

New Mexico Masters Swimming
Annual Meeting
23 Mar, 2019

Attendees: Blane Armstrong, Kay Armstrong (Secretary), Connie Dayton, Megan Decker, Nick Decker (Web Master), Teddy Decker (Vice Chair), Barb Deshler (Treasurer), Robert Goldie (Coaches Chair), Cristina Kawamoto (Registrar), Jim Street, Joel Swartz, Bob Wilson (Chairman)

Welcome and Overview – Bob Wilson

-Commended the effort and participation needed to host the recent LMSC-supported weekend of swimming activity: Masters Coach Certification; Adult Learn to Swim (ALTS) Coach Certification, and a stroke clinic (~35 participants and 5 volunteer coaches)

-Overview of February's Leadership Conference:

---All LMSCs (Local Masters Swimming Committee) have different goals based on the interests of the membership

----experience indicates NM leans towards open water events and triathlon training, less toward pool meets

----also, the social aspect of participation seems important to our members

----with those thoughts in mind, where should we go as a LMSC? [Anyone with ideas regarding activities / events please contact any board member](#)

-From USMS (US Masters Swimming): overall numbers are going down

---nationally, registration is down by almost one-third

---perhaps we need to do a better job of educating swimmers of the benefits of joining USMS

---additional discussion later led by Vice Chair

-We have a volunteer for ALTS programs, Tamera Testerman

---expect activity this summer

---USMS will provide some funding for caps and goggles for those new to swimming

Treasurer Report – Barb Deshler

-Financial documentation changed over the last year

---reports look different, but changes make it easier for National leadership to roll up the information

---our income is from dues, expenses include travel to regional and national conferences, scholarships for college-age new members and coaches dues, and the annual breakfast

----total assets as of 31 Dec, 2018: \$17,894.76

-Copy of proposed budget for 2019 is attached

---anticipated income (membership fees) - \$3,000

---anticipated expenses (coach development, conferences, scholarships) - \$6,550

---deficit is covered by assets for the time being

---Teddy made a motion for the LMSC board to send the budget to the members for approval, Christina seconded

Registrar Report - Cristina Kawamoto

-14 % decrease in 2019 registered members: 325 (down from 379 in 2018)

-One new club: Highpoint Masters

- 5 clubs (NMMS, Los Alamos, Santa Fe Aquatics, Highpoint, and JCC
- many clubs consist of one or more workout groups and unaffiliated swimmers

- Discussed benefit of registering all of NM in one club, with current clubs continuing as workout groups
- initiated this effort several years ago, but unsuccessful
- major benefit is found in setting up relays at meets – only members of the same club can be on a relay team; no apparent downside
- discussion will continue with members in other parts of the state

Teddy Decker – Vice Chair

- Teddy is also on the USMS Board of Directors, and is the Southwest Zone Rep
- provided insight into board discussions regarding membership and website changes

-USMS membership update

- USMS CEO is focused on providing a standard level of service across the nation
- understand that different clubs have different interests, but members moving from one club to another should know what services to expect in their new location (for instance, all coaches should be USMS certified)
- expectation is that as USMS clubs meet the standard, members who move will seek out another USMS swim organization, rather than a non-affiliated location. Over time this should grow the national membership levels and bring all clubs up to a higher level of service
- another USMS plan is to change the yearly fee structure and implementation
- this will allow clubs to implement rolling 12-month registration periods, rather than Jan-Dec
- this also eliminates the potential to pay the yearly fee for a partial year, encourage additional folks to join USMS
- overall, the USMS plan is not to grow simply to grow, it's to maximize benefits for the lowest cost possible
- many benefit from the services (e.g., one-day registration for events), but overall the organization gains if a group becomes a club with annually registered members, rather than a number of individuals registering for one-time events

-USMS Website

- undergoing a three-phase upgrade
- site has already been restructured, which may make navigation more difficult during the transition process
- many security upgrades are being installed
- added 'learning' software – user preferences are tracked, so that recommended content meets the user's interests
- no longer including non-registered clubs on state 'where to swim' pages in an effort to encourage participation in USMS

-Discussion initiated regarding insurance coverage for non-USMS swimmers

- potential for all on site to lose coverage if non-covered person part of the group (30-day waiver could provide an exclusion to this potentiality)
- additional questions / what-ifs / discussion followed, indicates the LMSC board needs to better understand the by-laws, and request guidance from USMS if needed

- Reminded the board that all are on two-year terms, last election was 2017

- general membership must vote on Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and Registrar positions
- all current board members indicated they were interested in retaining their position
- Teddy made a motion to approve the slate and send to the members for approval, Kay seconded
- All NM Masters will be invited to vote, with a quorum the number of responses

Web Master – Nick Decker

- took over the website about 5 years ago
- currently hosted on Google Sites, free but can be difficult to use
- previous web master uploaded many pictures, many of which are dated
- as part of the USMS website update, states may be hosted by the national website
- currently in Beta testing
- LMSC would own / manage content, site would be hosted for free
- enables the state site to easily tie in content from the national site

-Newsletter

- this is another promotional effort that has been discussed; should it be separate or part of the website?
- discussed content – member stories, team pictures and events, etc.
- should a newsletter be separate from the website, or part of?

Coaches Chair – Bobby Goldie

- Lobos will again host the “Splash Away Cancer” event: 18 May, 7AM, Johnson Pool
- all check proceeds go to the UNM Cancer Center (minus service fee for PayPal payments)
- 2019 swim includes option to swim at own pool, simply register and commit to a distance or swim for time, send donations to Lobos
- raises \$12-14,000 each year
- <http://www.splashawaycancer.org/>
- ongoing discussion included thoughts around registering event / committee as a 501(c); remaining at status quo (workload vice potential to increase donations); potential to add an Adult Learn to Swim lesson (next year); joining with annual UNM Lobo campus-wide fundraising event; potential to pass the event off to the UNM swim team (they are already a 501(c), and could provide some ‘insurance’ against a future team cut)

-Two upcoming swim clinics

- open water clinic, taught by Zoe Nance,
- 20 Apr Cochiti Lake, 10-12 AM, sanctioned by USA Triathlon
- <http://www.newmexicosportsonline.com/Swimming/ZoeFitness-Adult-Open-Water-Swim-Clinic-2019/67937>
- pool swim clinic, taught by Clark Smith (part of what is considered the best 1650 race ever)
- Highpoint, 4 May, Masters register with the 12&Up groups
- <https://fitterandfaster.com/swim-clinics/explosive-performance-starts-and-turns-albuquerque-nm/>

-Reiterated that we all need to balance the goals of the whole group / team / club

- this encourages and retains membership
- usually see a bump in Olympic year, so should see a rise in 2020
- however, how do we overcome the fear factor for those who express interest, give it a try and seem to enjoy swimming, but don't follow through by registering?

Open Water Chair

-This position has been empty for a number of years

---Zoe Nance has volunteered to fill (was unable to attend LMSC board meeting)

---planning 2 additional open water swims in addition to 20 Apr event

Addendum – 20 Apr 2019

Minutes, proposed board, and budget were emailed to all NMMS members who had provided an email address; requested a response indicating yes / no / abstain votes for the proposed board and budget. The current board agreed that the number of responses received would indicate a quorum.

Responses – 31 total

30 yes / 1 abstain for the proposed budget:

30 yes / 1 abstain for the proposed board:

Chair – Bob Wilson

Vice Chair – Teddy Decker

Treasurer – Barb Deshler

Secretary – Kay Armstrong

Registrar – Christina Kawamoto