

Virginia LMSC Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: Sunday, Nov. 1, 5:00 pm, AMENDED 11/9/2020

Location: Zoom Call

Dial-in: <https://urichmond.zoom.us/j/5262597477>

Roll Call – Kirk Clear, Chris Stevenson, Heather Stevenson, George Sushkoff, Jim Miller, Denise Letendre, Rich Williams, Kyle Ahlgren, Becca Latimer, Jeff Bush, Alice Phillips, Dane Schwartz, Ken Gardner

5:00 pm Welcome from Kirk who is retiring after two terms as Chair.

I. Reports of Officers

- a. Chair – Kirk shared that 2020 has been a hard year obviously. Cancelled meets and closed pools have made things difficult. We were planning to host Virginia's first national championship, but that was deferred until 2022. We did have three meets which is pretty remarkable in just two active months. He has been privileged to work with our LMSC, his fourth. We have an active and experienced board which has really made things great.

Kirk did hope to revise our by-laws which haven't been addressed since 2010. We made a small amount of progress but this is something the next board should address it. Perhaps our board itself should be re-organized and perhaps this down time is a good time to do that.

- b. Vice Chair – Denise submitted a social media report which is posted on our LMSC webpage. A few highlights – our listing of places to swim during the pandemic really did reach a lot of people. Facebook continues to be a good connector for our members. One new limitation is that other page posts can be shared but not boosted. Denise would like someone else to take over the Facebook page since she is stepping off the board – George Sushkoff agreed to do so.
- c. Secretary – Alice – no report
- d. Treasurer (Finance Committee) – Becca deferred her time to new business segment and discussion of the 2021 budget.
- e. Kirk has nominated Dane Schwartz to chair our Fitness Committee. (Went out of order because Dane has to leave the meeting.) Dane introduced himself and expressed his excitement for the new position.

2. Reports of Committee Chairpersons

a. Committees:

- Sanctions – Kyle has posted his report to the LMSC webpage. He complimented the board on the difficulty of the decision we had to make in August regarding the Lake Moomaw swim. Kyle noted that USMS has just released new guidelines regarding COVID and masters events.

Kyle proposed that the board help him make sanction decisions in 2021 based on the experience we had with Moomaw and the seriousness of the situation. Chris made a motion that any sanction requests be considered by the executive committee of the board for the next six months. Heather seconded it. All members voted Aye and the motion passed.

- Long Distance – Kate submitted a report shown on the webpage. Kate has moved to California and Dave Holland will be taking over.
- Fitness – Vacant
- Officials – Charlie did not submit a report.
- Coaches – Rich does not have much to report. There are no coaches' clinics currently scheduled around the country, but the LMSC hopes to host one in 2021 if conditions permit.

b. Other Board Members:

- Membership Coordinator – Jeff submitted a report shown on the webpage. Our membership is down 130 members, but the group agrees that is good given COVID. We have two new clubs and a total of 24 registered so far. Kirk encouraged Jeff to reach out to unregistered teams right now since individual registrations open today.
- Review Chair – Heather has no report. No grievances.
- Newsletter – Heather & Chris reported that it is hard to make a newsletter without meets. Heather thanked their regular writers and invited any and all to submit articles. One new constraint is that we can't reprint USMS articles any more.
- Website – Chris shared that the current website is getting "buggy" and has decided to step away. His personal schedule is preventing him from giving this all of the attention it needs. George Sushkoff has agreed to be the new webmaster. Chris has also cancelled his Twitter and Facebook accounts, so George will take those over too. George is looking for a new theme platform that will be more responsive and mobile friendly. The webpage may be down intermittently as we make those changes.
- Records & Top-10 – Chris shared that there were no LC meets and thus no top ten. He did submit seven SCY and SCM meets, remarkable given the shortened seasons.
- Social Media – Denise (above I-b)
- Safety – Jim shared that there is nothing to report with no open water competitions. Safety may become an increasing consideration re. COVID-19 for pool and open water events in the future once sanctioning is restarted.
- USA Swimming Chairs/Reps & Ex-Officio members – none present.

c. Club Representatives

- Any present club rep – Ken Gardner (VMST) was present. Things have been dormant but they are trying to engage with membership through some Zoom calls and virtual meets.

3. Unfinished business

- a. By-Laws Rewrite (see I-a above)

4. Elections (List of Nominees who have accepted)

- a. Chair: ?
 b. Vice Chair: Ken Gardner
 c. Secretary: Alice Phillips
 d. Treasurer: Becca Latimer

Despite some efforts Kirk and Denise have been unable to identify anyone who is willing to accept a chair nomination. The group above was voted in unanimously. Kirk is willing to stay on as Chair until he moves in the next month. The group suggested several avenues using

social media, coaches, and webpage to try and recruit again. Several members of the board are going to do some additional outreach. Deadline this Friday November 5.

AMENDED MINUTES 11/9/2020: During the week following the original meeting, the LMSC tried again to recruit a new Chair. Two candidates were identified, and sent Kirk their information which was then shared across the board. After a vote over the weekend, Caycee Buscaglia of Quest and VMST was voted in as the next LMSC chair.

5. Chair Appointments

- a. Long-Distance (Open Water): Dave Holland
- b. Fitness: Dane Schwartz
- c. Webmaster and social media chair: George Sushkoff

6. New business

- a. Convention Wrap-up (Attendees: Kirk, Jeff, Heather, Charles, Jim, Patty) – Kirk shared a recap in the last newsletter. Convention was really challenging this year because of the overall duration, necessity for virtual meetings, and the odd times. But it did open up some ideas for how future meetings might be held. Hopefully even with an in-person convention there would still be a chance for people to call in to attend.
- b. Unified Fee (Jeff, Becca) – new fee is \$60, \$40 goes to national organization and \$12 to the LMSC. The OEF (one event fee) is also set by the national organization also.
- c. 2021 Proposed Budget (Becca)
 - Discussion on changes from 2020 – Becca reviewed the budget document as shown on the LMSC website. Both income and expenditures were lessened because of COVID. Becca presented two proposed: one, if COVID continues as is with no meets, events, etc. and another if meets are able to restart, clinics and convention occur again. Discussion ensued. Chris mentioned that we have such a good cushion that even if the second budget becomes necessary, we should be able to make up the difference. The board can also meet to make adjustments as needed if something significant changes.
 - Vote on 2021 Budget – Heather moved that we vote on the 2021 Budget with COVID measures, Alice seconded and the budget passed unanimously.
- d. Virginia Volunteer Service Award – Need to start gathering Nominations; should be a first order of duty to the next chair.

7. Adjournment at 6:53 pm