

Chair Sally Dillon called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM PST. Also present were Marianne Bradley, Dan & Edie Gruender, Julie Heather, Margie Hutinger, Graham Johnston, June Krauser, and Gail Roper.

1. **Convention minutes** – it was unnecessary to approve the minutes since the HOD approved them.
2. **Review of “award-giving” committee conference call** – Sally and Hill participated in a call November 10 with representatives from the Championship, Coaches, Communications, and Fitness committees. The minutes had been sent by email to the R&A Committee.
 - a. Award speeches at convention were discussed. Efforts will be made to assure that the recipient is present and when not, just their name will be read. Only recipients of major awards like the Club of the Year would be allowed to make a brief acceptance speech.
 - b. Regarding the David Yorzyk Award, the recommendations from the conference call were discussed. Mani Sanguily has been presenting this award for 20+ years but it is not officially a USMS award. It appears that in many cases, no actual award has been presented – someone was just “honored”. There is also the question of whether any specific criteria have been set up. The “award-giving” group suggested the award be given out at SCY Nationals and that the winners be listed in the rulebook on a memorial page rather than on the USMS award list. Most agreed that we should recommend to the BOD that the award not be recognized as a USMS award and that they might consider that Mani should go to the SCY National Championship director on a year-by-year basis to receive permission to give out the award. Sally will attempt to find out more information regarding criteria for the award and pass that information along to the R&A Committee and the BOD.
3. **Review of the chair’s activity** – Sally brought everyone up to speed since convention.
 - a. Policy Manual revision – This is a project she and Marianne will work on but Sally is waiting on materials from the previous chairs.
 - b. Club of the Year Award (COYA) “awards” – The committee was sent artwork to review in September. Three 3’X5’ banners were ordered for the 2006, 2007, and 2008 award winners (Indy SwimFit, Walnut Creek, and Woodlands Masters). The teams received them in November.
 - c. COYA nomination information – Sally revised the form to better match up with the nomination form, which was revised last spring. Margie, Hill, and Marianne were sent the information for their review. The final form will be sent to Jim Matysek for posting.
 - d. Updated awards site – Sally has revised some of the award descriptions and has encouraged the other committees to revise their award information as well. Gail asked about the IMSHOF criteria. The R&A Committee can only nominate people for pioneer or contributor, not athletes. The IMSHOF selection is strictly a numbers game administered by ISHOF with help from the Records and Tabulation Committee.
4. **New subcommittees** – update on progress
 - a. COYA – recognizing more clubs. The subcommittee (Bill Tingley and Margie) has not gotten underway. They could use help from someone on the Coaches Committee. Sally suggested they get together and to come up with a plan and then contact Chris Colburn to see if he can get a volunteer to work with them. Their goal was to investigate USA-Swimming’s club award program and come back to convention next year with information and/or recommendations. Julie clarified that we don’t need to have more than one COYA award but we could also recognize at various levels (like USA-S gold/silver/bronze). The recognition would be used for advertising to promote the clubs.
 - b. Rule book dedication – At convention we were tasked to develop criteria and establish a committee to make the decision each year. The committee should coordinate, oversee, and assist in setting up the process for people to submit someone for dedication. The committee doesn’t need to be from the R&A Committee. None of the committee members were present and Sally will contact them to get them going on this project.
 - c. Recognition of volunteers on the local level – Julie and Marianne need help of at least one other person and it was suggested that we ask Nancy Ridout. Their task is seeing how our committee can take an educational role in helping LMSCs learn how to thank their volunteers (officials, worker-bee’s, etc.). We

could compile a list of ways, recommendations, and tools such as downloadable letters, certificates, note cards, and templates to make cards and notes.

5. **New business**

- a. Graham asked why there was nothing in the rulebook about USMS awards. Julie suggested the information about the awards should be part of the USMS policy manual.
- b. Graham also asked why our Top Ten awards don't include OW swims? Sally said that there isn't conformity in the distances for open water swims other than the cable swims so it would be difficult to do this. The results are posted on the web. Julie said there is discussion about having an open water series across the country. Basically, this is OW/LD business.
- c. Graham expressed his disappointment that more people don't donate to ISHOF. It was suggested that should write a letter to the editor at SWIMMER Magazine.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM

Addendum to the posted minutes:

NOTE: After June left the call the committee discussed a proposal from the BOD that she be honored in some way. Suggestions included a lifetime achievement award, naming an award after June – on par with the Ransom Arthur Award, or naming the endowment foundation after her. It was noted that June already has the communications award named after her. It was also noted that USAS would not allow us to present another award at the banquet so an award equal to the RJA award would not work. Finally, there was a concern that the persons responsible for getting the foundation started might feel as though their contributions were not recognized.

Dan said that June knows she is well respected and highly regarded and he's not sure that she cares about another award. Graham suggested June be presented with a handsome "one-time" award for lifetime achievement. It could say something like "Presented to June Krauser for her lifetime of contributions to Masters Swimming".

Finally, the question arose as to when this would be awarded. We're under the impression that she will not be coming to convention.