

United States Masters Swimming (USMS)
Delaware Valley Local Masters Swimming Committee (LMSC)
Minutes of Annual Meeting on Sunday, October 2, 2011

Welcome and Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laurie Hug at the Upper Main Line YMCA, Berwyn, Pa. at 1:35 p.m.

Attending: Vice Chair Tom Patterson, Treasurer Pat Timmins, Dan Allen, Todd Matters, Pamela Shepard, Stephanie Walsh Beilman, Dave Schneider, Joan Waldbaum, Linda VanOcker, Melissa Krupa, Dick Jackson, Mac Connor, George Horan, Chris Schroeder. Laurie extended a Welcome to all and introductions were made.

Secretary's Report

Laurie presented abbreviated minutes from the 2010 annual Delaware Valley LMSC meeting as the official minutes had not been submitted. She asked if there were any additions; no one indicated there was. A motion (M) was made to accept the abbreviated minutes, it was seconded (S); the motion passed (P) by unanimous vote.

Secretary's Note: The format M/S/P will be used in the minutes; the names of those who motioned and seconded are available if needed. All votes were unanimous unless stated otherwise.

Treasurer's Report

Presented by Pat Timmins, Treasurer

The LMSC has a little more than \$22,015.57 on hand as of 9/30/11, the end of our LMSC fiscal year. Pat indicated that the LMSC is in healthy financial condition. Sending delegates to the USMS Convention is probably our biggest expense. Anyone needing reimbursement for an LMSC expense should give Pat the receipt(s).

As required by USMS, Pat submitted our LMSC fiscal report for calendar year ending 12/31/10 to the national office (balance at that time was \$18,408 with revenues of \$9,284.99 and expenditures of \$11,623.47). The LMSC has not had to file yearly IRS reports as our balance has been less than \$25,000, the filing threshold. Pat indicated she will provide a copy of her report(s) to anyone who requests.

Discussion ensued about the need for more rule books from the National Office (NO). Stephanie indicated rulebooks should be sent to all Meet Directors prior to their meets so officials will have them for reference. Masters rules have a few differences from USA Swimming, so officials need to read the (brief) section outlined in the first few pages explaining the differences prior to the meet. While the rule books are on-line, printed copies are only about \$10 each, so it was recommended that we order a few. Pat agreed to place the order and have it shipped to George Horan, Sanctions Chair. There also was a brief discussion about transfer procedures and fees when a swimmer changes from one official USMS club to another, especially around the time of championships.

Treasurer's Report was M/S/P.

Registrar's Report

Presented by Mac Connor, Registrar

Mac distributed a list of our LMSC clubs and workout groups, and a breakdown of monthly registrations. This year Del Val LMSC has 787 members, a decrease from 811 in 2010. Based on our membership numbers, our LMSC has two slots at the national convention (will have three if our membership exceeds 800).

Discussion ensued about USMS insurance coverage at workout groups; if just one swimmer is not USMS registered, then the whole workout group is not insured. Swimmer USMS membership can be checked online; there is a 30-day grace period for new swimmers until USMS registration is required. November 1 is the first day a swimmer can re-register for the new year; October 1 is the first day clubs can re-register. Paper registrations will still be accepted. Dan Allen will update our website with Mac's help. Registration checks should be made out to Delaware Valley LMSC, not Mac. Pat Timmins needs to be notified who is due a refund for LMSC-subsidized membership fees (i.e. 18-24 year old, and those over 70 y.o.).

The group thanked Mac wholeheartedly for stepping into the Registrar's position, which involves a lot of work; his efforts are truly appreciated.
Registrar's Report was M/S/P.

Sanctions Report

Presented by George Horan, Committee Chair

Meets: There were ten events scheduled in 2011; one was cancelled. Of the ten, eight were recognized meets (including two mini meets), and one was an open water swim. A new meet was held this year at Drexel University with good participation. Shawn Markey, the meet director, plans to make this an annual event.

There is one meet on the 2012 schedule, the FINS meet around Columbus Day weekend. George has not had a chance to contact the meet directors to see what the plans are for the coming year. For the past four years we have been holding the Mini Meets with a decent turnout. George asked if we should continue with these events to encourage participation in swim meets, and if we do, should we continue to waive the meet Sanctions fee?

Form: The USMS Sanctions Open Water form was changed in 2011 as the result of data that was collated from the local sanction chairs throughout the country.

Sanction Applications: George will send the following with the sanctions applications: a current list of certified referees, a pool certification form if we do not have one already, and a request that the Meet Manager Database be forwarded to Tom Patterson for Top Ten Recording (with a copy to George, who will return the meet deposit when he receives the copy). If the pool certification is not returned, the entry forms must clearly state that the results are not eligible for Top Ten Recording.

Sanctions Report was M/S/P.

Web Site Report

Presented by Dan Allen, Web Master

Since 1/1/11, Dan has added seventy-four (74) updates to our web site (dvmasters.org). He submitted a breakdown of those updates by category, the majority of which applied to events. The domain name has been paid for the next year. Laurie indicated that our Zone webmaster (Ray) would like to be informed of our meets and human interest stories.
Web Site Report M/S/P.

Top 10 Report

Presented by Tom Patterson, Committee Chair

Meet results get sent to the NO for Top Ten consideration; Tom sent in the UMLY LC meet results in June. He recommends the use of the Meet Manager program for ease in reporting. Our LMSC Top Ten numbers are low compared to membership numbers; last year was our lowest. We don't have many people going to nationals, but get a good turnout for Zones. There was a discussion about having a variety of relays at local meets, not just 4 X 50's, to increase possible Top Ten times. In the past, relay meets have had good turn-outs. Dave Schneider indicated that he would be willing to do a quick relay meet. People felt that SC Meters relays would be easiest to make Top Ten.
Top 10 Report M/S/P

Coaches Report

Presented by Dick Jackson, Committee Chair

Dick reported that he had recently contacted our local coaches to ascertain any upcoming meets, and he passed out a list of possible meets for the upcoming year, which will be posted on our website. Some of the meets could not be confirmed because of the uncertainty regarding pool availability. Dick also reported that he attends as many meets in our area as possible, and most are well-run. He noticed that there were three meets each in January and March, with two in each month being back-back. He mentioned that we used to have a guideline that there should be two weeks between meets; when meets are too close, participation drops.

A general discussion followed regarding low meet turn-out, several colleges not sponsoring a meet in a long time, the economy's effect on swimmers' ability to travel and participate. While meets are posted on our web site, members commented that not having a confirmed meet schedule impacts training and scheduling. Laurie noted that Saturday afternoon meets with socials hosted by Maryland Masters have been successful. The group expressed interest in this idea.

Coaches Report M/S/P.

Officials Report

Presented by Stephanie Walsh Beilman, Committee Chair

Stephanie distributed a current list of officials certified by USA Swimming through the Mid-Atlantic Local Swim Committee (LSC) for use by masters meet directors. She has requested their phone numbers & e-mail addresses, and will send them to George, our Sanctions chair. She noted that officials generally volunteer for youth meets, but sometimes get paid by masters meets although they usually don't want to travel too far. There are different types of coaching certification, i.e. YMCA, High School, and USA Swimming; masters meets can use any of the three types. Because Middle Atlantic Swimming does such a great job of certifying officials, no official Masters certification clinics are required in the Delaware Valley at this time.

Stephanie participated in two conference calls with other Officials chairs from LMSC's throughout the country during the past year. Rules interpretations and officials' guidelines were discussed. The calls lasted about 1 ½ hours and will continue this year.
Officials Report M/S/P.

Open Water

Presented by Laurie Hug for Delia Perez, Committee Chair

The only USMS-sanctioned open water swim in our area was Atlantic City's Bridge to Bridge. USMS, USA Swimming and USAT are exploring joint sanctioning of open water events, which might increase the number of sanctioned swims and participants.

Open Water Report M/S/P

Marketing

Presented by Pam Shepard, Committee Chair

Pam has established a Facebook page for our group: Delaware Valley Masters Swimming, which will be referenced on our web site. She reported that it is working out well; people can send requests to her (the administrator) at pshepard@mtps.com. She also distributed Del Val Masters brochures developed this year and was distributed at the Philadelphia Insurance triathlon, the Atlantic City ocean swim, and several Southern Jersey masters meet. She would like to encourage high school graduates to continue with masters swimming.

A general discussion followed regarding what our LMSC goals are. Are they to: grow members, seek younger swimmers, increase meet participation, increase the number of swimmers in coached groups, increase current member satisfaction, or what? Further discussion revealed that many thought a coach is critical to the longevity of work-out groups. Others asked what are we doing, even in work-outs? What does Delaware Valley LMSC add to our swimming? We have many local groups here, but we don't seem to be unified, perhaps because people live all over and lead busy lives. What are needs of triathletes and fitness swimmers? Todd Matters, representing Spring Valley, mentioned that he has seen three growth areas in his program: parents of age-group swimmers, triathletes, and swimmers who want to be more competitive.

It was suggested that we could use an on-line survey to get feedback from our membership about what is important to them; our Registrar (Mac) can send the survey electronically. Pat suggested giving our brochures and Swim magazines to physical therapy offices. Stephanie will update and make more copies of the brochure (1,000 printed last time), and will notify us by e-mail when they are ready. Pam mentioned that there is a new You-Tube video, "We are masters swimming" on the USMS web site (www.usms.org) which is very good.

Marketing Report M/S/P

Convention Report

Presented by Laurie Hug, LMSC Chair

This year the Delaware Valley LMSC had two delegates (Laurie Hug and Dave Diehl) attending the USMS portion of the U.S. Aquatic Sports (USAS) Convention in Jacksonville, Fl. on Sept 14-18, 2011. Laurie represented Del Val LMSC while Dave is a voting delegate because he is on the USMS Executive Committee.

Elections were held this year and voted on by the House of Delegates. The new USMS executive committee members are: President – Nadine Day, Vice President of Administration - Michael Heather, Vice President of Community Services – Jody Smith, Vice President of Local Operations - Ed Tsuzukii, Vice President of Programs - Dave Diehl, Secretary - C.J. Rushman, and Treasurer - Ralph Davis.

2013 Championship bids approved; refer to the USMS website for details.

Colonies Zone Meeting - Jeff Strahota was elected Chair and Deb Morrin-Nordlund as Vice-Chair. Short course yards Zone Championships have been awarded to George Mason in April 2012. There have been no bids for Short Course Meters or Long Course Meters Zone Championships. There was discussion about how to get more bids for championships including removing requirements for awards and awarding the championships to the first (approved) bid after the deadline. Local meet info and human interest stories should be sent to the zone website.

Coaches Committee Meeting – Coaching certification was discussed, but for now, it is only a recommendation. The 2012 World Championships will be held in Riccione, Italy (Frank Marcinkowski, head coach). Possible dual sanctioning with USA Triathlon (USAT) was discussed, with the goal of holding open water swims on established triathlon swim courses.

Open Water Committee - Focused on safety, plans for a database of open water results, a ranking system and allowing USMS to offer one-event registrations (OEVTS) for open water swims. The House of Delegates voted to allow LMSC's to decide whether to offer OEVTS for open water swims in their area.

LMSC Development Meeting - Discussed the high priority minimum standards and the results from the surveys that were sent out. While most LMSCs meet most of the standards, very few meet all of them. (Note that Del Val LMSC has not been meeting some national standards, e.g. our 2010 meeting minutes were not sent to the NO).

Other – Learn-to-swim programs by teams in Myrtle Beach SC and Illinois were presented as models for USMS. At the USAS banquet, Chad Durieux of Rose Bowl Aquatics received the Coach of the Year Award, Rob Copeland the Arthur Ransom Award, and Dick Shoulberg (Germantown Academy head coach) the USA Swimming Award, their highest honor. Next year's convention will be held September 11-15, 2012 in Greensboro, N.C.

At our 10/2 Del Val LMSC meeting we voted to allow, on a trial basis, directors of open-water swims in our area the option of offering a OEVT USMS Registration for \$12. We also discussed possible dual sanctioning of open water swims by USMS and USAT the day before or after a Tri competition (on same course). Laurie mentioned that LC Nationals at Mission Viejo next summer will have the 1500 & 800 on different days (good news, long-distance swimmers!).
Convention Report M/S/P.

Meet Schedule

Presented by Dick Jackson

There was discussion about an overabundance of swim meets in some months and a shortage of meets in others in our LMSC, and what actions the committee might take to “even out” the schedule. Some members felt withholding LMSC sanction might be advantageous when there are too many meets too close together, while other members did not see that as an option and would rather encourage meet directors to look at the overall schedule when planning. Another problem is that some directors are not getting their meet information to the LMSC in a timely manner for our annual meeting which impacts planning. Linda VanOcker stated a willingness to adjust the UMLY meets by adding certain events, an additional LC meet, etc.

The group decided to use an on-line survey to canvass the membership about what they would like to see regarding meets. Pam agreed to develop the survey which the Registrar (Mac) will send to all members. She also agreed to tabulate the data, which will then be reviewed by a Sub-Committee (including masters coaches and meet directors). The results could be used to develop LMSC policies regarding meets, scheduling, etc.
Meet Schedule M/S/P

Lane Line

Currently there is no editor of The Lane Line, and while someone has expressed interest in this position, it has not been confirmed. The question was raised if we need the Lane Line since we now have a web site and Facebook page. Some people thought the Lane Line served as a “reminder” to swimmers about our local swimming events, issues, people, etc. and to check the web site.

Team Reports

As time was running short, team reports were brief.

Pennypack: Melissa Krupa stated that they have about 40 swimmers (and growing) with good participation in local and zone meets. Their web site is www.teampennypack.org.

Fins: George Horan reported they have five coached practices at Friends Select and are interested in holding an October 2012 meet. Several swimmers will be going to the IGLA championships in Reykjavik next May.

UMLY: Linda Van Ocker reported on this long-standing program which continues to host several meets a year.

1776: Six swimmers went to SC Nationals. The team moved from 9th to 8th place in the national One-Hour Swim.

Jersey Wahoos: Good participation, many open-water swimmers.

Friends Central: Has a new coach, and about 30 members.

Spring Valley: Todd Matters reported about 100 swimmers total with about 50 swimming regularly, many of whom are triathletes. There are 3 coaches who split responsibility.

New Business

There was no new business.

Election of Officers

It is time to elect Board members as the two-year term of service is ended. The following people expressed interest in serving for the new two-year term: Laurie Hug (Chair), Tom Patterson (Vice-Chair), Pat Timmins (Treasurer), and Chris Schroeder (Secretary). There were no other candidates. All were elected unanimously. It was noted that the LMSC still needs a Fitness Coordinator.

Next year's meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 14, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by Christine Schroeder, Secretary

Electronic copy submitted to National Office of USMS on 10/27/11