

2023 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Hybrid

Committee Name:	Southwest Zone	Session #:	N/A
Committee Chair:	Arlette Godges, SPMS	Vice Chair:	N/A
Minutes recorded by:	Lucila Davies, SPMS	Date/time of meeting:	August, 24, 2023, 9:00 PM EDT

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

NONE

Motions Passed:

1. Motion to approve the 2023 Southwest Zone Annual Meeting:
 - a. Anita Cole makes a motion
 - b. Becky Cleavenger seconds
 - c. MSP
2. Motion to nominate Arlette Godges to continue as Southwest Zone Chair.
 - a. Judy Gillies nominates/motions
 - b. Anita Cole and Teddy Decker seconds
 - c. MSP: Arlette Godges will continue to be the Southwest Zone Chair
3. Little over \$1,000.00 Southwest Zone line item in USMS budget: Arlette Godges suggests splitting the money evenly among all four LMSCs. To access the money entirely is to split the money towards LMSC budgets.
 - a. Arlette Godges motions Anita Cole/Teddy Deckers to evenly split the Southwest Zone funds held by USMS among all four LMSCs in the Southwest Zone, MSP.

Number of committee members present:

Absent:

Number of other delegates present: 5

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Alina de Armas

Anita Cole, Arlette Godges (Zone Chair), Barb Sloan, Barbara Dunbar, Beata Konopka, Becky Cleavenger, Bill Brenner, Bill Sive, Christie Ciraulo, Cokie Lepinski, Cory Nguyen, Diana Dolan LaMar, Fiona Duncan, Hans Devouassoux, Jeff Commings, Jim Rowland, Judi Divan, Judy Gillies, Kenny Brisbin, Luci Davies, Marilyn Fink, Mary Hull, Omar de Armas, Peter Guadagni, Ralph Porrazzo, Rebecca Friedberg, Robert Mitchell, Robin Smith, Teddy Decker, Todd MacDonald, Virgil Chancy

Committee Members Absent:

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 PM EDT (6:01 PM PDT)

1. San Diego-Imperial (SI) Report, Barbara Dunbar, Chair:
 - The membership numbers for San Diego-Imperial LMSC are not quite back to pre-pandemic levels but are getting closer despite a number of closures and maintenance issues with various pool facilities due to increasing maintenance costs, deferred and overdue maintenance, deteriorated and failing pool infrastructures, lack of lifeguards, and lack of funding. This summer, the loss of open pools has fundamentally affected available workout space and the ability to run a summer LCM meet.

Lack of lifeguards and decreased staffing also have reduced the hours that pools are open. Open hours are often limited to times that are less desirable for Masters workouts or are completely unavailable for Masters programs. Despite those somber realities, participation and club numbers are returning to pre-COVID pandemic levels.

The City of San Diego remains in financial crisis. It must divert increasing funding toward the homeless population instead of investing in or maintaining community recreation and pool facilities. There continues to be slight improvement with the ongoing problems of City pool closures or reduced hours due to a lack of lifeguards, staff, and funding, resulting in quirky staffing hours.

San Diego-Imperial anticipates a continued, slow increase in renewals and new memberships and an increase in Masters workouts and lap swim availability, ultimately benefiting the entire swimming community.

SI LMSC has subsidized expenses associated with local Masters meets and officiating for over two decades and is continuing this policy. SI LMSC also subsidizes club registration renewal fees and subsidies for other programs, depending upon funding availability.

This year, efforts to host more local meets were met with a lack of available pools, massively increased facility rental costs, and a loss of available volunteers. SI LMSC has only one meet director able to run sanctioned meets and has faced the difficulty of fewer pools available for competitions. The costs to run a meet have nearly doubled.

For the near future, a SCM meet has been sanctioned for Nov. 5 at Kroc Center, with the possibility of a recognized SCY meet to be run by the UCSD College Club Swimming program. Next year, SI LMSC anticipates scheduling at least one sanctioned meet for each course and looks forward to getting back to having more local sanctioned competitions. SI LMSC currently cannot commit to hosting any Zone Championship for 2024.

Our hopes, expectations, and concerns center around maintaining or increasing membership levels and club numbers, finding affordable pools, locating volunteers to run events, subsidizing events, and encouraging new volunteers.

In conclusion, I want to thank all volunteers for their efforts on behalf of the Masters Swimming organization.

2. Arizona Report, Judy Gillies, Officials Chair & Jeff Commings, USMS At-Large Director:

- Arizona membership has declined since 2019, but there has been a steady increase to its original number before the pandemic.

Meets - a Saturday meet in Flagstaff indoor pool that is short course meters. Another swim meets September 23-24 in Sedona outdoor short course yards pool. Ron Johnson's meet is a short course meters pool, and the State Championship and Zone Championship meet is the weekend before Thanksgiving at Arizona State University (ASU). Last year, the Polar Bear Meet came back after three years - the meet was and will be on the last Sunday of January at the University of Arizona. Polar Bear short course meet is the most popular meet.

- i. The Ron Johnson meet will also host a 3,000 and 6,000-yard postal swim.
- ii. There was no long course championship meet this past year.

A large Reserve in the budget has a possible line item that can go towards Club Development.

3. New Mexico, Teddy Decker, Chair:

- Introduction to New Mexico's delegate, Rebecca Friedberg.

Membership is steady at the 360 or 375 mark: pre-, during, and post-pandemic, the membership stays consistently the same.

Attempted to do an Open Water Southwest Zone Championship meet for Memorial Day weekend - only two participants had signed up, and ultimately, the open water meet was canceled. New Mexico continues not to host any swim or open water meets. There are no plans to host swim, or open water meets.

Teddy Decker will be retiring from the national board. The New Mexico LMSC board is not active. Volunteering is extremely low. Decker is calling for more coaches to help run clubs and practices.

In the city's budget, there is news that 35 million of the 40 million are to build a 60-meter pool with a bulkhead in the New Mexico LMSC.

4. Southern Pacific Masters Swimming (SPMS) Report, Ken Brisbin, Chair:

- As of August 10, 2023, SPMS has 4,377 members (2,534 men; 1,843 women) and 52 new members this month. The membership numbers have decreased by approximately 121 members from last year in August, while the number of clubs has increased from 78 to 82.

During this year, SPMS has increased its sanctioned meets by six. This year, SPMS hosted 19 sanctioned pool meets, which include one inter-squad Meet, three dual sanctioned meets, one recognized meet, and USMS Summer Nationals. During these meets, the approximate number of participants (not including Nationals) was 145 swimmers. A possible contributor to the uptick of sanctioned meets is that SPMS covers sanction fees, offering \$1,500.00 to cover daily expenses per meet.

SPMS and clubs have hosted the "Racing Skills" and "Start and Turns" clinics and USMS Level 2 and 3 Coach Certification classes. Lastly, SPMS has hosted the USMS Open Water Nationals and three Open Water events.

SPMS focuses on financially supporting clubs by distributing significant funds for various reasons: coach support, additional lane space, cover rental of facility costs, Gemini Timing system for OW events, and hosting sanctioned events.

Overall, SPMS is in sound financial condition and will continue our focus to help new clubs become thriving organizations.

New Business:

1. Ken Brisbin is running for Vice President of USMS Community Services, and if voted in, he will replace Chris Campbell. Currently, Brisbin is running unopposed.
2. Michael Heather is running for President of USMS.
3. Robin Smith is running for reelection to the current position of USMS Vice President of Programs over Long Distance and Officials.
4. Arlette Godges proposes having more Southwest Zone meetings (i.e., quarterly: Oct/Nov, Jan/Feb, May/Jun), MSP.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Making sure Arizona and SPMS LMSCs coordinate in calendaring swim meets.
2. Because it is agreed that SI and New Mexico will not be hosting any Championships or Zone meets...
 - a. USMS Summers Nationals will be held in Mission Viejo, California.
3. Short course meter meet assigned to SPMS/Long Beach Grunions.
4. Short-course Yards Zone Meet: Who will host and what date? It will be discussed again in October with SPMS and Arizona.
5. Long-course Meters Zone: table who will host and date
6. Open Water Championships: table who will host and date with Robin Smith

The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 PM EDT (7:01 PM PDT)
