2026 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Virtual

Committee Name:	Northwest Zone	**Session #:**	1 of 1
Committee Chair:	Jill Wright	**Vice Chair:**	N/A
Minutes recorded by:	Sally Dillon	**Date/time of meeting:**	August 27, 7 pm Mtn

Actions Requiring Approval by the House of Delegates:

1. none

Motions Passed:

1. MSA to approve Puget Sound Masters' bid to host the SCM Zone Championship in Federal Way November 21/22, 2026.

Number of committee members present 18 **Absent 2** **Number of other delegates present 4**

Committee members present: Annual Meeting delegates: IW - Rob Heath, Paige Buehler, Alex McAnally; MT – Karen Simpson; OR – MJ Caswell, Christina Fox, Sandi Rousseau, Nancy Vincent, Paul Windrath; PN – Kathy Casey, Linda Chapman, Jim Davidson, Sally Dillon, Maddie Sibilia; SR – Jim Clemmons, Jill Wright; UT – Anna Forest, Jerry Treiman

Committee Members Absent: Kent Hamilton (AK), Margaret Allen (SR)

NW Zone attendees who are not delegates: Ken Winterberger (AK), Jeanne Ensign (MT), Diana Hermanson (PN)

Guests: Ed Coates, USMS President

Minutes

Jill called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm Mountain time.
She asked all participants to share what they do for exercise - that isn't swimming.

Rob – lifts weights; Paige – bikes; Alex – runs; bikes, lifts; Karen – lifts, bikes; Jeanne – Pilates, gardens, walks; Paul – lifts, walks, mountain bikes; Christina – lifts, hikes; Sandi – hikes, bikes, skis, backpacks, paddleboards; MJ – lifts, walks, hikes; Nancy – lifts, hikes, skis; Kathy – water skis, walks, hikes, paddleboards, kayaks; Linda – strength trains, walks; Jim D – lifts, walks; Sally – line dances, walks; Maddie – lifts, walks, Pilates, bar; Ken – hikes, bikes; Jill – rows, walks, lifts; Diane – lifts (physical therapist – job is a workout!); Jim C – landscapes, shovels, walks; Jerry - walks, stands long hours (is a surgeon); and Anna – nothing but swimming!

1. Actions taken between meetings: The June 1, 2026, meeting minutes were approved by the LMSC chairs via email and posted on the USMS and NW Zone website. Since the last USMS Annual Meeting, the zone also met on 12/1/25, 3/2/26, and 6/1/26.
2. Reports
   a. Chair: Jill Wright reminded everyone to review the committee's annual report. It is at the bottom of the Sched page. She wasn't sure how many members each LMSC had because the revised website no longer provides that info. She asked the chairs to let her know if the numbers are incorrect in the annual report.
   b. Finance: Ken Winterberger – The account balance is $10,230.24. Ken explained that the zone's assets are being held by the USMS National Office. One purpose of having zone funds is to assist LMSCs that need financial help to send members to in-person meetings and events. The zone provides ribbons for all zone championships, and the fund also pays for a meal when the zone can meet in person at the USMS Annual meeting. Over time, the zone has collected approximately $1200 a year from the zone's larger LMSCs to support the fund. This past year the policies were revised regarding the procedures. The policies are on the zone's website.
   c. Website: Dave Cabre does an excellent job maintaining the zone website; he was not on the call.
   d. Records: Steve Darnell does an excellent job maintaining the zone records; he was also not on the call.
   e. Zone Chatter: Christina Fox does an excellent job putting together the quarterly newsletter. She thanked all for providing LMSC information for each issue.
   f. Secretary: In addition to taking notes and preparing meeting minutes, Sally Dillon maintains the zone roster and email lists. She assists Jill when needed. She also manages the awards for our 4 zone championship events.
   g. NW Zone At Large Director: Rob Heath noted that while he is the elected At Large Director from the NW Zone, he serves all USMS members. Recent board business has been focused on governance; how the organization is run. Paid consultants recently provided an 80 page document with recommendations. The board is looking to spread the

recommendations and/or changes out over a few years, implementing some each year through 2030. Linda asked if we will be able to see this report and Rob responded that he believes it will be shared with the HOD. Rob is running unopposed for his board position and will serve 2 more years when elected. Paul mentioned his concerns with the "mission" of some of the remaining committees. He specifically noted the H&A committee, but likely all committees are asked, "How does this drive membership?" when determining what to work on.

   h. Zone Championship events update:
      i. 2026 SCM Zone Championship – A bid was submitted by Puget Sound Masters to host the event in November 21/22 at Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center. Jill asked if any there were questions about the bid. Hearing none, it was MSA (Paul/Jim) to approve PSM's bid (unanimous).
      ii. Bids for 2027. The schedule calls for SCY (any LMSC), LCM (OR), SCM (PN), OW (AK). Paul said he will ask Bob Bruce if he is interested in the SCY or LCM. All bids are due to Jill by December 1. The bid forms are on the Zone's website. Please let Jill know if your LMSC is unable to host their assigned event.

3. Presidential visit: Ed Coates dropped by to say "thank you" for what we do to support Masters Swimming in our communities. He thanked us also for taking the time to attend meetings, forums, and HOD meetings, and he stayed on the call for a while to answer questions.
4. New Business
   a. Club Registration – "member clubs", "affiliate clubs". Rob explained that USMS is looking to offer different kinds of memberships. The goal is to capture more clubs that are not members of the organization and to encourage clubs to have all their swimmers be members of USMS masters. A member club would get full benefits if everyone is registered (Member club). An affiliate club would pay separately for benefits (Ala carte) like marketing and insurance. There are 13,000 registered swimmers who are training with USMS teams that are not USMS members. The Bellevue Club in WA and most YMCAs are an example of what would be an affiliate.
   Paul noted that there are lots of unanswered questions for this proposal. In OR, workout groups self-reported their members, and the numbers are way off. He suggests USMS not use self-reporting numbers. Jeanne asked if regional clubs would be affiliates; Rob is not sure. She noted that there is no club in Missoula, yet they have a few coached workouts. She registers a workout group so people can find out about them on Club Finder when they come to Missoula. Ed clarified that both affiliate clubs and member clubs would be in Club Finder. The difference is more about marketing support.
   Nancy asked what the downside would be to an affiliate club. Apparently, they would lose the marketing perks that USMS can offer. "Try Masters Swimming" is free to member clubs, affiliates would pay separately for that. The proposal does not affect individual memberships. MJ commented that the proposal will be challenging for regional clubs. Ken noted that Alaska's workout groups all require USMS membership. Other comments: In Northern Spokane, they don't require USMS registration. Linda said she had attended a meeting about this and thought one reason for the proposal was to find a way to secure a certificate of insurance for the swimmers. Technically, USMS shouldn't cover the practice if all swimmers aren't registered. Christina noted that in Oregon a swimmer can register without being associated with a workout group or club. Rob addressed Linda's question and said that we must start somewhere, and this gives USMS a clear guideline about what to do. Paul suggested that USMS wants to make sure marketing programs support clubs or workout groups who encourage USMS membership. If clubs don't require membership they will have to pay extra for perks member clubs receive.
   b. Next meeting: Jill reported that the zone's next quarterly meeting will be on Monday, Dec 7.
   c. 2026 USMS Relay: Jill asked how many LMSC members would be going to the Relay this year. The information wasn't readily available, so she asked the LMSC chairs to send their attendee lists for USMS Relay to Sally so they can be included in the minutes.
   d. Convention "Hot Topics""
      i. Jill reminded all to be sure to attend the Legislation Forum on Sept 2.
      Sandi said was surprised that the History & Archive committee was still "alive" and Rob said it wasn't a big topic this year. He went on to say that the "hot" topic of discussion regarded the proposed change to USMS Rules regarding relay age groups. The proposal is to have all relays (yards and meters) use the "accumulated" age as is done currently in meter meets only. Paul said that in 1985 this was approved and the next year it was repealed. He said "switching back and forth" is a bad idea. He noted that in 1971 and 1972 USMS started with much larger age divisions. If changes are made, USMS needs to be sure this is very clear on the USMS website. Software changes will need to be made. Rob said the justification for the proposal is that it is fairer for smaller teams. Sandi asked if OR would be ready to implement this and Paul said, "not easily". A commitment to manage this must be available if it will work. HyTek costs will be problematic; possibly requiring a new updated system for all users. Linda noted that years ago there was a change made regarding times when a touch pad failed, and the solution was not passed on to HyTek. It created a big problem until the fix was made.
      ii. Jim D. reported that the most substantive proposal for Long Distance clarifies water temp requirements (LD-1). Also, there are proposals regarding protests and the bidding processes. Paige asked and Jim confirmed that the protest wording would be going into policy.

iii. The proposals for USMS Rules regarding bulkhead measurements are good as per Paul, but attention still needs to be done at each facility. USMS has been stricter and more rigid with its measurement rules than all other governing bodies and Federations. Facility management needs to be sure the bulkhead is set in the correct position and is straight. Kathy thinks this will be the major concern.

iv. Jill suggested printing the proposals and Paige also suggested checking the website to see if the proposals have been edited.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. None mentioned. The meeting was adjourned at. 7:24 pm

Post meeting information from LMSCs regarding attendees at USMS Relay:

AK: Signe Johannes (pronounced like Sydney as per Kent H.)

IW: Lesley Fields, Josh Nelson-Ichido, and Alex McAnally (member of the LMSC Development committee)

MT: no participant

OR: Nancy Vincent.

PN: Jessi Gable, Emily Lederman, Lorraine Masse, Maddie Sibilia, Jennifer Tran, and Linda Chapman (member of the LMSC Development committee)

SR: Margaret Allen, Loren Pearson (a presenter), and Jill Wright.

UT: Lief Oines, Dawn Martindale, and Bruce Schroeder
