

2021 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Virtual

Committee Name:	Northwest Zone	Session #:	1
Committee Chair:	Aaron Norton	Vice Chair:	n/a
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	September 7, 2021, 7 pm MDT

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD: none

Motions Passed: none

Number of committee members present: 29	Absent: none	Number of other delegates present: 1
Committee members present: AK – Ken Winterberger, IW – Paige Buehler, Mike Hamm, Robert Heath, MT – Brady Baughman, Jeanne Ensign, Donn Livoni, OR – Bob Bruce, Marlys Cappaert, MJ Caswell, Christina Fox, Jeff Moxie, Ginger Pierson, Sandi Rousseau, PN – Kathrine Casey, Linda Chapman, James Davidson, Sally Dillon, Hugh Moore, Jane Moore, Steven Peterson, Walt Reid, Sarah Welch, Teri White, SR – Jim Clemmons, Jill Wright, UT – Aaron Norton, Bruce Schroeder, Gerald Treiman		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm MDT by Northwest Zone Chair Aaron Norton. USMS President Peter Guadagni spoke briefly to thank everyone for joining the call and helping with USMS governance. Attendees introduced themselves.

Actions taken since 2020 Annual Meeting: Minutes of the December, March, and June meetings were approved via email and posted to the NW Zone website at <https://northwestzone.org>.

1. Reports

a. Chair: Aaron Norton noted the revision of the Zone Policies and the change in the hosting of the Zone's website. He also recognized Bob Bruce (OR), who received the 2021 Ransom J. Arthur MD Award.

b. Treasurer: Ken Winterberger reported that no income or expenses have occurred over the past year. The current balance is \$5133.97. He noted that there is funding available to provide grants to leaders seeking training if/when those opportunities become available.

c. Webmaster: Hugh Moore reported that there hasn't been much activity with the website. He also said that he and Jane will be leaving the Northwest and settling somewhere in the DC area to be near their daughter and new grandchild. The zone will need a new webmaster, but he will continue for a reasonable amount of time and mentor his replacement.

d. Zone record keeper: Steve Darnell reported by email that there have been very few meets within the zone, and he has updated the records from results submitted.

e. At Large Director from the Northwest Zone: Paige Buehler shared the following written report:

The USMS Board of Directors held its Summer Board Meeting on August 21, 2021, via Zoom videoconference. We covered board education on Ensuring Resources (financial, human and data), reviewed current year financials and approved the audited statements for 2020, and went through two breakout group activities designed to solicit feedback on proposals for 1) restructuring the Standing Committees of USMS (continuing the work of the Volunteer Task Force) and, 2) creating a Volunteer "Summit" (including renaming it so that it wouldn't get confused with the LMSC Leadership Summit.) Finally, we started the process of refreshing the USMS Strategic Plan.

Volunteer "Summit" and Annual Meeting - The Board was in favor of moving forward with an in-person Volunteer training gathering (name TBD) that has a rotating annual focus or theme. "Club Development" was proposed for 2022. Other themes include "Membership and Community" and "Events." Training would have tracks for different kinds of volunteers, but every year would have a New Volunteer track. The task force proposed a gathering of ~300 people with a minimum of 3 volunteers from an LMSC. The target audience would be about 1/3 new volunteers, 1/3 coaches and 1/3 "veteran" volunteers in jobs closely aligned with that year's theme. The annual meeting of the HOD would likely continue to be held as a videoconference focused on accomplishing the business of the organization so that financial and organizational resources can support the in-person volunteer meeting.

Standing Committees - The effort to restructure the Standing Committees continued the work of the Volunteer Task Force and the priorities the Board developed in the Winter Meeting held in March. There was consensus that changes are needed, that the proposed changes are valid, and then discussion focused on how to implement and communicate changes.

Financials - The board reviewed and approved the audited financial statements and tax return from 2020. We also briefly reviewed current year financials compared to Q1 Forecast and continue to see improvements to the bottom line primarily due to membership increases beyond estimates. Finally, we reviewed the Budget Assumptions that are being used to create the 2022 budget – we are expecting conservative member growth, a negative bottom line with breakeven in 2023.

Prior to the Summer Meeting - the Board reviewed proposed suspension of rules that were necessitated by the delay of the SCY and LCM National Championships. We also got updates from Dawson about the plans and progress for Try Masters Swimming Month in July. It went well. June 2021 was the best month for member registrations since January 2020

Questions and comments from attendees regarding the Standing Committees topic:

- Who is going to do the work if the committee is eliminated? Response – there may be a phased approach as committees are restructured.
- Don't want to see things being done well by volunteers shuffled to the National Office.
- Donn noted that the changes will impact the roles of the Vice Presidents and the process will take place long-term. He also said some ad-hoc groups might do some of the work.
- Paige noted that individual contributors may still be involved.

2. Old Business

- a. Zone Chatter: a volunteer editor is needed, and Sally is willing to mentor someone. Contact Aaron or Sally if interested.

3. New Business

- a. Bid rotation and prospective bids for 2021 and 2022 Zone Championships:

1) 2021 SCM Zone Championship: Sandi reported that OR is not hosting a SCM meet. Sarah said PSM has concluded that with the current rules at the King County Aquatic Center, that they can host a meet. The club would rather decline hosting the zone meet in 2021. Swimmers from outside the LMSC will be allowed to attend. The 1-day meet would not include an 800-meter freestyle event or relays. 1500-meter free swimmers can have an official 800 split and swim down to finish.

2) 2022 Zone Championship Events: Optimistically planning on zone meets in 2022, bids are due December 1, 2021, to the Zone Chair. Championship bids for SCY (OR), OW (MT), LCM (open to all), and SCM (other than OR & PN) will be selected at the December 5, 2021, Zone meeting.

b. NW Zone Chair election: – Paige took over the election process. Aaron Norton was nominated to a second term (Sally/Sandi). There were no nominations from the floor. MSA to elect Aaron by acclamation. Aaron thanked Paige and Sally for their help this year.

c. Try Masters Swimming Month: Success stories were reported: Paige's team had a huge response with both renewals and ten+ new people. Alaska also had a good response. Aaron liked the month focus and hopes they do it every year. Steve asked why USMS doesn't do TV ads and Paige said the National Office chose to put their advertising dollars into streaming services (such as Hulu) and social media platforms. They targeted 20-40-year-old previous swimmers. Linda asked if there was discussion about doing Try Masters Swimming in January. She said that except for 2020, January is always the highest month for new registrations. Paige thinks the idea is to make a "new January" in July. The event was tied into the year+ registration and possibly to the Olympic frenzy as well.

d. Zone Slack channel: Our Northwest channel is still open. Aaron reminded people to stick to important discussion and avoid using it for chit-chat. Paige will provide the link so it can be distributed to the delegates. Last year's delegates will need to remove themselves from the discussions.

4. USMS Annual Meeting "hot topics"

Making amendments: Sandi said that last year proposals had to be submitted in writing and it was complicated to get the information recognized during the HOD meetings. A change in wording or amendment must be sent in writing to Volunteer@usms.org. Put your "hand up" to talk so you can at least say that the message was sent.

R-2: Championship proposed the limiting of foreign swimmers at this year's meets. Jim noted that for LCM it will not be a problem and the proposal has been withdrawn.

R-11: Extending the Top 10 period this year for LCM being held in October needs support.

L-3: Proposed by Diversity committee and amended by Legislation. Deals with universally applying non-discrimination language.

L-4: Proposed by PNA was not recommended by Legislation; they instead created L-4A

L-5 & L-6: Remain as submitted by PNA.

5. LMSC reports

With time running out, a few reports were given. All chairs should send reports to Sally for inclusion in the newsletter.

a. Alaska: An open water swim in Sitka attracted 37 swimmers, 8 without wet suits. Participants came from all around the country. Jeanne noted that three of the Sitka swimmers swam at the "Swim the Fish" in Whitefish Lake (MT) the following weekend.

b. Inland Northwest: a 3-way virtual meet took place this year and they held a few OW swims.

g. Utah: Hosted a meet in the Salt Lake City area with 85 participants.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

Next meeting Sunday, Dec 5, 2021, at 4 pm (AK), 5 pm (PST), 6 pm (MST)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm MDT
