

GULF MASTERS SWIM COMMITTEE MEETING

Jan 11, 2024 Zoom meeting 7:00 pm

APPROVED 1/16/24

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: Linda Visser (Membership Coordinator, Top Ten), Patrick Harrington (Coach's Chair), Andreas Lorenz (Long Distance Chair), Jill Gellatly (College Club Swimming Liaison), Alana Wilson (Social Media Chair), Herb Schwab (Officials)

Not present: Kevin Lunsford (Sanctions), Anna Bass (Diversity & Inclusion Chair),

Team Representatives present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

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

The minutes from the 12/2/23 meeting were approved via email on 1/5/2024 and have been posted.

1. Officer and Chair - No Reports

- a. Chair – Nicole Christensen
- b. Vice Chair – Stacey Eicks
- c. Secretary – Kris Wingenroth
- d. Officials – Herb Schwab
- e. Sanction – Kevin Lunsford
- f. Diversity and Inclusion – Anna Bass

2. Treasurer – Karlene Denby

- The 2024 budget was presented for approval. See New Business below.

3. Membership – Linda Visser

- Our current membership as of 1/10/24 is 556 members. We had 597 members at the end of January last year. It should be noted that last year there was a price discount for those that registered before the end of the year, so there was an incentive for people to register early.
- We have 27 registered clubs, an increase of two from last year.
- It was noted that we are at 62% registration for the year while the national number is 63%, so we are right on track with USMS as a whole.

4. Coaches – Patrick Harrington

- Patrick will be reaching out to some local coaches to recruit more Coaches on Deck participants. He has an upcoming coaches meeting with his club (Memorial Athletic Club) on Jan 20th and will discuss it with the 3 other coaches in his group. He would like to solicit any ideas from other coaches.
- He would like to revisit the stipend discussion for this Coaches on Deck program.

5. Fitness – Karlene Denby

Galveston Virtual Swim

- The event ran October 1 – December 31, 2023, and the goal was a 60-mile circumnavigation of Galveston Island.
- There were 28 entrants. 18 entrants reported completing the swim (approximately 2/3 of entrants).
- One entrant reported completing the swim twice (120 miles).

- All entrants, regardless of completion status, will receive an event tee-shirt and be invited to a post-event lunch social to be held in Galveston.
- Since the social will probably be at a restaurant with a diverse menu, we will give each person a set amount for their meal (I'm thinking \$20).
- I am anticipating a low turnout for the social given the distance between Houston and Galveston.

2024 Swim University

- This is the tenth anniversary of the event. As of January 4th, 41 members have already signed up for the event. The planned awards will be an event tee-shirt and a key chain.
- There will be a post event social, most likely at Fuzzy's Pizza.
- There are three members who have completed the nine previous events. Two of the three have already entered for 2024. These members will be given a special award, most likely a backpack. Karlene is one of those three and is opting out of the backpack award.

Second Event for 2024

- Karlene is still trying to come up with an interesting theme for another event later in 2024. Suggestions are welcomed.

6. Open Water/Long Distance – Andreas Lorenz

- The 1-Hour Swim is scheduled for Dad's Club on 1/27/24. The second venue in Kingwood had to cancel due to death in the family of the organizer. The remainder of 2024 is still on track.

Open Water: 2024 A preview

- The year will begin with The Third 1-Hour Swim, at Dad's Club on 1.27.2024. The goal is to recruit several other Clubs to run the same event in other parts of town. Growth will come through more venues, rather than getting more swimmers to 1 venue.
 - Open Water Intro Clinics are planned for May and the end of September. Since Open Water Newcomers usually do not have a wet suit, we depend on the water temperature being warmer than it is in the early spring, i.e., before the beginning of the Open Water Grand Prix Series.
 - Since there will be 5 Open Water Grand Prix events this year, Andreas will work on getting a group swim together in open water prior to some of the events to get people acclimatized to racing.
- He sees supporting the 2024 Grand Prix Series as the best investment of his efforts in 2024.

7. College Club Swimming – Jill Gellatly

- The Texas A & M CC team has grown. She hopes to have about 30 CC swimmers attend the Sweet Heart meet. Twenty-three attended last year.
- Since there are currently no College Club meets on the schedule, she may also have a large group attend the March Madness meet at Rice. She will contact Seth to ask for a break in the entry fee for the CC swimmers. Their deadline for making qualifying times for Nationals is right after the March Madness meet.

8. Top Ten – Linda Visser

- Kyra and Linda have met to begin the job transition. Kyra will be asking USMS to give Linda access to the necessary database and tools she will need to make the Top Ten reports.

9. Emails – Nicole Christensen

- One email was sent out on December 24th to the Gulf only while an additional email was sent to the entire Zone on January 1st.
- The Gulf email (Happy Holidays from Gulf Masters!) was sent to 1,421 email addresses and was opened by 797 people for a total of 1,359 opens. Links were clicked on 157 times. Top performing links were the newsletter followed by the 3rd annual one hour swim information. 3 people unsubscribed.
- The Zone email was sent to 5,309 email addresses, opened by 3,020 for a total of 5,192 opens. Links were clicked on 536 times.
- The Gulf member list is updated with new registrations before every email is sent out.

10. Web Site – Nicole Christensen

- The website continues to be updated, with old information archived, and the event list is kept current with events open for registration as well as Save The Date information.
- New items are sent to our social media chair, Alana Wilson, for posting on our facebook and Instagram pages.

11. Social media – Alana Wilson

- Alana has started sending out messages and is learning which hashtags are effective. Nicole suggested she check out the USMS resources as a source of helpful information.

12. Old Business – none

13. New Business

- Two new Board of Director appointments for 2024 were announced. Linda Visser will have a dual role of Top Ten Chair (new) plus she continues her duties as Membership Coordinator. Alana Wilson has been appointed the Social Media Chair (replacing Claire Parker).
- 2024 Proposed Budget – Karlene presented her proposed 2024 budget. Adjustments were made in a few places.
- Discussion was held about reimbursement of USMS registration fees for the Board of Directors which consists of the Officers and Committee Chairs. This is a policy of several LMSCs nationwide. Currently there are 12 board members which would make the expense \$840 for this year. There was concern about the inherent conflict of interest that voting on this issue presents. Some Board members felt the payment was not necessary and did not plan to accept it and others felt it was a nice gesture to thank people for their service and would be a good incentive to encourage volunteering. The reimbursement for USMS registration fees would be offered at the end of the calendar year for the service completed that year.
ACTION ITEM: It was moved to add a budget line for \$840 for reimbursement of USMS registration fees for the BOD members. (moved Patrick, second Stacey) Motion passed unanimously.
- The final 2024 budget proposal calls for a Total Income of \$13,815 and Total Expenses of \$16,820 leading to a budget deficit for the year of \$3005).
ACTION ITEM: The revised budget was approved unanimously. (moved, Andreas, second Stacey)

14. Items to be discussed in the future.

- It was brought up that we need a policy on the amount of reimbursement for mileage for members traveling to LMSC meetings. Our current policy specifies that anyone traveling more than 100 miles round trip to the Gulf meetings can be reimbursed for their gas expenses but does not give a formula for how much they are paid.
- Patrick would like to revisit the idea of stipends for the participants in the Coach on Deck program.

15. DATE SET FOR NEXT MEETING: March 6, 6 pm via Zoom

16. **ADJOURNMENT** – the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 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 :

2024 Pool Competitions:

Jan 19, 2024	Arkansas - First Chance LC invite Little Rock, AR
Jan 20-21, 2024	Arkansas – Arkansas Masters SCM Invite Little Rock, AR
Feb 10, 2024	Sweetheart Swim Meet WW. Emmons Natatorium Houston
Feb 25, 2024	South Texas – Need for Speed San Antonio, TX
Feb 25, 2024	North Texas – Far Out 1000s Plano, TX
Mar 9, 2024	Rice Aquatics Masters March Madness Rice University Houston
Mar 23-24, 2024	South Texas - Texas Senior Games (not a USMS meet) San Antonio
Apr 26 – 28, 2024	South Central Zone Spring Champs (short course) Conroe ISD Natatorium
May 11, 2024	South Texas -Two Rivers Meet (*new event!) (short course) New Braunfels, TX
Jun 20 – 24, 2024	USMS - 2024 USMS Spring Short Course Nationals, Indianapolis, IN
Jun 29, 2024	Save the Date -Summer Splash Conroe ISD Natatorium The Woodlands (Houston area)
Jul 26 – 28, 2024	South Central Zone Summer Champs (long course) SMU Dallas, TX
Aug 21 – 25, 2024	2024 USMS Summer Long Course Nationals, Mission Viejo, CA

College Club Swimming:

Apr 5 – 7, 2024 2024 College Club Swimming National Championships Indianapolis, IN

Open Water Swims:

Apr 14, 2024	Lake Longhorn Open Water Round-Up - Grand Prix #1 Lake Longhorn in League City, TX
May 5, 2024	Swim De Mayo – Grand Prix#2, Joe Pool Lake in Grand Prairie, TX (Dallas area)
Jun 2, 2024	Shark Attack #1 – Grand Prix #3 – Lake Longhorn in League City, TX
Jul 14, 2024	OWS Challenge – Grand Prix #4 – Joe Pool Lake in Cedar Park, TX (Dallas area)
Oct TBA	Shark Attack #2 – Grand Prix #5 – Lake Longhorn in League City, TX

2024 USMS Events

Sep 13-15, 2024	USMS Annual Meeting (Virtual)
Oct 18-20, 2024	USMS Relay @ Houston Mariott IAH Airport

2025 Competitions:

Apr 24 – 27, 2025

2025 USMS Spring Short Course Nationals San Antonio, TX

Aug 6 – 10, 2025

2025 USMS Summer Long Course Nationals Federal Way, WA