

USMS CONVENTION – Orlando, FL 2004

Committee Name: Registration Session # (if more than one meeting): _____ Cmte. report #: 12

Minutes recorded by: Julie Heather Date/time of this meeting: Thursday, 9/16/2004, 10:30 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

1. MSA to include \$1200 in the budget for Anna Lea, Leo and Jim to meet with Tracy and Esther at the National Office to work out the procedures for online registration.

ACTION ITEMS

1. MSA that registrars have a backup plan in place.

Committee Chair: Anna Lea Roof Vice Chair(s): George Simon

Number of committee members present: 7 Absent: 4 Number of other delegates at this meeting: 46

Committee members present: George Simon, Jack Buchannan, Jim Lewis, Julie Heather, Tracy Grilli, Nancy Ridout, Esther Lyman (ex-officio, by speakerphone).

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at: 10:40 p.m.

1. Report from Esther Lyman: It's been a good year all around, not sure if we are going to meet the same registrations from last year. Last count is at about 40,000 members, about 93% of last year. Most of our members are in California. We have seen an unusual increase in recovering members from 10 years ago. Julie mentioned that an article by Bekah Wright in the LA Times probably helped with Southern Pacific probably helped. Committee members would like the URL for the article.
2. Permanent ID: Problems included that the registration program had to get out early and didn't pick up registrations from late in the year. This is a problem when people change LMSCs. We also had problems with one-event registrants, some were registered in past years so already had a permanent ID.
3. Leoware mail program: Julie described how she used Leo's new program to send out renewal invoices, which were very popular and saved Southern Pacific a lot of money. Julie is willing to help anyone who would like to do email invoicing this year.
4. Online registration: Jim Matysek gave us an overview of how online registration could work with USMS. Each LMSC charges it's own fees, which vary. Swimmers want to have the online registration option for convenience. Also will be useful for the procrastinators who register at the last minute. Advantages for LMSCs will be that you can capture the impulse registrations. Increase the accuracy and timeliness of re-registrations. Issues include: if it's easy to register for one LMSC and not another, then you might get people hopping to LMSCs that are easier, need to be for all at once. Has to handle new and re-registrations. Questions arise over privacy issues on re-registrations. Payment is a big deal. Need to have USMS merchant account, assumption is that we would offer credit card only. The other important issue is the distribution of funds. Variations in rates from one LMSC to another, and within LMSCs. Club affiliation, some clubs are more exclusive and don't want registrations online. Problem with clubs that haven't registered for the year yet. How do we allocate swimmer IDs to new members on the web (perhaps a block of IDs for the web). Jim is proposing a meeting between Tracy, Esther, Leo, Jim, and Anna Lea at the National Office to work on the process for doing on-line registration and money has been requested in the registration budget for this meeting.
5. Registrar Disaster Plan proposal: We had an incident this year where a registrar was hospitalized and some registrations needed for nationals were not processed. We discussed whether we need to have a plan in place. MSA that registrars have a backup plan in place.

The meeting was adjourned at: 12:05 p.m.

TASKS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR

None other than the action items listed above.