a Finance Committee composed of the Treasurer, Secretary, Registrar, and at least one other member S/P  
Geoff Meyer and Jeremy Gross volunteered to be the designated members.  
Kim Inverso motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report/S/P

#### *2019 DVLMSC Fees*

Jeremy Gross motioned to increase the individual member and end of year fees to \$5 each /S/P  
Hannah Plimpton motioned to keep the Club and Workout Group fees at \$0 S/P  
Janet Jastremski motioned to keep the Club Transfer Fee at \$5 /S/P

One-event Fee: Discussion about problems encountered with the one-event fee and need for consistency across pool and open water events. Louise Darlington, coach of Penn Heron requested more information about this, which Laurie & Janet provided.  
Jeremy Gross motioned that one-event fees for any DV event not be allowed /S/Did not Pass  
Hannah Plimpton motioned to allow the one-event fee only for clinics and for competitive events registered through Club Assistant /S/P

Tom Patterson motioned to keep Sanctioned Pool Meet fee at \$25 / S/P  
Tom Patterson motioned to keep the Recognized pool meet fee at \$100/S/P  
Tom Patterson motioned to keep the Open Water Event Fee at former fees /S/P

*Secretary's Note:* After the meeting Jeremy Gross conducted the annual financial review. required by our By-Laws. He found the Treasurer's report and bank statements to be in order.

#### **Sanctions Report**

Presented by George Horan, Committee Chair  
Janet asked if meets received a sanction number before payment of sanction fees; George replied that they did.  
Kim Inverso motioned to approve the Sanctions Report/S/P

#### **Competition Report**

Presented by Gary Sangmeister, Committee Chair  
Discussion about groups having difficulty retaining new swimmers, especially younger ones. Competition numbers are down. It seems a core group of swimmers stay in masters, others don't. USMS notes a similar trend – the largest age group in 1987 was 25-39; now the average age is 50. Hannah mentioned that younger swimmers don't realize masters is easier than college and age- group swimming. On some of our teams, only about 1/3 of the group competes and the rest are fitness swimmers. Coaches need to drive participation in events. We need to reach out to College Clubs to encourage participation in events like ePostals and our Championship meet.

It was decided to remain with Upper Dublin for our 2019 Championship meet; if we cannot, we will pursue Wilson in Reading. We will also put out a bid notice in the spring for the 2020 championship meet, and research possibly holding a clinic at Wissahickon High School. Gary has updated the records.

Pam Shepard motioned to accept the Competition Report/S/P

### **Website Report**

Presented by Dan Allen, Web Master

No significant changes. Discussion about posting committee reports on web *before* annual meeting to encourage meeting attendance. Committee chairs would need to submit their reports earlier than they do now, and an officer should review them before posting. Many events are listed as "Tentative" on our website because we haven't received an active link to those meets. Dave Schneider motioned to accept the Website Report/S/P

### **Top 10/Records Report**

Presented by Tom Patterson, Committee Chair

There is some overlap in this report with Gary's report and other discussions.

Geoff Meyer motioned to accept the Top 10 Report/S/P

### **Coaches Report**

Presented by Dave Schneider, Committee Chair

Although Dave could not attend the October USMS Coaches Clinic in Maryland, Laurie did and said it was very good. Other LMSC's sent groups of coaches; participants did not have to be a USMS- certified coach. Louise is a Level 3 coach, but doesn't get coach-specific mailings (although all coaches should). Geoff stated that self-identified coaches in our LMSC should be notified about upcoming meets to encourage participation. Hannah found that DVLMSC has 34 USMS-certified coaches. Janet can send group-specific emails if someone sends her the exact wording. Louise indicated that a personal connection is important and is what motivated her to attend this meeting. Dave will reach out to the coaches of the 35 clubs to encourage participation and attendance at the upcoming Washington, D.C. coach certification class.

Geoff Meyer motioned to accept the Coaches Report/S/P

### **Officials Report**

Presented by Dave Diehl, Committee Chair

There is only one USMS-certified official in our LMSC and three in nearby LMSC's. Dave is attempting to identify others nearby. He strongly recommends that some of us become USMS-certified stroke and turn officials. The process is fairly easy and there is no fee; information will be posted on our website. Steve added that at the convention Officials session, it was recommended that new officials shadow an experienced one for at least two meets.

Hannah Plimpton motioned to accept the Officials Report S/P

### **Open Water Report**

Presented by Tom Patterson behalf of Delia Perez, Committee Chair

Tom referred us to Delia's very detailed report.

Tom Patterson motioned to accept the Open Water Report/S/P

### **Marketing Report**

Presented by Pam Shepard, Committee Chair

Pam has been seeking pools in South Jersey to start masters teams but so far has been unsuccessful. Swimmers want coached workouts and reasonable costs. Both the Kroc Center and the Boys & Girls Club in Camden have nice pools, but are unable to host a masters group. Pam is still the Administrator for our Face book page. She would like to have something electronically about masters to send to interested swimmers. Tom will work with her on this.

Geoff Meyer motioned to accept the Marketing Report/S/P

### **Fitness Report**

Kim Inverso, Committee Chair

Kim discussed dry land clinics she held in Bryn Mawr and at the national convention. Only USMS members participated in these clinics, which were well received. Our Treasurer reiterated that costs for 2-3 more clinics are already in the budget. Janet mentioned that Laurie's Virtual Challenge swim was well-received by our members, but it was a lot of work. There was discussion about coordinating USMS Fitness swims and/or ePostals among the various clubs in our LMSC, e.g. same-day participation.

Geoff Meyer motioned to accept the Fitness Report/S/P

### **Social/Recognition Report**

Presented by Jeremy Gross, Co-Chair

Details about the point system used to determine award winners can be found in Jeremy's report. The system is weighed heavily toward All-Americans; do we want to continue this way? Laurie suggested adding the points a swimmer earns at Nationals into the scoring system. It was reiterated that only the committee votes on award recipients. It is difficult to decide Open Water recipients because there are so few sanctioned OWS events. The group decided that a swimmer can win only once per age group (age at time of decision).

Geoff Meyer motioned to accept the Social/Recognition Report/S/P

### **USMS Convention Reports**

Our LMSC again earned three (3) delegate spots to the convention in Jacksonville, Florida September 26-30, 2018. Delegates were Steve Dougherty, Kim Inverso, and Jeremy Gross. Laurie attended as a member of the USMS Long Distance Committee so our LMSC paid her way as well. This year Dave Diehl finished his term as an At-Large Director on the Executive Committee for Colonies Zone.

Laurie Hug was one of only 15 USMS members nationally to receive the Dot Donnelly Service Award at the convention this year. This award is presented annually to USMS members whose volunteer service has contributed to the growth, improvement or success of USMS locally, regionally, and/or nationally. Congratulations, Laurie!

Our delegates split up and attended as many different sessions as they could, but they all attended the House of Delegates, and Digital Transformation-Surviving in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. They have submitted very informative reports which are posted on our website; some highlights:

#### **Steve Dougherty**

Jeff Roddin stepped down as Chair of the Championship committee. Positive check-in for all 200's and above will be required for all National meets. Some of the sessions he attended were: Colonies Zone meeting, Championships, Engaging Volunteers, Investments, and Officials. See his report for details on the USMS Officials Certification process.

#### **Laurie Hug**

Jeff Strahota is now the At-Large Director on the Executive Committee for Colonies Zone. Laurie's report lists future National Championships. Some of the sessions she attended were: Colonies Zone, Coaches, Open Water, Long Distance, History and Archives, and others.

### Kim Inverso

Kim's report discusses the three dry land sessions she offered, and thoughts about attending the convention.

### Jeremy Gross

This was Jeremy's first year representing DVLMSC at the convention; some of the sessions he attended were: Colonies Zone meeting, History & Archives, Records & Tabulation, LMSC Development, Star System for Volunteers, and Getting Times to Count for Top 10.

The next convention will be September 11-15, 2019 in St. Louis, Mo.  
Geoff Meyer motioned to accept the Convention Reports/S/P

### **Team Reports**

#### *Spring Valley YMCA – Gary Sangmeister*

There is a core group of swimmers, more men than women, Saturday workouts better attended than weekday, six swimmers went to Nationals, where Jeremy had a fabulous meet (3 individual and 2 relay first places).

#### *Colonials 1776 – Steve Dougherty*

Dave Schneider reported that Valley Forge Masters (a 1776 sub-group) continues to have a core group of swimmers, with more women than men.

#### *Penn Heron Open Water Swim Club – Louise Darlington*

Louise will offer several different OWS's and clinics in spring 2019 at Blue Marsh Lake, a very swimmer-friendly site near Reading. Events include escorted distance swims, night swims and "escorting for paddlers". Swimmers only need be USMS members and pay the registration fee. Her events are posted on our website. The group is very diverse and wet suits are welcome!  
Geoff Meyer motioned to accept the Team Reports/S/P

### **Nominations**

#### *Treasurer*

Jeremy Gross nominated Steve Dougherty for a third term /S/P  
Steve agreed to serve.

#### *Secretary*

Steve Dougherty nominated Barb for a second-year term /S/P

### **Old Business**

*Nominating Committee* - Laurie reiterated that we should have a Nominating Committee for Officers. Chris added it is the Chair's responsibility to appoint the committee per our Bylaws; Tom will do so next year.

## **New Business**

*College Clubs* - Jeremy volunteered to reach out to local College Club swimmers to share information and encourage them to join USMS.

*Member Benefit Sub-Committee* – Chris suggested establishing a new sub-committee under the Fitness Committee to examine ways to provide valued services, events, and/or products to our membership. Kimmie and the group are in favor of this idea. Hannah Plimpton volunteered to be on the sub-committee. Laurie suggested sending an email to the entire membership inviting others to be on the sub-committee.

*24-Hour Swim* - David Kalb asked if there was any interest in holding a 24-hour swim. People would swim a mile every hour for 24 hours, as an individual or relay member. Tom mentioned that perhaps it could start as a 12-hour swim if a pool could be located.

*Unattached Swimmers* - Geoff Meyer began a discussion about how encouraging unattached swimmers to join a team, but no final decision was reached.

Tom Patterson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. /S/P

Submitted by Christine Schroeder for Barbara Burke, Secretary  
Electronic copy submitted to USMS National Office on November 12, 2018