



Northwest Zone Chatter

March 2026

Northwest Zone Website: <http://www.northwestzone.org/>

Chair – Jill Wright (SR): swimjmw@msn.com

Treasurer – Ken Winterberger (AK): kwinterberger@gmail.com

Webmaster –David Cabrey (IW): dcabrey@charter.net

Zone Records – Stephen Darnell (OR): financialwizard2@comcast.net

Secretary & Awards – Sally Dillon (PN): salswmr@comcast.net

Newsletter – Christina Fox (OR): foxkohnert@peak.org

USMS At-Large Director from the Northwest Zone – Rob Heath: boatyme@hotmail.com

LMSC websites in the NW Zone

ALASKA www.akmswim.org

INLAND NW www.inlandnwmasters.org

MONTANA <https://swimmontana.org/>

OREGON www.swimoregon.org

PACIFIC NW www.swimpna.org

SNAKE RIVER www.snakerivermasters.com

UTAH www.utahmasters.org

Report from the Chair

Everyone will have a hard time believing this, but I don't have a lot to say. I received no NW Zone bids by January 1 (that was the cutoff date for submissions). I'd like us to figure this out at our meeting.

All LMSCs have had new committee members. Please invite them to our zone call.

Please let me know if you have any agenda items for Monday, Mar 2, zoom meeting.

Jill Wright, NW Zone Chair

Zone News

- Next Zone meeting – **Mar 2, 2025** – at **4:00 pm Alaska, 5:00 pm Pacific** and **6:00 pm Mountain**.
- The 2026 NW Zone SCM Championship was held **Jan 25, 2026** in Portland, OR with 104 swimmers. – mostly OREG but with 16 PSM and other WA swimmers attending.
- **TENTATIVE** (pending final sign off from King County legal) - The NW Zone SCY Championship is scheduled to be held on **Apr 11-12, 2026** in at King County Aquatic Center (KCAC) in Federal Way, WA.

Report from At-Large Director (NW Zone)

USMS is still battling multiple legal challenges to our Eligibility Policy. Florida and Texas have filed lawsuits against us, and are both in the Discovery phase of the process. Our attorneys in those states both feel that the suits will be dismissed, as the evidence does not support the accusations against our organization. California and New Jersey are also states where some action has already been taken, though no lawsuits have been filed yet. Our interim Eligibility policy has evolved again, to allow us to adjust the policy based on the local jurisdiction's requirements. In King County, for example, we would allow transgender women to compete and place for points, while in Texas, we will have to alter the policy to meet their requirements.

The board is also currently involved in reviewing the structure of our LMSCs around the country, trying to find ways we can better support the smaller entities around the country. We have retained a consulting firm to look into the efficiency of the current LMSC structure and practices, and the legal matters of operating 52 independent organizations under our umbrella national organization. This firm has extensive experience with non-profits, like ours, in identifying areas in which we can move our organization from a 50 year-old structure into one that is more efficient in the current age. This study should conclude in July 2026, and will help the board prepare a process that will be clear and identifiable to our members. At our recent board meeting, the board was divided into 4 groups to re-imagine what the organization might look like if we were to start it today. The discussions were lively and productive in identifying what we do really well and areas where we can improve the process.

Overall USMS membership numbers for 2026 are slightly ahead our budgeted forecast. Grown Up Swimming membership is up again in 2026, and we still project turning a profit on that venture in 2026. CCS registrations are up as well.

If anyone has specific questions as to any of the Board activities, I'm happy to help out. Just email me your questions to boatyme@hotmail.com.

Rob Heath, NW Zone At-Large Director

Reports from LMSC chairs

Note: All membership data and officer information are from USMS website as of **March 1, 2026**.

Alaska

Membership 2025 – 2026 (to date): 190 members, 2 clubs, 7 workout groups under club AKMS
2025 (final): 269 members, 4 clubs, 8 workout groups under club AKMS
2024 (final): 243 members, 4 clubs, 8 workout groups under club AKMS

Elected Officers

Chair	<i>Kent Hamilton</i>
Vice-chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Treasurer	<i>Shannon Titzel</i>

Other board members

Membership Coordinator	<i>Angie Brennan</i>
Sanctions	<i>Signe Johannes</i>
Top Ten	<i>Kent Hamilton</i>
Communications/Webmaster	<i>Ken Winterberger</i>
Open Water	<i>Kevin Knox</i>
Awards	<i>Michelle Turinsky</i>
Past Chair	<i>Ken Winterberger</i>

Recent and Upcoming events:

- A dual sanctioned meet with the Alaska Swimming Senior Championships was held in Jan 9-10, 2026 in Juneau, AK
- 2026 SCY State Championship meet –**Apr 10-12** – Juneau, AK.

Notable news - none to report

Inland Northwest

Membership 2025 – 2026 (to date): 377 members, 11 clubs, no workout groups
2025 (final): 474 members, 12 clubs, no workout groups

2024 (final): 424 members, 12 clubs, no workout groups

Elected Officers

Chair *Rob Heath*
Vice-chair *Michael Hamm*
Secretary *Brian Johnson*
Treasurer *Scott Neuhaus*

Other board members

Past Chair *Matt Bronson*
Membership Coordinator *Sean Murphy*
Top Ten *Margaret Hair*
Sanctions, Editor, Safety *Paige Buehler*
Coaches *Michael Hamm*
Officials *Wes Bratton*
Webmaster *Dave Cabrey*

Recent and Upcoming events:

- The **Velocity Masters Winter Open (SCY)** was held Jan 10, 2026 in Wenatchee, WA with 37 swimmers.
- The **2026 Kroc Masters February Flurry Swim Meet and Clinic (SCM)** was held Feb 20-21, 2026 in Coeur d'Alene, ID.
- Spokane Club Pentathlon SCY meet – **Mar 21, 2026** – Spokane, WA
- INW Championships (SCY) – **Apr 18, 2026** – Moscow, ID. LMSC Annual meeting and elections will be held here.

Montana

Membership 2025 – 2026 (to date): 164 members, 2 clubs, 4 workout groups under club BSMT
2025 (final): 210 members, 2 clubs, 4 workout groups under club BSMT
2024 (final): 207 members, 2 clubs, 4 workout groups under club BSMT

Elected Officers

Chair *Mark Brooke*
Vice-chair *Maureen Porter*
Secretary *Jenny Boulerice*
Treasurer *Karen Simpson*

Other board members

Immediate Past Chair *Jeanne Ensign*
Membership Coordinator *Jennifer Turchin*
Sanctions *Susan Huckleby*
Top Ten & Records *Josh Huckleby*
Coaches *Paul Landes*
Officials *Susan Huckleby*
Webmaster *Open*
Club Rep BSMT *Bill Hughes*
Club Rep BOZE *Sara Wussow*

Upcoming events/Notable news:

- The **40th Annual Teddy Bear Classic Meet** (SCY) was held Dec 13-14, 2025 in Butte MT with 15 swimmers.
- The **Ed Kellner New Years Eve Mile Swim** was held Dec 31, 2025 at Helena YMCA, MT.
- 2026 Montana SCY Championships – **Mar 14-15, 2026** – Butte, MT
- The LMSC is working on creating a logo for Montana Masters Swimming and updating the website.

Oregon

Membership 2025– 2026 (to date): 1,050 members, 3 clubs, 28 workout groups under club OREG
2025 (final): 1,335 members, 5 clubs, 28 workout groups under club OREG
2024 (final): 1,290 members, 5 clubs, 30 workout groups under club OREG

Elected Officers

Chair *Vacant*
Vice-chair *Paul Windrath*
Secretary *Julie Baker*
Treasurer *Doug Christensen*

Other board members

Sanctions *Paul Windrath*
Membership Coordinator *Christina Fox*
Club/Workout Group Liaison *Vacant*
Top Ten *MJ Caswell*
OW/Long Distance *Bob Bruce*
Payments Administrator *Mary Beth Windrath*
Records *Stephen Darnell*
USMS Rep *Sandi Rousseau*

Coaches	<i>Allen Larson</i>	Souvenirs	<i>Vacant</i>
Officials	<i>Jacki Allender</i>	Awards	<i>Jayette Pettit</i>
Communications	<i>Angela Fadlovich</i>	Data Manager	<i>Gary Whitman</i>
Fitness	<i>Vacant</i>	Safety	<i>Joy Ward</i>
Webmaster	<i>Geneva Olson</i>	OREG Club Representative	<i>Nancy Vincent</i>
Adult Learn-to-Swim	<i>Marci Wright</i>	Past Chair	<i>Tim Waud</i>
	<i>Cheryl Morgen</i>		

Recent events – full results [here](#)

- The **Clark County YMCA Christmas Meet** (SCY) was held Dec 14, 2025 in Vancouver, WA with 82 swimmers.
- The **Multnomah Athletic Club SCM Meet and NW Zone SCM Championship** was held Jan 25, 2026 in Portland, OR with 104 swimmers.
- The **TEAM Eugene Winter SCY Meet** was held Feb 15, 2026 in Eugene, OR with 69 swimmers.

Upcoming events – registration available or coming soon [here](#)

Pool

- Oregon City Spring Forward SCM Meet– **Mar 7-8, 2026** – Oregon City, OR.
- OMS Association SCM Championship – **Apr 18-19, 2026** – Hood River, OR.
- COMA LCM Championship Meet and Beautiful Lake Juniper Buoy Swim – **May 16 -17, 2026** – Bend, OR.

Open Water

- Portland Bridge Swim – **Jul 12, 2026** – Portland, OR. **Not USMS sanctioned.**
- 39th Southern Oregon Open Water Swims - Applegate Lake – **Jul 18-19, 2026** – Jacksonville, OR.
- 32th Annual Cascade Lakes Swim Series & Festival – **Aug 9, 2026** – Elk Lake, OR.
- 19th Annual Central Oregon Coast Swims – **Aug 22, 2026** – Eel Lake, OR.

Notable news:

- The LMSC is planning an Annual Meeting/Awards event on May 31, 2026. This will be a stand-alone event (not associated with Association Championship meet as has been done previously) and will include a swim clinic, talks, lunch/brunch followed by the annual business meeting and awards.
- A Board Taskforce recently evaluated the LMSC board structure and operations. After Board discussions, no major changes were proposed but it was recommended to change 5 positions (Payment Administrator, Records, Data Manager, Souvenirs, Fitness) from voting to non-voting. The Bylaws and Policies and Procedures are being updated accordingly.
- The Oregon LMSC Chair position is still currently vacant.

Pacific Northwest

Membership: 2024 – 2025 (to date): 1,369 members, 9 clubs, 20 workout groups under club PSM
2025 (final): 2,040 members, 15 clubs, 20 workout groups under club PSM
2024 (final): 1,925 members, 11 clubs, 21 workout groups under club PSM

Elected Officers

Chair	<i>Linda Chapman</i>
Vice-chair	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary	<i>Steve Peterson</i>
Treasurer	<i>Brent Barnes</i>
At-Large Directors	<i>Kathy Casey</i> <i>Dave Scott</i>

Other voting board members

Past President	<i>Sally Dillon</i>
Membership	<i>Linda Chapman</i>
Bylaws and Open Water	<i>Jim Davidson</i>

Non-voting coordinators

Awards & meet box	<i>Dan Underbrink</i>
Coaches	<i>Diana Hermanson</i>
Fitness/Clinics	<i>Vacant</i>

Meets	<i>Lorraine Masse</i>	Club and Team Development	<i>Sally Dillon</i>
Appointed Directors	<i>Dan Underbrink</i>	Historian	<i>Walt Reid</i>
	<i>Bob DeWard</i>	Newsletter/Social media	<i>Vacant</i>
Club Directors	<i>Kim Boggs</i>	Officials	<i>Dave Baer</i>
	<i>Doug Jelen</i>	Virtual events	<i>Sally Dillon</i>
		Records/Top Ten	<i>Doug Jelen</i>
		Webmaster	<i>Dave Scott</i>

Recent events:

- The **8th Annual BC Masters Mile** (SCM) was held Feb 1, 2026, in Bellevue, WA with 66 swimmers
- The **WWU Viking Invitational 2026 Meet** (SCY) was held Feb 15, 2026, in Bellingham, WA with 46 swimmers

Upcoming events – registration available or coming soon [here](#)

Pool

- Thunderbird Masters March Madness SCM Meet – **Mar 8, 2026** – Anacortes, WA
- **TENTATIVE** (pending final sign off from King County legal)
PNA Championships – **Apr 11-12, 2026** – WKCAC, Federal Way, WA. Social/annual meeting **Apr 12** after the meet.

Open Water

- Whidbey Adventure Swim (1.2 and 2.4 mile courses) – **Jun 1, 2026** – Langley, WA.
- Fat Salmon (3.2 mile course) – **Jul 26, 2026** – Seattle, WA.

Notable news

- PNA has transitioned to using Constant Contact for emailing PNA members. The 20+ page newsletter, The WetSet, is no longer being published.

Snake River

Membership 2025 – 2026 (to date): 105 members 2 clubs, no workout groups
2025 (final): 138 members, 3 clubs, no workout groups
2024 (final): 136 members, 3 clubs, no workout groups

Elected Officers

Chair	<i>Jim Clemmons</i>
Vice-chair	<i>Jeff Erwin</i>
Secretary	<i>Suzy Cavanagh</i>
Treasurer	<i>David Murphy</i>

Other board members

Membership Coordinator	<i>Jill Wright</i>	Editor	<i>Suzy Cavanagh</i>
Sanctions	<i>Paula Moores</i>	Webmaster	<i>Jim Clemmons</i>
Top Ten	<i>Ellen Reynolds</i>	Fitness	<i>Lisa Rankin-Galane</i>
Coaches	<i>Victoria Caulum</i>	Open Water/Virtual Swims	<i>Jill Wright</i>
Officials	<i>Teri White</i>		

Recent events

- The **I Love Boise SCY Meet** was held Feb 21, 2026 in Boise, ID with 32 swimmers

Upcoming events

- The Snake River LMSC Annual meeting is scheduled for **Mar 10, 2026** via Zoom
- Stroke Development Clinic – **Apr 24, 2026** – Boise, ID. Registration [here](#).
- Level 2 and Level 3 USMS Coach Certification – **Apr 25, 2026** – Boise, ID. Registration [here](#) and [here](#)
The LMSC will provide the cost of attending the Level 2 & 3 courses for Snake River LMSC coaches, provided:
 (1) they are employed by a club full-time or part-time, or
 (2) can provide a plan to apply the training in support of an existing program, or

(3) provide their intention of starting a new club.

The last two circumstances will be evaluated and considered for an award on a case-by-case basis.

All coaches wishing to attend Level 2 and Level 3 certification classes must have completed Level 1 training as a prerequisite. Requests for an award should be sent to Jim Clemmons at clemmons.jim@gmail.com.

Notable news

- The West YMCA Aquatic Center has re-opened and all lingering mechanical issues have been (apparently) resolved. The new downtown YMCA replacement pool is slated to open sometime in the late fall time period and the current downtown YMCA facility will be closed at that time.

Utah

Membership 2025 – 2026 (to date): 358 members, 16 clubs, no workout groups

2025 (final): 437 members, 16 clubs, no workout groups

2024 (final): 364 members, 15 clubs, no workout groups

Elected Officers

Chair *Aaron Norton*
Vice-chair *Jerry Treiman*
Secretary *Sydney Olson*
Treasurer *Joe Linford*

Appointed Board Members

Membership Coordinator/Webmaster *Bruce Schroeder*
Sanctions *Megan Kawaguchi*
Clubs *Aaron Norton*
Coaches and Open Water/Virtual *Both open*
Triathlete *Dawn Martindale*
Top Ten/Records *Jerry Treiman*

Recent and Upcoming events/Notable news

- The **QUAC Ski-N-Swim Meet (SCM)** was held Feb 28, 2026 in Salt Lake City, UT with 141 swimmers – the most in event history
- Trailblazers Masters St. George Invite SCY Meet – **Mar 28, 2026** – St. George, UT
- **Megan Kawaguchi** is the new Sanctions Chair

LMSC Resources

The LMSC Development Committee and Volunteer Central provides information to the volunteer calendar, upcoming webinars, archived webinar recordings, meeting minutes and lots of other useful information/resources. Links below.

Volunteer calendar: <https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/volunteer-working-calendar>

Webinar page: <https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/lmscs/peer-to-peer-calls>

Webinar recordings and minutes: <https://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/index.php>