

# Swimming Saves Lives Board of Trustees Meeting

## Conference Call

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Swimming Saves Lives Foundation		
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Jay DeFinis	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Brandon Franklin
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Brandon Franklin	<b>Meeting Date/time:</b>	April 1, 2020/12 PM EST

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### MOTIONS PASSED:

1. To temporarily change the emphasis of the Swimming Saves Lives Mission whereby all donations received from a future date, to be determined by USMS CEO Dawson Hughes, and to go no longer than to the end of 2020, will be utilized to support broad USMS initiatives, with a focus on membership and local issues, arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Number of committee members present: 11 (9 voting)      Absent: 1      Others: 2**

**Committee members present:** Jay DeFinis, Chair; Brandon Franklin, Vice Chair; Nancy Ridout; Maria Elias; Leo Letendre; Stan Benson; Patrick Weiss; Jeff Moxie; Kristina Henry; Bill Brenner (Ex-officio), Peter Guadagni (Ex-officio)

**Committee Members Absent:** Patricia Mathison

**Others Present:** Dawson Hughes, Carrie Stolar

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### MINUTES

- The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm EST by Chair, Jay DeFinis. Jay opened the meeting by thanking everyone for joining the call.
- Jay gave a quick overview of fundraising YTD and then turned it over to Dawson Hughes and Peter Guadagni to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on USMS.

### IMPACT OF COVID-19

- Dawson Hughes gave an overview of how COVID-19 was impacting the USMS community with the shutdown of almost all swim facilities around the country. In the short and medium term, he wants USMS to focus on supporting the membership base and the coaches. In the medium and long term, he wants to ensure USMS and the broad USMS community is prepared to open when the time comes. Although he didn't know when that would be or what form it would take, he wants to ensure the USMS Community is prepared.
- With those being the key priorities of USMS, Dawson wanted to discuss with the Committee how SSL could fit into that set of objectives.
- Peter Guadagni specifically asked how SSLF could broaden its charter during this uncertain time with the goal of enhancing the SSLF program in the long run while assisting USMS with its primary mission in the short term.

### SHORT TERM SHIFT IN MISSION

- The concept of shifting the mission of SSL in the short term to assisting USMS with their primary mission of supporting the USMS community in some way during this pandemic was discussed.
- It was acknowledged that with pools closed and no one swimming at all, there wasn't currently a market for teaching anyone to swim, particularly with April Adult Learn to Swim Month not happening.

- It was further acknowledged that many USMS programs around the country were struggling and thus, USMS's primary mission was being challenged.
- Therefore, the SSL committee agreed that shifting the mission of SSL in the short term, to support the broader USMS mission, was appropriate. What that specifically entailed was discussed with many ideas presented. It was agreed that Dawson Hughes take those ideas and develop a role for SSL within the framework of the USMS response to this crisis and report back with the committee. To that end, the following motion was put forward to the committee:

***"To temporarily change the emphasis of the Swimming Saves Lives Mission whereby all donations received from a future date, to be determined by USMS CEO Dawson Hughes, and to go no longer than to the end of 2020, will be utilized to support broad USMS initiatives, with a focus on membership and local issues, arising from the COVID 19 pandemic."***

The motion carried unanimously.

It was made clear on the call that no donations made to SSL prior to the announcement of the new short term change in mission would be made available for the new initiatives discussed above. Those funds would continue to support the primary mission of SSL as that is the mission under which those funds were donated.

## **2020 AUCTION**

- Last year USMS held the first annual silent auction during the Convention. There was discussion about whether to continue with that during this period of time. Leo Letendre stated he felt it would be fun and a good diversion. If put in the right context and in congruent with the marketing efforts of the National Office as helping our swimmers it could be successful. This would be considered in context of timing and priorities and communicated back to the members.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25pm.

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