

Meeting via Zoom

Nicole Christensen welcomed all attendees. Attendance was taken and voting members were certified. All attendees are certified to vote.

Attendance

Officers and Committee Chairs: Nicole Christensen (Chair, Communications-Webmaster, South Central Zone Chair), Stacey Eicks (Vice-Chair, Fitness Co-Chair), Kris Wingenroth (Secretary), Karlene Denby (Treasurer, Communications Chair/Newsletter, Fitness Co-Chair), Linda Visser (Membership Coordinator), Kyra Wakefield (Top Ten), Herb Schwab (Officials), Clair Parker (Social Media), Jill Gellatly (College Club Swimming Liaison)

Absent Officers and Committee Chairs: Kevin Lunsford (Sanctions), Andreas Lorenz (Long Distance Chair), Anna Bass (Diversity & Inclusion), Patrick Harrington (Coach's Chair)

Other Attendees: none

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes from the 12/3/22 meeting were approved by email vote on 12/7/22 and have been posted to the Gulf LMSC website.

Officers' Reports

- **Chairman** – Nicole Christensen – Nicole shared the LMSC Development News bulletin.
- **Vice Chairman** – Stacey Eicks - No Report.
- **Secretary** – Kris Wingenroth – No Report.
- **Treasurer** – Karlene Denby – We currently have \$43,526.94 in cash and \$30,565.29 in CDs (3). Jill suggested that we may wish to review our financial policies to be sure we are maximizing our cash assets.
 - Nicole appointed Jill Gellatly and Karlene Denby as an ad hoc committee to evaluate our financial positions to determine if we should make any changes in our investment policies and strategies.

Committee Reports

- **Membership Coordinator** – Linda Visser – We have 599 swimmers registered as of 1/31/2023. All 22 clubs that were active in 2022 have re-registered for 2023. Our membership is slightly behind last year's number (-64).
- **College Club Swimming** – Jill Gellatly – The CCS Aggies and possibly Texas Tech will participate in the Sweetheart meet. The TAMU Club Swim Team has eight people registered to swim, and Jill hopes for a few more. Texas Tech contacted the meet director (Nicole) and indicated that they are also looking into attending the meet. Jill is working on negotiating an entry fee discount to the Rice March Madness meet. USMS will bill the Gulf directly for the \$25 bridge fee that the Gulf has pledged to provide for up to 20 Gulf registered college club swimmers.
- **Sanctions** – Kevin Lunsford (not present) – The Lake Longhorn Open Water Roundup is Sanctioned. The date is April 16, 2023

- **Top 10 Recorder** – Kyra Wakefield – The short course meters top ten report was submitted 1-20-2023. The Sabine Weiser meet had 27 teams and 109 swimmers. Two swimmers registered with new teams but had not met the 60 day waiting period, so their team affiliation was changed back to their original team. She reminded us that no meet using the title “Olympic” or “Paralympic” is allowed to be sanctioned.
- **Newsletter** – Karlene Denby – The Winter 2023 newsletter went out in January. The Spring 2023 newsletter will be published in late April or early May.
- **Fitness**
 - Karlene Denby (Gulf Swim University) -There are 53 members signed up for the GSU. She is having difficulty getting about 20% of them to also sign up for the USMS Go the Distance so that she can track their mileage, despite several emails reminding them. She plans to send an email this week to all participants as we are ¼ of the way through the event.
 - Stacey Eicks – No Report.
- **Webmaster/Emails** – Nicole Christensen – **Website** – Nicole has added items to the Calendar, refined the menu bar with separate Swim Meets and Events areas and added a permanent Club Finder and Membership Renewal link on the sidebar. She has updated the site with upcoming meets and clinics. The Home page has been kept current, and information on the site has been updated. The updated Officer list, meeting minutes, and updated Policies and Bylaws have been posted. We have a 59% average open rate on our emails.
 - Jill mentioned the frustration caused by having our old, inactive website called up when one googles Gulf Masters Swimming. It was explained that the Gulf LMSC does not have the ability to close down the old website since we do not own the domain. It was suggested that we may want to publicize our current website address to refresh people’s memories.
- **Coaches** – Patrick Harrington (not present) – Patrick plans to call coaches and request that they complete the survey. He wishes to propose that the active coaches are separated out to make calls and communication to participating coaches.
 - The reimbursement program for the Dallas certification program is in place, and the word was spread out to the membership by email, social media, and the Gulf website.
- **Officials** – Herb Schwab – No Report.
- **Open Water** – Andreas Lorenz (not present) – The 1-Hour Virtual Fitness Championship Swim at Dad’s Club was attended by ten brave souls. Six ladies and four men, ranging from 29 to 75 years of age made up the 2023 crew. While the attendance of ten is the same as last year, one of last year’s participants, John Dissinger, got his club BTA Masters to put on their own 1-hour event in Kingwood, and they had 11 swimmers. Andreas thinks that the strategy for next year must be to focus on adding hosts. It seems that encouraging coaches to turn one of their practices into a 1-Hour Swim would be the best way to attempt that. Hence, that is the plan for 2024.
- **Diversity and Inclusion** – Anna Bass (not present) – Anna has spoken with the principal at her school, and she is cleared to run ALTS classes in April. She will be having four weeks of lessons after school. Anna will be promoting it in the community and is compiling lists of masters swim clubs to give hand-outs in order to promote joining the class. She plans to do another round of classes in the summer. She has a fellow teacher who is in a sorority and part of the swim 1922 initiative. She may collaborate through them to promote the classes as well.

Dates for the first set of classes:

Week 1: April 3, 4, 5, 6

Week 2: April 17, 18, 19, 20

Week 3: April 24, 25, 26, 27

Week 4: May 1, 2, 3, 4

- **Social Media** – Claire Parker – Our Facebook page had an 84% increase in reach in December and a 23% increase in reach in January. Our Twitter account had 122 impressions.

South Central Zone Report – Nicole Christensen (Zone Chair)

The Jesse Coon 2022 nominations were extended until end of February. Three nominations have currently been received. The Zone website has been kept up to date with zone wide meets, results, and other pertinent information. SCM all-time records will be updated in February to include the 2022 season that ended on Dec 31, 2022. A Zone wide email was sent out to over 5,049 people on Jan 11th with a call for 2024 championship meet bids and Jesse Coon nominations, information on the coaches and ALTS certification classes, SC Zones, Open Water swims, and other events. The email was opened by 2,786 members. The SC Zone meet in Lewisville currently has 56 swimmers as of 2 PM on Tuesday, January 31. The registration fee increased from \$50 to \$60 on Feb 1st. The next fee hike is on March 15. An email was sent out to all members on January 31 reminding them of the fee increase.

BUSINESS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING

- The new officer list was sent into the national office and posted on the Gulf website.
- A vote on reimbursement to assist with travel expenses to the Dallas coaches and ALTS certification classes was made by e-mail. A motion to approve mileage at .50/mile and ½ a hotel room for a maximum of \$175 for one night and \$350 for two nights was made, seconded, and approved. It was also approved to reimburse 100% of the class registration costs. An application must be turned in and approved. We currently have four applications: one ALTS and three Coaching registrations (two Level 1, three Level 2, three for the How to Run a Clinic class).

Unfinished Business

- Coaches survey – This topic was tabled since Patrick was not in attendance. Nicole plans to contact Patrick directly.
- Bridge memberships for CCS – Per our vote on November 2, 2022 to cover up to 20 CCS bridge memberships (\$500 total) during 2023, USMS will bill the Gulf \$25 per swimmer once it has completed setting up their USMS memberships.

New Business

- Kris presented updated wording for the Gulf Training Certification reimbursement policy. Moved, Seconded and Approved unanimously. See below:

TRAINING REIMBURSEMENTS

To the extent that the annual budget allows, the Gulf LMSC shall reimburse reasonable expenses for individuals training to be Masters Officials. **The participant must apply for grant approval in advance and must be both registered in and reside in the Gulf LMSC.** ~~(11/6/90)~~ (2/1/23)

To the extent that the annual budget allows, the Gulf LMSC shall reimburse the registration fees of those Gulf-registered USMS members who complete a USMS Coaching Certification Training. **A housing and transportation allowance may also be granted. The participant must apply for grant approval in advance and must be both registered in and reside in the Gulf LMSC.** ~~(11/6/90)~~ (2/1/23)

To the extent that the annual budget allows, the Gulf LMSC shall reimburse the registration fees of those Gulf-registered USMS members who complete an ALTS (Adult Learn to Swim) Training. **A housing and**

transportation allowance may also be granted. The participant must apply for grant approval in advance and must be both registered in and reside in the Gulf LMSC. ~~_(11/6/90)~~ (2/1/23)

To the extent that the annual budget allows, the Gulf LMSC shall reimburse the registration fee of those Gulf-registered USMS members who attend a “How to Do A Swim Clinic” certification training. ~~if they conduct an official masters swim clinic open to all Gulf LMSC members, within one calendar year of their certification.~~ **A housing and transportation allowance may also be granted. A portion of the reimbursement will be held until the participant meets the requirement of conducting a pro bono, pre-approved masters swim clinic open to all Gulf LMSC members. In order to receive reimbursement, the clinic must be held within one calendar year of the certification. The participant must apply for grant approval in advance and must be both registered in and reside in the Gulf LMSC.** ~~_(11/6/90)~~ (2/1/23)

- Budget reallocation – Discussion and vote on allocating additional monies to the Coach Training Budget based on applications received thus far. Requests received as of 2/1/2023:

Level 1 registration fee reimbursement	(2) @ \$125 each	\$250
Level 2 registration fee reimbursement	(3) @ \$125 each	\$375
Clinic Course registration fee reimbursement	(3) @ \$50	\$150
ALTS registration fee reimbursement	(1) @ \$250	\$250
Travel (2 day @ \$350-Coaches, & 1 day @ \$175-ALTS)	(3) @ \$350 (1) @ \$175	\$1,050 \$175

Motioned (Karlene) and Seconded (Stacey): To increase the budget for Coaches Training Classes by \$2000 (from \$500 to \$2500) and to increase the ALTS Training Classes budget by \$250 (from \$500 to \$750). Motion passed unanimously with Kris abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

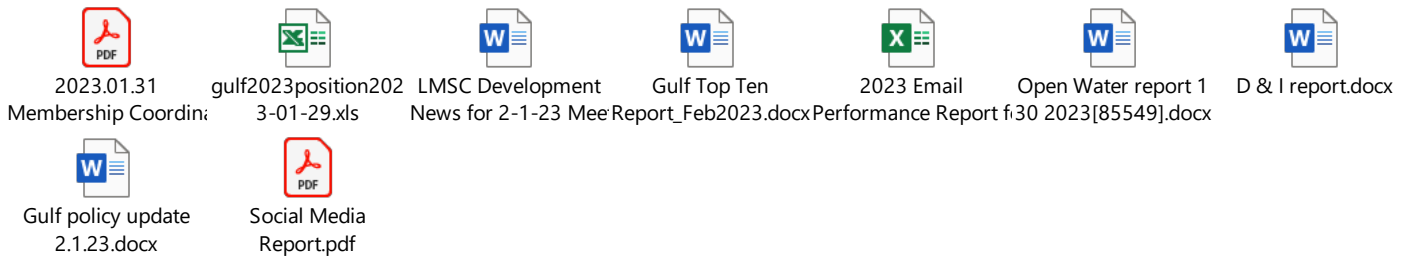
- Code of Conduct – The new Gulf Code of Conduct template was posted on our website under the “Administration” tab. Nicole recommended that we actively inform our teams and members of the template. It was agreed to send out a notice about it to our clubs and publicize it in our newsletter.
- Three Gulf members have applied for and been approved for the Sweetheart Swim First Meet Free promotion. A fourth application was received from a swimmer registered in South Texas. South Texas does not currently have a “First Meet Free” program. After discussion it was agreed that the South Texas swimmer’s application should be denied because he is not a Gulf member.

SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. It will be determined at a later date whether this will be an in-person or Zoom meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.



Upcoming Swims and Events

Feb 18 -19, 2023 - Coaches and ALTS Certification Classes, Dallas, TX

Short Course Yards Swim Meets:

- February 11, 2023 - Sweetheart Swim, Spring Branch Natatorium, Houston, TX Open for Registration
- March 5, 2023 - March Madness Meet, Rice University, Houston, TX Open for Registration
- Mar 31-Apr 4, 2023 - Short Course Zone Champs, Westside A. C., Lewisville, TX Open for Registration
- April 27-30, 2023 - USMS Spring National Championship, Irvine, CA Open for Registration

Long Course Meters Swim Meets:

- June 4, 2023 (tentative)- Graham Johnston Invitational, Dads Club, Houston, TX Tentative
- July 8, 2023 - Woodlands Long Course meet, Conroe ISD Natatorium Meet info to be posted
- July 22 – 23, 2023 - Long Course Zone Champs, Blossom A. C., San Antonio, TX Information Posted
- August 2 – 6, 2023 - USMS Summer National Championships, Sarasota, FL Starting to post info
- August 2 – 11, 2023 - FINA World Masters Champs, Kyushu, Japan Starting to post info

Open Water Swims and Clinics:

- April 8, 2023 - Open Water Race Clinic
- April 16, 2023 - Lake Longhorn Open Water Round Up, League City, TX Open for Registration
- May 6, 2023 - Open Water Swim Intro Clinic
- September 24, 2023 - OZ Mile – Beaver Lake Dam, Eureka Springs, AR
- September 30, 2023 - Open Water Swim Intro Clinic