

“All-hands” Peer-to-Peer Teleconference on Board Vibrancy

December 14, 2015

The items posted in this section are notes from conversations that are not reviewed or approved by the attendees. The information in these notes is not intended to override guidelines, policies and procedures listed elsewhere in the LMSC Guide to Operations or elsewhere on usms.org or in the USMS rule book.

Facilitated by Jerry Clark, LMSC Development Committee

Roll Call - Asked attendees to please respond the email to get an attendance list; not necessary but helpful for being able to follow up and attribute comments correctly. Approximately 55 volunteers attended.

Vibrancy at Annual Membership Meetings and Board Meetings

Pacific LMSC– A few years ago Peter Guadagni changed meeting to more of an event with speaker in a TED talk format, luncheon, coaches clinic, and workout. Very fortunate in having a large membership base for financial support and for speakers in the “local” area. Brings members together which encourages collaboration on the business side of masters swimming. 200 members have recently attended, have to cap workout at 100. Annual meeting committee of about 3 people starts months in advance to get a speaker and a venue. Pacific LMSC board is about 15 members with weighted membership from its local clubs (no regional club).

Southern Pacific – board meets every month and if representatives attend 50% of meetings then they get their annual USMS dues paid and national meets, too. Typically 40-50 people on teleconf board meeting calls. \$600 budget in meet “benefits.” ~16 people getting dues paid \$1300 of \$75K annual budget.

New Jersey – Embraces a culture of brainstorming, open listening and guided conversation. Coaches chair and Fitness chair collaborate in offering clinic for coaches and swimmers (limited to 100). Annual awards banquet recognizes continuous membership to recognize all types of swimmers (fitness, tri, competitive, dog paddlers, etc.) and this year they are recognizing people up to 30 years of membership in USMS in New Jersey. Recognize volunteers too, using USMS branded merchandise.

Georgia – Conference calls are good for keeping people engaged in the business of the LMSC because they are easier than travelling to a FtF meeting. Annual meeting is held in conjunction with a swim meet. Some volunteer board members are found then.

Ozark – (Leo’s historical) Summer Picnic in good weather and discuss possible rules/legislation changes prior to submission dates.

North Carolina – considering a board member/officer rotation and looking for suggestions on how to set that up and how it works.

Pacific Northwest – Very stable board officers and then when a vacancy in treasurer occurred it was difficult to find a replacement. Found a new member in PN who was active elsewhere in USMS to become registrar so that registrar could rotate into treasurer. Got more people onto board each time they hosted Nationals because those people wanted to continue involvement.

Maryland – 900 members with 8 board members alternating positions.

Michigan – when there is a board with a really good level of commitment at the LMSC and national level then it can be hard to get people to commit to the level of work that previous board members have exhibited. MI has added term limits to the LMSC board terms. Annual meeting has free lunch.

Montana – small numbers and large area. When they get a willing volunteer then they ask them to serve with a smaller job like sanctions chair (fewer meets). They also try to send a different delegate to convention every year.

South Carolina – has struggled with board membership and has mostly been an effort of recruiting friends and educating them on what time commitment is and what the job entails. Has resulted in enlisting new board members over last 2 years.

Face to Face Planning meetings

Pacific spends an afternoon in planning. PV holds all FtF meetings (3x/yr). MT planning in January and reimburses board members for mileage.

Annual meetings

In the Great Lakes Zone, 6 of 8 LMSCs hold their annual meeting during LMSC champs. Some worry that we might only catch the competitive swimmers and miss many fitness swimmers with that practice.

Many thanks for attending!