

**UNITED STATES MASTERS SWIMMING
GREAT LAKES ZONE
MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 26, 1997**

KENTUCKY LMSC

Bill Tingley
Joanne Tingley
Tom Mester
Meg Smath

GRIN LMSC

Babs Larsen
Jim Barber
Sharon Wise
Doug Church
George Quigley
Melisa Rinker

CENTRAL LMSC

Irene David
Dave Ackermann
Tom McCabe
Patty Redig
Bill Mulliken

LAKE ERIE LMSC

Darlynne Ferguson
John Daily
Maureen Koss
M.J. Amsbury

ALLEGHENY LMSC

Stan Prazer

MICHIGAN LMSC

Donald Kroeger
Eric Nordlund

OHIO LMSC

Jack Kangas
Linda McGowan
Tom Tripp

WISCONSIN LMSC

Peter Lee

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Skip Thompson at 4:02 PM. Skip introduced people attending Convention for the first time including:

Eric Nordlund (Michigan)
Melissa Rinker (GRIN)
Patty Redig (Central)

M.J. Amsbury (Lake Erie)
Dave Ackermann (Central)

Jim Barber (GRIN)
Tom McCabe (Central)

Skip handed out copies of the Zone Newsletter and last year's minutes. The financial report was not complete because LMSC have not paid assessments to date and USMS has lost the 1996 zone expense report Skip Thompson submitted last January for 1996 calendar year expenses. As soon as this is taken care of (reimbursement), the financial report will be prepared and distributed and mailed to all attendees. LMSC were invoiced for 1996 but not 1997 as of yet. A balance of \$1,302.90 not including any expenses for 1996 is what is currently available. A motion by Tom Tripp to have no Zone Dues in 1998 because of the large balance was seconded by Jack Kagas and passed. Financial reports will be prepared on a more regular basis.

Zone Committee Report - Pending Legislation to elect the Zone Chairman starting in 1998 in the House of Delegates in even numbered years instead of with the other officers on the Executive Committee in the odd numbered years. Our members expressed concern that this would give considerable voting power to the West Coast Zones and thought the current practice provided for more equal representation. The Great Lakes Zone voted to continue with the current practice of the elected Zone Chairman in the Zone Meetings by the Zone Delegates and the Zone Rep votes accordingly.

The Election Process / Meet the Candidates forum was discussed and the Zone Delegates thought it was helpful but too long. It was felt that questions should be submitted earlier and sorted out in advance.

Elections - Skip Thompson running for Zone Rep for 2 more years was unanimously re-elected to another term. Skip informed the members of the Great Lakes Zone that he will be voting for the new Zone Chairman and his vote will represent the vote of the Great Lakes Zone. Candidates for the office are Hugh Moore and Dot Donnelly. A discussion entailed about the qualifications of both candidates. A vote was taken to determine the candidate the Great Lakes Zone wanted. A motion was made not to include the results of this vote in the minutes. Only two people were opposed to the candidate selected.

Zone Rep Plans for the next two years to help LMSC's.

1. Carl House and Jim Matysek will help assist Skip in developing links between the Zone and LMSC web pages. Most LMSC have web pages now and others can be developed.

2. Work with Meet Directors to improve Zone Meets.
3. Look for ways to improve nomination and election process.
4. Increase communication between the National & Local levels.

LMSC need to hear more from Zone Rep and USMS National Office & Executive Committee more often. Need more information distributed between LMSC & Clubs throughout the year. Find ways to share resources. LMSC Chairs and other Officers within the Zone need to meet at least once a year outside the Convention. The next meeting will be held at the Fall Classic SCM Zone Meet in Indianapolis after the last event on Saturday, November 1, 1997. An agenda will be sent out before the meeting. Need a formal mechanism on how people are notified about committee assignments as well as what is posted on the web page. Future Zone Meetings are planned for the Stroke Clinic held at Miami of Ohio University on January 10, 1997 and the SCY Zone Meet at Northwestern University in April 1997. The Zone could also have a Zone Meeting sometime during the USMS Short Course Nationals in Indianapolis in May 1997.

Executive Director - Organization supporting this idea. Need a more centralized base for personnel managing and servicing USMS members. USMS is the only organization in USAS that doesn't have a permanent office & staff. The organization is getting to large to rely on volunteers. There is a concern over the roles & responsibilities of the Executive Director. The Executive Committee needs to define a mission and responsibilities so the delegates can understand this concept better. The delegates are in favor of investigating the issues further and hearing results at the next Convention.

USMS Great Lakes Zone Clinic - A motion was made and passed to approve Miami of Ohio University for the Coach / Mentor Clinic on January 10 - 11, 1998. The Zone will provide support for this activity. Bonnie Adair or Clay Evans will be the featured coach.

Zone Meet Schedule - LMSC distributed meet schedules except Wisconsin which will set their meet schedule at their annual meeting in October.

Zone Championships - The 1998 SCY Zone Championship was awarded to the Central LMSC. Its going to be held at Northwestern University on April 17 - 19, 1997. Bids were tabled for the LCM and SCM 1998 Championships until the next Zone Meeting at Indianapolis. LMSC are to provide a list of new swimmers for 1998 to Melissa Rinker prior to November 1, 1997 for the Fall Classic/Zone Meet.

Zone Meet Entries should be included in each LMSC's newsletter. In order to encourage participation these meets need to be promoted.

Zone Awards - Questions were raised if there is a need for special awards for Zone Meets. Presently each LMSC provides its own awards. This issue was tabled until the next meeting. Bulk ordering of medals from Maxwell for the Zone was also brought up.

Jack Kangas of Ohio announced his intention to hold a Tri State Dual Meet between Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan for late 1998 or early 1999. This will be discussed further in future Zone Meetings.

Open Water Championships - Two bids within the Zone competing for the same championship against each other. In 1996 and 1997 there were no bids in our Zone for National Championships. Need better coordination and communication within the Zone so this will not happen again.

Boarder Dispute - The Minnesota LMSC wanted to annex the county of La Crosse which is currently in the Wisconsin LMSC. Neither Zone Rep (Leo Létendre & Skip Thompson) was notified of this proposal. The Wisconsin LMSC was unaware of this proposal. The Legislation Committee recommended to reject this proposal and the House of Delegates agreed. The Zone Reps will work with both LMSC to resolve the issues that will be satisfactory to all parties involved.