

<b>Committee Name:</b>	Coaches Committee: 2025 Annual Meeting		
<b>Committee Chair:</b>	Molly Hoover	<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Aaron Schneider
<b>Minutes recorded by:</b>	Jacky Merianos	<b>Meeting date/time:</b>	August 12, 2025 8pm EST

## Roll Call

<b>Number of committee members present:</b> 11	<b>Absent:</b> 1	<b># of other delegates present:</b> 20
<b>Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):</b> Molly Hoover (Chair), Aaron Schneider (Vice Chair), Kenny Brisbin (VPCS), Bill Brenner (Ex-Officio), Blake Woodrow, Chris McPherson, Gretch Sanders, Jacky Merianos, Laurie Hug, Mike Hamm, Rob Duguay,		
<b>Not present:</b> Trey Taylor		
<b>Others present:</b> Barbara Church, Barbara Protzman, Carrie Stolar, Chris Campbell, Crystie McGrail, Diana Hermason, Ed Saltzman, Fiona Duncan, Jill Wright, Jim Miller, Ken M, Matt Harris, Marcia Benjamin, Marilyn Fink, Megan O'Connell, Paul Windrath, Rand Vaillancourt, Sally Dillon, Sandi Rousseau, Wynne Kirchner		

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:03pm Eastern Standard Time

1. Welcome to the 2025 Coaches Committee Annual Meeting. Thank you, committee members, and welcome guests! (Molly)
2. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

### **NCC/Relay (Aaron Schneider)**

Get ready for 2025 Volunteer Relay (October 2025)! The Relay planning team has put together a fantastic weekend of workshops and activities focused on Coach and Club Development. Check out the [USMS Relay webpage](#) for all information and details.

### **Web Workouts (Gretch Sanders):**

All continues to run smoothly with our Web Workouts. We've received a few requests about the 2026-2027 application process; Gretch will follow up soon with more information. We will also be sending out communication soon so coaches are aware of the 2026-2027 application process.

Question from Kenny: Asking on behalf of a few Coaches – can we offer seasonal and/or championship plans via web workouts (i.e. – Nationals Workout Plan)?

Answer: The committee agrees that this would provide great value. However, we are concerned that with so many potential directions, it could create more work than we can manage and/or afford.

Question from Jacky (for Kenny): Is your question/request regarding season plans for Coaches or season plans for swimmers?

Answer (Kenny): Both. It would be beneficial to provide coaches with resources for developing season plans. It would also be beneficial to provide unattached swimmers with a seasonal workout plan they can follow.

Matt Harris (Guest): Do we have any testimonials we could feature on the USMS webpage to help better promote our great web workout program?

Answer: We don't have any on hand at the moment, but we can gather some!

### **Awards (Aaron Schneider)**

Our awards sub-committee—Chris, Laurie Gretch, and Aaron—has selected this year's winners for Coach of the Year and the Kerry O'Brien Award. There are eight recipients of the Kerry O'Brien Award. The winners of these awards will be announced at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

### **Education (Bill Brenner)**

We have a busy fall schedule kicking off on September 1 in Reno, NV. You can find a complete list of upcoming USMS Coach Courses and Clinics on the USMS Website: [Clinic Course Information & Schedule](#). If you're LMSC or club is interested in hosting a coach education weekend, please contact Bill Brenner.

In the past year (Aug 2024 - 2025), USMS has certified the following number of coaches:

Level 1: 216

Level 2: 142

Level 3: 128

**Level 4 Applications (Laurie Hug):** This year, one Level 4 application was submitted for review. The committee evaluated and approved the applicant as a USMS Level 4 Coach. They will be announced and recognized as a Level 4 Coach at our upcoming Annual Meeting.

**LMSC Communication (Blake Woodrow):** Blake has been actively sending monthly emails to Coaches Chairs, aiming to share as much national-level information as possible. His focus is on highlighting opportunities for coaches, such as On-Deck Coaching at Nationals, award nominations, and Coach Socials.

Important: If you're not receiving national-level coach communications, please contact your LMSC's Coaches Chair—they are the designated recipients of this information and communication. Blake also shares his email updates in the Coaches Chair Forum on the USMS Community platform.

Blake and Jacky continue to work on a communication platform for coaches. A soft launch is planned for 2025 Volunteer Relay (October 2025), with a full rollout to all coaches anticipated in 2026.

### **Mentoring (Rob Duguay):**

Rob had two coaches request mentors - both members of the New England LMSC. He has made the decision to mentor them.

Question from Rob: Who are our designated Mentors?

Answer: While we don't currently have mentors lined up, we have a strong pool of qualified and willing coaches—we simply need to reach out and ask.

**On Deck Coaching (Chris McPherson):** Summer Nationals was a success! We welcomed a lot of new and enthusiastic faces on deck. It was a great learning and bonding experience for all coaches. On-deck coaching continues to be a rewarding opportunity for those who participate.

Comment from Matt Harris (guest): On Deck Coaching is a testament to the vibrant and supportive community that USMS represents.

We are back in business with our neon yellow shirts. Time to retire the mellow yellow from San Antonio.

**Publications (Laurie Hug):** Nothing new to report; no new article submissions have been received.

**Peer to Peer (Jacky Merianos):** Positive feedback was received regarding our Summer Nationals Coach Social. The National Office generously covered the first drink for every coach. Building on the success of both our Summer and Spring socials, we hope to continue this tradition at future national meets.

Tip: For future socials, plan and market the event sooner.

**Worlds (Jacky Merianos):** Chad is currently in Singapore with our Worlds Team and doing an outstanding job! He has maintained excellent communication with all USMS athletes. Having access to the USMS roster and email list of participants has helped him stay connected with the entire team.

Upon his return, the committee will ask Chad to provide a feedback statement. Jacky will also prepare a survey for participants. We hope the feedback gathered will support efforts to secure funding for future international coaching/events.

Our subcommittee will soon begin planning for PanAms 2026, which will be held in Buenos Aires.

### 3. Committee Repots

**D&I (Kenny Brisbin):** D&I is actively working to establish a D&I Chair in every LMSC. Currently, 14 LMSCs have appointed D&I Chairs.

**ALTS (Mike Hamm):** The ALTS Committee is currently developing a mentoring program. They are also gathering items for the Golden Goggles Silent Auction, which helps fund ALTS grants through its proceeds.

**LMSC Development (Jacky Merianos):** Fall Social Hours for USMS Volunteers to take place on the following days:

Thurs, September 24<sup>th</sup> 8PM (ET)  
Fri, September 25<sup>th</sup> 1PM (ET)  
Sun, October 5<sup>th</sup> 7PM (ET)

**Long Distance (Gretch Sanders):** No new updates. The Long Distance committee hasn't met since our last meeting.

**4. Old Business**

No old business

**5. New Business**

A very big thank you to Sally Dillon, Sandi Rousseau and their team of volunteers for a fantastic, well-run Summer Nationals Meet!

This meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM Eastern Standard Time