

GULF MASTERS SWIM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

APPROVED 10/19/2023

Oct 10, 2023 Zoom meeting 6:00 pm

Gulf Officers present: Nicole Christensen (Chair, Communications-Webmaster), Stacey Eicks (Vice-Chair, Fitness Co-Chair), Karlene Denby (Treasurer, Communications Chair/Newsletter, Fitness Co-Chair), Kris Wingenroth (Secretary)

Gulf Committee Chairs present: Patrick Harrington (Coach's Chair), Andreas Lorenz (Long Distance Chair), Anna Bass (Diversity & Inclusion Chair)

Team Representatives present: Alana Wilson (WMST)

Not present: Linda Visser (Membership Coordinator), Kevin Lunsford (Sanctions), Kyra Wakefield (Top Ten), Herb Schwab (Officials), Jill Gellatly (College Club Swimming Liaison)

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

Nicole welcomed attendees. All members present are certified to vote.

The minutes from the 8/1/2023 meeting were approved via email on 8/15/2023.

Please note the following action was taken via e-mail between the 8/1/2023 meeting and this meeting due to the necessity to institute the proposed policy by October 1.

On 9/19/2023, an e-mail vote was taken on the following motion.

A motion was made to pay the annual registration fee for clubs that are registered in the Gulf LMSC.

Motion by Kris, Seconded by Karlene. The motion passed 9 – 1.

1. Officer and Chair No Reports

- a. Vice Chair – Stacey Eicks
- b. Secretary – Kris Wingenroth
- c. Officials – Herb Schwab
- d. Membership – Linda Visser

2. Treasurer – Karlene Denby

- a. Gulf financials 9-30-23 – we have a cash balance of \$392.31.
- b. Gulf positions 9-30-23 – our total liabilities and fund balance is \$72,001.74.
- c. 2024 Proposed Gulf Budget with 2023 Actual through 9-30-23 – a worksheet proposal for the 2024 budget was presented. A few adjustments were made to make the line items more accurate.
- d. Recap of Team Dividend Initiative program – Initial payments for a total of \$1016 were made to the four teams that requested to participate. These teams were WMST, COOG, MACA, and BTA. As of 10/4/23, it is expected to distribute another \$248 to these teams for additional members. This would be a total of approximately \$1264 for the Dividend Initiative program.

3. Chair – Nicole Christensen

- a. USMS Relay 2023 is coming up soon on Oct 20 – 22 at the IAH Marriott. Attendees from the Gulf include Nicole Christensen, Kris Wingenroth, Jill Gellatly, Andreas Lorenz, Nicholas Starvaggi (CCS) and Andrew Jeffery (CCS). Presentations will be on various topics relating to event hosting (pool and open water).
- b. After time spent emailing and calling our clubs, several were found to have inaccurate contact information on the USMS website. For the clubs that responded, the list of contacts for the club and

coaches (names and email addresses) has been updated. Also, after reviewing teams on the USMS Club Finder, it was discovered that two teams that are in the Gulf LMSC area were mistakenly registered in South Texas. One team, Fulshear Racing Swim Team masters, is now a 2024 Gulf club. The other, Hydra, located in the Cypress area, never registered any swimmers so was not renewed.

- c. Nicole reached out to Erik Cozadd from ETEX regarding the USMS Club Development program. He has filled out the form to apply for a grant.
- d. Since Linda, the Membership Coordinator, is in Peru, Nicole reported that the Gulf is now up to 879 members with 25 registered teams.

4. Sanctions – Kevin Lunsford

- a. Shark Attack, a Lake Longhorn open water swim on Saturday, October 21, 2023, has been sanctioned.
- b. The Sabine Weiser November Classic short course meters meet to be held on Saturday and Sunday November 11-12, 2023 has been sanctioned.

5. Coaches – Patrick Harrington

At the previous meeting, Andreas suggested a “Coach on Deck” program that would have Certified Masters Coaches present at Masters competitions. The coaches would be clearly labeled with “USMS Coach on Deck” bright lime-colored t-shirt and available to any participant for coaching suggestions during warm up. This proposed program was implemented at the “First time for Everything” meet, conducted by the First Colony Masters and the Texas Elite Masters (in Katy) meet at SBISD Natatorium.

Andreas and Patrick attended with their LOUD coach t-shirts and made a difference with the participants. They had connected with the meet directors beforehand to advise them of their plan to be there. The meet directors were supportive, and the coaches introduced themselves at the meets and established a connection with the meet directors. These were the first two opportunities for Coach on Deck implementation, and it did provide a value to the Gulf Masters organization. A secondary result will be a bonding of Gulf team coaches as the Coaches on Deck interact with them during these swim meets.

Main points:

1. Some participants directly approached the Coaches on Deck (CODs) and told them that they appreciated their attendance and were glad to have a COD to direct their questions to.
 2. Other participants approached the CODs with general questions about meet logistics and were supplied answers to their questions.
 3. A good connection was made with the Masters coaches and meet directors who were supportive and saw the program in action.
 4. Andreas connected with a swimmer from the north part of our LMSC. He has reached out since then, and this swimmer now feels he is part of the Gulf LMSC.
 5. Patrick met a swimming contingent from Trinity University in San Antonio (where he started his college career, before transferring to UT). There may be an opportunity to give them more information on the College Club Masters program (a question for Jill). He has a phone number from one of the Trinity swimmers.
6. **Fitness – Karlene Denby** – The new fitness challenge, the Virtual Swim Around Galveston, began October 1 and ends December 31. There are currently 25 participants enrolled in this 60 mile “race.”
 7. **Open Water/Long Distance – Andreas Lorenz** – The second Introduction to Open Water Swim Clinic was held 9/30/23. Six people registered but only two showed up. To reduce the cancellation rate, he may start to charge a fee for the clinic instead of having them free. He plans to hold another intro clinic prior to the first Grand Prix Race next year and another intro clinic in the fall. He would also like to host a Race Clinic in the

spring if he can get enough participation to make it simulate race conditions.

8. **Diversity and Inclusion – Anna Bass** – Anna hopes to run an ALTS class in November. She has caps to provide to participants and will purchase goggles for which she will be reimbursed.

9. **College Club Swimming – Jill Gellatly**

- a. Texas A&M is still the only college in Texas with a CCS team. Currently she has a stronger team than last year, and she expects more swimmers to attend the Sweetheart Swim and additional USMS meets later in the year. Their spring invite (Kris – I wasn't sure what the invite was) is the same weekend as zones so they will not be inviting USMS members to their invite. However, they may be inviting USMS members to their fall 2024 invite. Two of their officers are attending Relay and meetings have been set up with Dawson and other key USMS people.

10. **Top Ten – Kyra Wakefield**

- a. The Sept 23rd FCST First Time for Everything and Sept 30th Texas Elite Fall Opener results(?) have been uploaded into the USMS database.
- b. LCM Top Ten submissions are due by October 20th

11. **Emails – Nicole Christensen**

Since the last meeting, five emails have been sent out to Gulf only members. Unique opens (how many people opened the emails?) continue to be well over 50% with total opens (including opens more than once by the same person) ranges from 91% to 100% with clicks ranging from 8% to 21%.

12. **Zone Report – Nicole Christensen**

- a. The All-Time Zone LCM Records have been updated on the Records page www.usmssouthcentralzone.org/records

13. **New Business**

- a. A draft of a suggested policy for paying the registration fee for the Gulf clubs was presented by Kris. The consensus was that this should remain as a trial program before it is made a permanent policy. No action was taken.
- b. It was discussed whether the Coach on Deck guest coaches should receive a stipend for being on duty at a swim meet. No decision was made. This will be discussed again after the program has had more trials.

14. **SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

- a. A poll was taken and it was determined that the best date for the Annual Meeting would be Saturday, December 2nd. Nicole has found a location with a food truck that she may contact.

15. **ADJOURNMENT** – the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE – combination of Gulf Upcoming Meets, Zone Event Calendar
www.usmssouthcentralzone.org/zone-event-calendar and the USMS Events National Championships
www.usms.org/events/national-championships :

Pool Events

Nov 11 – 12, 2023

Sabine Weiser Annual SCM

Shenandoah, TX

Feb 10, 2024	SAVE THE DATE Sweetheart Swim	Houston, TX
Mar 10, 2024	SAVE THE DATE March Madness	Houston, TX
Apr 26 – 28, 2024	SAVE THE DATE SC Zones	Shenandoah, TX

Open Water Swims:

Oct 14, 2023	Swim Across America Houston	League City, TX
Oct 21, 2023	Shark Attack multiple distances	League City, TX
Apr 14, 2024	SAVE THE DATE Lake Longhorn Round Up	League City, TX