

2024 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Virtual

Committee Name: South Central Zone	Session #: 1
Committee Chair: Jacky Merianos	Vice Chair:
Minutes recorded by: Kris Wingenroth	Date/time of meeting: 8/28/24 5:30 pm

Actions Requiring Approval by the House of Delegates:

N/A

Motions Passed:

1. MSA to split the Zone expenses according to the registration numbers for each LMSC, as presented.
2. MSA to accept the idea of charging each LMSC up to 25 cents per 2024 registrant to cover 2025 zone expenses.

Number of zone members present: 17	Absent:	Number of other delegates present:
Zone members present:		
North Texas: Jacky Merianos* (Zone Chair, NT-Chair), Cindy Myer* (NT-Membership Coordinator, Fitness Chair), Megan Alpha* (NT-Communications Chair)		
Gulf: Kris Wingenroth* (Zone Secretary, BOD At-Large Director, GU-Secretary), Nicole Christensen* (Zone Webmaster, Zone Open Water Chair, GU-Chair), Stacey Eicks (GU-Vice-Chair), Patrick Harrington* (GU-Coach's Chair), Anna Bass* (GU-D&I Chair), Jill Gellatly* (USMS Treasurer, GU-College Club Swimming Liaison)		
Oklahoma: David Smith (OK-Chair), Maddie Sibilina* (OK)		
South Texas: Tim Murphy* (ST-Chair), Stacy Abrams (ST-Vice-Chair, Sanctions Chair), Susan Ingraham (Zone Champ Meet Records Chair, ST-Top Ten Chair, Coaches Chair), Ira Panzer* (ST-Treasurer), Lex Pegues*(ST), Amy Wagner* (ST)		
Arkansas: no members present		
Drop in by Ed Coates (USMS President, ST)		
*Indicates participants with voting privileges due to being designated delegates at the 2024 USMS Annual Meeting.		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm (CDT).

1. **Zone Chair report.** Membership numbers look strong. OK is already ahead of 2023. The other LMSCs are at or above 90% of the 2023 end of year numbers, except AR which is at 74%. The Zone now has 77 clubs compared to end of year 79 clubs in 2023. A Zone Championship Meet Advisory Committee was created to help zone meet directors. The committee consists of: Jacky Merianos (NT), Lynn Morrison (NT), Nicole Christensen (GU), Alana Wilson (GU), and Susan Ingraham (ST). Also, a new position of Zone Social Media Chair has been created to expand communications and marketing. Alana Wilson (GU) has taken this position. There were over 200 participants in both the Spring Zone Champs and the Summer Zone Champs. Five of the six Grand Prix Challenge open waters swims were held. The Cinco de Mayo swim had to be cancelled for safety reasons due to bad weather. Jacky offered congratulations to the following zone members: Ed Coates who was elected President of USMS, Kris Wingenroth who received the Ransom J. Arthur Award, Tom Wolf who is being inducted into the Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame and Bonnie Adams who was named the 2024 Pan American Masters Championship Head Coach.
2. **Presentation of the 2024 Jesse Coon Award winner.** Nicole Christensen was named the 2024 award winner. She received the award at the Summer Zone Championship. Congratulations, Nicole!

3. **Presentation of Zone Expenses and vote to reimburse these expenses to the North Texas LMSC.** The current total zone expenses have been \$698.67 and have been, or will be, paid by the North Texas LMSC.

These expenses are:

Website domain	\$ 36.16
Website & marketing tools	\$ 166.17
Jesse Coon Award	\$ 96.34
Grand Prix finisher awards	\$ 300.00 (estimate)
Grand Prix high point awards	\$ 100.00 (estimate)
Total:	\$ 698.67

A question was raised about how the cost of the Grand Prix Open Water awards should be split. It was pointed out that the attendees of the swims are primarily from the LMSC in which the swim is held, not distributed equally across the Zone. The idea of charging the event host a fee to cover the costs was presented as a possible alternative way to cover the costs of the awards. It was moved to split the cost of the zone expenses, including the cost of the Grand Prix awards, according to each LMSC's percent of zone registration (as has been done in the past). MSA. (Kris W. Patrick H.) (11-0-1).

The split presented was: AR \$35.93, Gulf - \$182.35, North Texas-\$221.48, Oklahoma-\$32.14, South Texas-\$226.37.

4. **Discussion of a budgeting proposal for 2025.** In an effort to establish a yearly South Central Zone budget, Zone Chair Jacky Merianos proposed that each LMSC agree to chip in up to a maximum of 25 cents for every registered member in their LMSC (from the prior year). This would allow LMSCs to know how much money to allocate for zone expenses in their own budgets as well as allow the Zone to know what amount they have available. MSA. (Nicole C., Maddie S.) (12-0-0).
5. **Zone Championship debrief and 2025 Zone Championship bids.** Jacky thanked the Woodlands Masters and Pegasus Aquatic Master for hosting the Spring and Summer Zone Championships. Both meets had over 200 participants. Bids for both the Spring and Summer South Central Zone Champs are being prepared but are not complete. The bids are expected to be available for review by October. An email vote will be taken by November 1st. The open water 2024 Grand Prix series has been a success with three events held in the Gulf LMSC and one in North Texas. The Cinco de Mayo swim was cancelled due to bad weather. Anyone wishing to hold a USMS sanctioned open water swim should contact the Zone Open Water Chair, Nicole Christensen
6. **Important 2025 Zone events and dates.** The USMS Spring Nationals will be held in San Antonio on April 27-30, 2025.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Review bids and select locations for the 2025 SCY Zone Championship and the 2025 LCM Zone Championship.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm CDT.
