

ACTION ITEMS

MSA that nominations from individuals and/or clubs for the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award will require LMSC board approval.

MSA to approve a USMS Staff Appreciation Award.

Chair Sally Dillon called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. Also present were Vice Chair Hill Carrow, Marianne Bradley, Kelly Crandell, Dan & Edie Gruender, Julie Heather, Margie Hutingler, Graham Johnston, and Walt Reid.

PROCEDURES: Sally asked everyone to state their name when they speak and to try to prevent outside noise.

12/1/08 MINUTES: It was MSA to approve the minutes as written.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Sally reported that she has received the historical notebook from Kelly and a box of files from Kathy Casey. She has emailed Meg Smath to see if minutes from the original Ransom Arthur committee are in the Secretary's historical files as they are not in the materials passed on. Specifically, she would like to have the historical information about the RJA award nominees for the historical files. It is only in recent years that all of the nominees have been announced and some felt it shouldn't be done. Sally thought it was an honor to be nominated but there was a concern that people who are nominated numerous times would be embarrassed. Some nominations are meant to be kept secret from the nominee.

1. Awards web site: Sally has assisted the other committees in getting their information updated. She will be revising all posted forms so they include the new USMS logo and she will be working with the History & Archives Committee to add information about each of the past award winners.
2. David Yorzyk Award: The committee's decision from the last meeting and email discussion was forwarded to the Executive Committee and they concurred. President Copeland would be contacting Mani Sanguili.
3. Ransom Arthur Award: The votes are in, the award is ordered, and it is planned to present it at the SCY nationals on Saturday, May 9. Sally sent letters of congratulations to the nominees. She reported that the nomination form had a second page, even though the directions say there is only one page. Suzanne Rague, the maker of the form, intended that the nominator complete the second page as part of the nomination process. The consensus of the committee is to change the directions to indicate there is a two-page form to complete.
4. Call for nominations: Sally reported that the May/June issue of *Swimmer* and the next *Streamlines* will have nomination information and due dates for all of the USMS awards (except the RJA). She also reported that Hugh Moore, chair of the Communications Committee, has indicated that his committee would like to eliminate the Newsletter of the Year Award – possibly combining it with the June Krauser Communications Award. Kelly shared her knowledge of the situation as she has served on the newsletter selection committee. The consensus of the committee is to support the Communication Committee's decision. Marianne suggested that we put information on the home page of the USMS website about the call for nominations. It was noted that finding the awards page is a bit difficult. Julie suggested we use the National Office Blasts to inform people about the awards and deadlines as well. Sally will contact Jim Matysek and the National Office.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Club of the Year expansion: Margie shared the information from USA-Swimming's program – Gold, Silver, & Bronze. The application form and the levels are based on competition goals – very different from our core objectives that our Club of the Year application is based on. She pointed out that of 204 teams applying for recognition, 200 of them received it. In 2008, 14 nominations were considered for our club award. It was discussed that we need to encourage LMSCs to recognize clubs at their level and encourage them to nominate their winners for the USMS COYA. Members should send their suggestions for club recognition to Margie. The objective is NOT to replace the current award, but to have other levels of recognition that can be given.
2. Rule Book Dedication: Hill reported that the committee has not accomplished anything so far. He agreed to be in charge and will contact the others to get the project under way.
3. Recognition of Volunteers on the LMSC level: Marianne reported that Julie has shared some ideas about getting information on the web site. She agreed to be in charge of this subcommittee and will get together soon with an email exchange or conference call.
4. ISHOF/IMSHOF: Walt reviewed the status of the ISHOF & IMSHOF awards. For ISHOF, no Masters swimmer was selected in 2009. Jane Asher (2006) was the last to receive the honor and Laura Val (2003) the last American. ISHOF has changed the category for pool swimmers so 2009 and beyond will be based on points, the same as the IMSHOF. Walt has a vote in the Masters category and noted that although they select a winner each year, that doesn't guarantee a Masters swimmer, will get in. If there is more than one elite swimmer that they want in, we get left out. IMSHOF continues on a point system. The deadline was at last year's convention but the 2009 class has still not been announced. In response to Graham's question, Walt provides the points, runs the

summaries, and turns over the data to Bob Duenkel at the Hall of Fame. Mel Goldstein is on the 2010 IMSHOF list of candidates as a contributor. At the request of Bruce Wigo, Walt is working on an IMSHOF "issues" subcommittee. There is a concern that there is not enough interest worldwide. Finally, Walt noted that until Karlyn Pipes-Neilsen (who has over 3000 points) is honored, we should not submit any other categories.

R&A COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION: A suggestion has been made to once again, change the committee description in the Rule Book. This was done just two years ago with the result being a significant change in the committee make-up from earlier years. Sally sees a problem in that there are a number of committee members who have shown little interest in contributing – either in conference calls or on subcommittees. We have eight RJA members and various others including representatives from the Open Water / Long Distance, History & Archives, Records & Tabulations, and Coaches committees. Sally suggested that she contact all members come September and ask them to consider their interest and availability to contribute before they ask to be placed on the committee.

DOROTHY DONNELLY USMS SERVICE AWARD: In response to Dan's question, Hill explained the nomination process. The R&A chair, vice chair, and USMS president make the final selections for the 15 awards given. If there are not enough qualified candidates then fewer are awarded. Sometimes the nomination information is pretty "thin" and he said that adding an extra layer (LMSC endorsement) would ensure the worthiness of the nominee and the accuracy of the nomination.

1. Nomination approval from LMSC: To follow up on discussion from the previous meeting, it was **MSA that nominations from individuals and/or clubs for the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award will require LMSC board approval.**
2. Web page description: Dan asked about the description on the current web page. It allows nominations from LMSCs, clubs, and individuals. The history of the award was discussed and Julie said the original intention was to give service awards for the local level only. Sally shared that she has gone over years of meeting minutes and that the original intention is not as clear as it should be. The "criteria document" mentioned in the 1996 R&A committee minutes has not been found. The consensus was that allowing the LMSC endorsement resolves the controversy.
3. Limiting number of recipients from one LMSC: Sally had received a suggestion that we adopt a policy limiting LMSCs to a specific number of recipients in a given year. This was a problem some years back when as many as six people from one LMSC received the award. It appears that this is not happening anymore. Hill said that, in practice, we try to spread the wealth. It was agreed that increasing publicity would help solve the problem. The consensus of the committee was to not limit the numbers at this time.

USMS STAFF APPRECIATION AWARD: The staff submitted a request for a new award in February and an email discussion and vote was taken. The request was turned down in March. The staff came back to the committee with a more thought-out request. The award will honor a current member of USMS and since that is to be kept secret, the name has been omitted for the sake of these minutes. The committee discussed the proposal at length. The nominees and selection will come from the staff. With this award, their objective is to honor a certain person with this award and then recognize others over the years that, through their volunteer contributions, earn a high level of the staff's appreciation. It was **MSA to approve a USMS Staff Appreciation Award.**

NEXT MEETING: The committee will hold a conference call in July with prospective dates distributed by email.

It was MSA to adjourn at 6:51 pm.

It was MSA to approve these minutes via Email in July, 2009.