

USMS Zone Reports and Agendas

Breadbasket Zone

Marcia Anziano, Zone Chair

Introduction

The Breadbasket Zone covers the largest geographical zone in USMS. It includes the following LMSCs: Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri Valley and Ozark. Not obvious from the names, the states of Kansas, and Wyoming along with some counties in Illinois are also part of the zone. This vast expanse of geography continues to be a challenge in organizing and uniting this great group of swimmers. This report will highlight individual LMSCs and their successes from the past year.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. At the 2015 convention, the members in attendance agreed to build a zone website. However, no parameters were established as to content, composition, or ongoing responsibility. This project will be readdressed at this convention. The idea of a presence is agreed, the extent and detail is yet to be determined.
2. Ozark is pleased to report an increase in their competition offerings in the past year - including 2 recognized meets, 7 sanctioned meets (3 of which were dual-sanctioned) and one open water event. They held their first short course meters championship in a new pool and are pleased that more facilities are becoming available to them. Two one-month sessions of free Adult Learn to Swim lessons have been offered by 14 volunteers from one of their workout groups in Carbondale, IL. A total of 33 students have graduated from the program held at the new Carbondale Super Splash Park.
3. Minnesota was very busy during this past year. They are proud to report that along with their regularly active meet schedule (1 meet each month during the SCY season, one long course meet) and their Open Water Half Marathon Swim Series (4 race weekends that add up to 13.1 miles - plus a 1 mile event for anyone who wants to "go the extra mile")...in April they implemented their first Adult Learn to Swim Program. It was well received by new swimmers and by volunteers. The active Open Water Committee created new open water opportunities this summer by implementing 4 open water workouts, by creating two courses; one for beginners and one for more experienced open water swimmers. Working with the city to supply lifeguards and utilizing volunteer coaches to work with new open water swimmers. They have worked hard to create a process and implement the open water ISM program and feel they have a solid system for the new USMS safety standard. They continue to host an annual relay meet/annual meeting/awards dinner, during which they successfully inducted their second class to the MN Masters Swimming Hall of Fame.
4. The Nebraska LMSC and its members were instrumental in making the 2016 Olympic Trials Swimming a success. The Trials were held in Omaha June 26 – July 3. Members did everything from athlete registration to on-deck security to drug test monitoring. There were more than a few close encounters with the Olympic Team swimmers. One of the deck monitors had to ask a swimmer to move his water bottle because it was sitting too close to electronic equipment. She then realized that it was Michael Phelps; he moved the bottle. They also volunteered at the U.S. Masters booth in the Aqua Zone and had a great time talking about USMS to all of the visitors. The Omaha Masters Swim Club secured extra lanes during the week for visiting swimmers. The practices were full and fun. The Nebraska LMSC is already looking forward to the 2020 Olympic Trials (which they hope will be in Omaha again).
5. MOVY is planning to have their annual November meet (biggest meet they hold) be the Breadbasket Zone Championship meet, probably first weekend in November and are working on getting it to be a 2 day meet. If so, they will plan a social for Saturday night. they added an OWS chair recently and are looking forward to possibly partnering with Ozark or SLAM for an OWS event.

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6. Colorado again hosted a large SCY State Meet, comprised of over 350 swimmers over a 3 day period. They continue to struggle with the drop in membership and find it associated primarily with opportunities for Open Water Training. Over the past 15 years, they have sponsored open water workouts at a pond at one of the state parks. This grew annually over several years up until about three years ago when they had over 2000 members in the LMSC. However, the success has also led to issues of control and supervision, causing the LMSC to request that participants volunteer to help with the support of the sessions. The volunteer commitment along with the opening of other open water training options by for profit groups has again driven the membership numbers for this LMSC, however in a downward direction. The local board continues to work to maintain a great open water training option while keeping membership numbers from decreasing.
7. The South Dakota LMSC hosted their state meet in Pierre. They had 52 swimmers participate - a new record. Three SD swimmers achieved top ten times at this meet. They are preparing now for our open water event in August. The "I Swam The Oahe Dam" will be a 2.25 mile open water swim across the face of the Oahe Dam near Pierre, SD. Last year they had 40 participants ranging in age from 19-87. South Dakota would like to let you know that they now have a website, SDmasters.org

Breadbasket Zone Meeting Agenda Thursday 9:45am – 11:15am – Suite 223

1. Zone website – need to agree on definition, design, ongoing support
2. Zone Facebook page – use of and awareness of
3. Zone Short Course Yard Swim Meet Rotation Schedule

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Colonies Zone

Natalie Taylor, Zone Chair

Introduction

The Colonies Zone includes 10 LMSCs: Virginia, Potomac Valley, Maryland, Delaware Valley, New Jersey, Metropolitan, Adirondack, Niagara, Connecticut and New England.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Zone Championships held:
 - 1.1. Pool: SCM (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), SCY (GMU-Fairfax), LCM (UMD)
2. Bid Solicitations for upcoming Zone Championships
3. Solicitation for nominations for the Colonies Zone Dorothy 'Dot' Donnelly Award
4. LMSC Development Committee projects
5. LMSC Chairs email group

Action Items (For Convention)

1. Awarding 2016 Colonies Zone Dorothy 'Dot' Donnelly Award
2. Continue to Solicit bids for Zone Championships

Colonies Zone Meeting Agenda

Thursday 9:45am – 11:15am – Centennial IV

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Presentation of 2016 Zone Dorothy 'Dot' Donnelly Award
3. Zone Championship Recap
 - 3.1. 2015 SCM
 - 3.2. 2016 SCY
 - 3.3. 2016 LCM
4. LMSC Development Committee Updates
5. New Business
 - 5.1. Bids for 2016 SCM, 2017 SCY, LCM, Open Water and SCM Zones
6. Increasing Membership - Under 30 Age-Group
7. Event Plugs
8. Adjourn

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Dixie Zone

Matt Hooper, Zone Chair

Introduction

The Dixie Zone Committee meets annually at USMS Convention, and operates between Conventions via email amongst the Zone's LMSC chairs. The committee is comprised of representatives from each of the seven LMSC within the Zone: Florida, Florida Gold Coast, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Southeastern and Southern.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

1. Zone Championships were held in: SCM (Orlando, FL-Oct.9-11); SCY (Atlanta, GA-Apr.9+10); OW (Greensboro,NC-Jul.25); and LCM (Goldsboro, NC-Aug.6+7). The 2016 Zone SCM Championships is November 19 & 20 in Nashville, TN.
2. The Zone was asked by the LMSC Development Committee to review proposed changes to the LMSC Standards. Feedback was relayed back to LMSC Development.
3. Meet conflicts occurred with two of the Zone championships since the last convention (SCY and LCM), and there is a potential conflict with the SCM championships.

Action Items

1. Elect Zone Championships hosts for 2017.

Dixie Zone Meeting Agenda Thursday 9:45am – 11:15am – Piedmont

1. Roll call / attendance.
2. Reports (officers, chairs, etc.).
3. Discussion on upcoming LMSC Standards.
4. Elect Zone Championships hosts for 2017.
5. Old business.
6. New business.

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Great Lakes Zone

CJ Rushman, Zone Chair

The Great Lakes Committee meets annually at USMS Convention, and operates between Conventions via email and phone calls amongst the Zone's LMSC chairs. The committee is comprised of representatives from each of the eight LMSC within the Zone. LMSCs in the zone are: Allegheny, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Lake Erie Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The Great Lakes Zone has a plethora of swim meets with open events increasing as well. We are drawing more triathletes which is keeping our numbers steady. Great Lakes Zone membership is overall stable. As of June 15th Great Lakes membership is 7066, with a retention rate of 89%.

Our zone has hosted the 2 mile National Championship Open Water Swims in Indianapolis, Indiana at Eagle Creek in June and the ever popular Big Shoulders 2.5K & 5K Open Water in Chicago, Illinois. Columbus Ohio hosted a Level 1 & 2 Coach Certification course in April with a Level 3 scheduled for November 5th.

Zone Issue

1. Funding – How to utilize the unallocated funds collected from the Great Lakes LMSC from the past several years.

Action Items

1. Discuss new compliance standards and how to help our LMSC's.
2. Develop and Promote a Zone Meet (Summer and Winter)
3. Solicit ideas for use of Great Lakes Zone funds

Great Lakes Meeting Zone Agenda Thursday 9:45am – 11:15am – Chicago A/B

1. Roll call and introduction of New Delegates
2. Approve 2015 minutes
3. Financial Report
4. Discussion/solicitation of projects for funding by Great Lakes Zone
5. Other business
6. Adjourn

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Northwest Zone

Sally Dillon, Zone Chair

Ken Winterberger (AK, Treasurer), Matthew Bronson (IW), Jeanne Ensign (MT), Jeanne Teisher (OR), Michael Grimm (PN), Paula Moores (SR), and Karen Oliver (UT) are chairs of their respective LMSCs.

Ex-Officio: At-Large Director Sarah Welch (PN), Webmaster Hugh Moore (PN), Zone Record Keeper Steve Darnell (OR).

Introduction

The Pacific Northwest Zone covers a large geographical area, which includes all of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. There are seven LMSCs as Idaho and Washington combine to make PN, IW, and SR. The NW Zone roster currently lists 92 USMS members volunteering at the board level of their LMSC. The Zone meets 4 times a year with conference calls held in March, June, and December and an in-person meeting at the USMS convention in September. While all leaders within the zone are invited, conference calls typically have 12-15 attending. At “press time”, the zone has 4,296 members and 56 clubs. Snake River is the smallest LMSC with 153 members and 7 clubs and Pacific NW is the largest with 1583 members and also 7 clubs. The Zone distributes a newsletter 4-times a year, which is posted to the Zone website at www.northwestzone.org/. The chair relies on the LMSCs to contribute to the newsletter by submitting meet schedules and other information they'd like to share.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

NW Zone championship meets are typically held in all courses, SCY, LCM, SCM and Open Water. Since convention the following have taken, or will take place:

- 2015 SCM Championship – King County Aquatic Center, Federal Way, WA, November 20-21, 2015
- 2016 SCY Championship – Olympus High Aquatics Center, Salt Lake City, UT, April 16, 2016
- 2016 Open Water Championship – Elk Lake, Bend, OR, July 30, 2016
- 2016 SCM Championship – Salvation Army Kroc Center, Coeur d Alene, ID, November 12-13, 2016

Unfortunately, there were no bids to host the LCM championship this year.

The minutes of the NW Zone conference calls held since last convention are posted on the USMS website. Meeting highlights:

- December: As per a new policy adopted at the 2015 convention, we attempted to award all of the zone championship events for the following year at the December meeting. Two of the four were approved and one other required approval by email a month or so later. It was agreed that a review of the NW Zone Policies was warranted. It was agreed that we use Google Docs to view and suggest changes, which Ken Winterberger offered to set up.
- March: Two major discussions took place, the first being the consideration of changes to the policies, which we had viewed and commented on online. A significant number of changes were approved. The second discussion involved the Revised LMSC Standards, a draft of which Hugh Moore explained in depth. Hugh subsequently reported our comments and suggestions to the LMSC Development Committee, which was tasked with revising the original standards.
- June: Sandi Rousseau (OR) provided a summary of the very successful Adult Learn to Swim (ALTS) clinic that her team held in Hood River, OR. Sandi noted in her report that they did what the program was promoted to do – train the trainer and get volunteers to do the teaching. There was a spirited conversation about the ALTS program in general as we discussed how it has evolved since originally introduced to USMS members. The LMSC chairs shared information about the number of delegates they expected to attend convention in September. As many as 33 delegates are expected to attend from the NW Zone. Sarah Welch shared information from recent

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USMS BOD meetings, which included proposed water temperature legislation for sanctioned open water events, legislative proposals to FINA, Greensboro Nationals, a UANA meet bid, and the strategic planning process.

NW Zone highlights:

2015 Top 12 World Masters Swimmers of the Year list: Charlotte Davis (PN) was honored by *Swimming World* magazine. She swims for Puget Sound Masters and is currently 66 years old.

July 16, 2016: 10K Open Water National Championship, Jacksonville, OR, hosted by Rogue Valley Masters.

August 17-21, 2016: USMS Summer National Championships, Mt. Hood Aquatic Center, Gresham, OR.

June 24, 2017: 2-mile Cable Open Water National Championship, Elk Lake, OR, Central Oregon Masters Assn, host.

Sept 23, 2017: 1-mile Open Water National Championship at Angle Lake, WA, Blue Way Aquatics (PN), host.

Action Items

1. Appointed Treasurer Ken Winterberger, Webmaster Hugh Moore, and Zone Record Keeper Steve Darnell to 2-year terms.
2. Numerous zone policies were amended.

Northwest Zone Meeting Agenda Thursday 9:45am – 11:15am – Suite 222

1. Call to order and Introductions
2. Actions taken between meetings:
 - a. Approval of March 12 minutes
3. Reports:
 - a. Chair's report – Sally
 - b. Treasurer's report – Ken
 - c. Webmaster's report – Hugh
 - d. Zone Record keeper's report – Steve (via email)
4. Old Business:
 - a. Zone Championship meet update – events held since 2015 convention
 - b. *The Chatter* – zone newsletter
5. New Business:
 - a. Election – USMS At-Large Director representing Northwest Zone: Sarah Welch
 - b. Zone Championships – Bidding for 2017 events
6. LMSC Reports – a brief summary of each LMSCs accomplishments during the past year.
 - a. Alaska
 - b. Inland Northwest
 - c. Montana
 - d. Oregon
 - e. Pacific Northwest
 - f. Snake River
 - g. Utah
7. Convention “hot topics”
8. Other business as time allows
9. Adjourn

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Oceana Zone

Michael Moore, Zone Chair

Introduction

Oceana Zone includes the Pacific and Hawaii LMSCs. From one end of the zone to the other is over 2,700 miles, the greatest distance of any end to end distance of any LMCS. The committee meets annually at the U.S. Masters Swimming convention and conducts other business as needed by email and phone.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Convention

The two LMSCs only share a contiguous ocean. Both are well run LMSCs but like most of US Masters Swimming both have had a 2.5% decline in membership on a year to year basis. As of the end of July, there are 11,366 USMS members in the Oceana Zone. Both LMSCs have done well against LMSCs standards and are considered well run organizations.

This year Sierra Nevada Masters (Pacific LMSC) is hosting the the USMS 1-3 Mile Open Water Championships at Donner Lake, California. There is a limit on the number of entries and the meet “sold out” in two and half hours.

This year, the Junior Pan Pacs will be coming to Maui and the Hawaii Masters will be there volunteering to help in support of the event. Hawaii Masters will also be hosting the first Oceana Zone Championships LCM. They are tentatively scheduled for Maui in June of 2017.

Oceana Zone Meeting Agenda Thursday 9:45am – 11:15am – Suite 219

1. Introductions
2. Reports of the LMSCs
3. Zone Championships
4. Review of proposed rule changes that may be of interest to the Zone
5. Oceana representation on USMS Committees
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

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South Central Zone

Bruce Rollins, SC Zone Chair

Chairs: Dewey Smith, **Chair Oklahoma**; Ed Coates, **Chair South Texas**, Carrie O'Banion, **Chair Arkansas**; Ken Pipken, **Chair North Texas**; Bruce Rollins, **GU Chair**

Ex-Officio: Susan Ingraham, ST; Tom & Carolyn Boak, GU; Lynn Morrison, NT; Steve White, GU; Kris Wingenroth, GU; Mary Jurey, ST; Jim Sauer, ST.

Introduction

Our purpose at our annual Convention Zone meeting is to discuss, organize and direct South Central Zone Meets, opportunities and policies for the upcoming year(s). This document is a recap of this year's activities and projects. All Zone meetings outside the Convention are done by conference call.

Discussions and Projects since Last Convention

1. Elected Bruce Rollins as SC Zone Chair for 2 year term.
2. Conducted two 2016 South Central Zone Championship Meets.
 - a) North Texas, Frisco Meet SCY
 - b) Gulf, College Station Meet LCM
 - c) Zone Bid Policy Revisited/Resurrected
3. Developed "First-Time ever" SCM South Central Zone Records with help from USMS National Office through Anna and Jim Matysek.
4. Up-Dated LCM Zone Records by Susan Ingraham in April. SCY by Convention.
5. Will Honor Jessie Coon Service Award person(s) at SC Zone Meet in July.
6. High level discussions on impending LMSC Standards Policies proposed by the LMSC Development Committee. We pushed back to VP of Local Operations on several points. Ed and Bruce led this effort.
7. Changed leadership in North Texas Zone with the election of Ken Pipkin as Chair person. David Young was the previous Chair in 2015.
8. Jill Gellatley will be stepping down as At Large South Central Board Director position effective at Convention 2016. The Committee vote to support the nomination of Ed Coates from the South Texas LMSC to succeed Jill.

Action Items

1. SC Zone Website – 2013 Item Follow-up
2. Discuss/Vote on 2017 Bids for SCY and LCM Zone Championship Meets.
3. Determine the Jesse Coon Award winner for Service –2017
4. Zone Policies – Follow-up from 2010 & 2011 Convention Minutes.
5. Follow up on Zone Vice Chair position from 2013 Meeting
6. Develop Zone Meet Calendar for 2017

South Central Meeting Agenda Thursday 9:45am – 11:15am – Suite 226

1. **Welcome** and Round table of introductions.
2. **LMSC Chairs**-a few sentences about your LMSC.
3. **Old Business Review**
 - a) Review 2016 Zone Championship Meets
 - b) Follow-up SC Zone Website
 - c) Understand the history of SC Zone Policies

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4. New Business

- a) SC Zone Championship Meet Bids and Vote for 2017 & 2018
- b) Jessie Coon Award Nominations and Discussions.
- c) Possible SC Zone Vice Chair
- d) 2017 Zone Meet Calendar Development
- e) Any other New Business

Address Parking Lot Thoughts & Adjourn

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Southwest Zone

Mary Hull, Zone Chair

Introduction

The Southwest Zone includes Arizona, New Mexico, San Diego-Imperial, and the Southern Pacific LMSCs. The committee meets annually at the U.S. Masters Swimming convention and conducts other business as needed by email. All four LMSCs have hosted meets this year. The zone has also had some open water swims.

Southwest Zone Meeting Agenda Thursday 9:45am – 11:15am - Marietta

1. Introductions
2. LMSC Reports: Arizona, New Mexico, San Diego-Imperial, Southern Pacific
3. Zone Meets for 2017: SCY---Arizona, SCM---Southern Pacific
4. Old Business
5. New Business