

Gulf LMSC Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Conference

Attendance:

Officers and Committee Chairs:

Kris Wingenroth (Chair), Mark Hahn (Treasurer), Karlene Denby (Secretary, Newsletter, Long Distance), Bruce Williams (Membership Coordinator), Stacey Eicks (Top Ten Recorder), Nicole Christensen (Webmaster, Zone Chair), Herb Schwab (Officials), Bruce Rollins (Coaches)

Team Representatives: Linda Visser (COOG), Tom Boak (WMST), Alana Wilson (WMST), Carolyn Boak (WMST)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from the Gulf LMSC meeting of July 22, 2020 were approved by an email vote on July 27th and were posted to the Gulf LMSC website on the same date.

Officers' Reports

- Chairwoman (Kris Wingenroth) – Two COVID-19 Relief Fund grants have been awarded: (1) to a WMST swimmer for club dues through December 2020, and (2) a \$228 grant to MACA for marketing to increase membership. They've added a few members as a result of the marketing effort, and are hoping to add more masters sessions. The Gulf LMSC is also paying MACA's 2021 club registration fee (\$60). Tom suggested that we urge MACA to encourage their club's masters swimmers to be USMS registered. Stacy suggested that an email blast be sent to the membership that includes information about 2021 registration and COVID grants.
- Vice Chair (Kevin Lunsford) – Not present, no report.
- Secretary (Karlene Denby) – No report.
- Treasurer (Mark Hahn) – There has been very little financial activity during the pandemic. Mark paid the two COVID grants, and Survey Monkey fees. The LMSC had greatly reduced expenses for the annual convention since it was virtual. No travel, lodging, or meal expenses were incurred.
- Membership Coordinator/Registrar (Bruce Williams/Linda Visser) – Bruce provided an updated registration report as of October 12, 2020. As of today's meeting date, October 14, 2020, the LMSC has 999 registered swimmers. Registration is down 17% from 2019. The national average is a 15% reduction in registrations. So, the LMSC is a bit higher than the national average. Beginning in 2021, there will not be a swimmer club transfer fee charged. The LMSC will still need process transfer forms, so that there is a verification of transfer requests. Nicole is going to check if the National Office will have a link on their website for transfer requests. Paperless registration is not yet formally approved, but that is the direction in which USMS is headed.
- MSA – Club transfer fees will be waived for all swimmers between now and October 31, 2020.

Committee Reports

- Sanction Chair (Kevin Lunsford) – Not present, no report.
- Top Ten Recorder (Stacey Eicks) – Stacey provided an updated Top Ten report. No meets were held after the SCY season. A Top Ten SCY file was submitted to the National Office. The USMS Board of Directors twice requested that the SCY Top Ten not be published and that All American and All Star statuses not be awarded. The Board's rationale was to discourage swimmers from traveling to competitions to attempt to achieve certified times during the pandemic. The Top Ten Committee

- disagreed with the Board's repeated requests. The current COVID-19 safety rules for meet sanctions limit competitors to those that reside within the event LMSC.
- Communications (Karlene Denby) – The October newsletter will be short. It will include convention information, National awards earned by LMSC members, the election of Kris to the USMS Board of Directors, a nutrition article, and the quarterly workout.
 - Webmaster (Nicole Christensen) – Nicole is not happy with the current status of the Gulf website. When the website became mobile-friendly, it altered the website. Nicole is still working on getting everything corrected to her satisfaction. Past meets show on the website, and the results are there but the result information is poorly formatted. The LMSC organization area still needs some clean-up. Nicole removed any South Central Zone information from the LMSC website and instead has a link to the new Zone website.
 - Coaches (Bruce Rollins) – Bruce provided an update on Fitness Fanatics Challenge. The event was very well received by the 32 people who took up the challenge. WMST and KAM were the teams with the highest number of participants. Tom stated that he found the challenge incredibly motivating, and that it pushed him get out on his bike almost every day.
 - Fitness (Rebecca Tompkins) – Not present. Rebecca reported via e-mail that Gulf Swim University had 36 participants. Rebecca said that she will need assistance in distributing the event t-shirts.
 - Officials (Herb Schwab) – No report.
 - Open Water (Karlene Denby) – No report.

South Central Zone Report

- South Central Zone (Nicole Christensen) – Content continues to be added to the Zone website. As is the norm, a South Central Zone meeting was held during the annual convention. In view of the COVID pandemic, the Zone delayed the request for bids for the 2021 SCY and LCM Zone Championship meets. A discussion ensued about the possibility of holding virtual Zone Championships, more so for SCY. The meeting attendees who participated in the virtual USMS National Championship event provided their impressions of the event. Nicole asked for volunteers to help organize the virtual Zone Championship meet. So far, only one person has responded. Stacey has volunteered for the virtual championship committee. One option is for LMSCs to hold actual swim competitions and then combine the results for the virtual Zone Championship. Carolyn believed this was a good option. The larger LMSCs (So. TX, No. TX, Gulf) may need to offer multiple meets to allow all who want to compete the opportunity to do so. The LMSCs were surveyed about registration during 2020. Similar membership declines have been experienced throughout the Zone, with the exception of South Texas which has about the same level of registration as 2019. The West Texas LMSC Board would like to be integrated into another LMSC. The New Mexico LMSC makes the most sense geographically. This will be a point of continued conversation in 2021. The National Office will be very involved in this process. If it is possible to hold the LCM Zone Championship, Susan Ingraham is interested in hosting the event in San Antonio.

Old Business

- Quick summary of the USMS Annual meeting – Beginning in 2021, there will be a unified registration fee of \$60 for all LMSCs. The annual club registration fee will be \$60. USMS removed the requirement that only non-profit organizations can host competitions. The proposal to shorten the time required to transfer between clubs did not pass. It is anticipated to pass when the proposal comes up again because this year's vote was almost a tie.

Congratulations to:

Stacey Eicks - Dorothy Donnelly Service Award

Greg Tharp - Kerry O'Brien Coaches Award

Herb Schwab-Officials Excellence Award
- New safety guidelines for event sanctions during the pandemic have been published (50 LMSC member limit, no relays, COVID protocols).
See the link below for full information:

<https://www.usms.org/-/media/usms/pdfs/events/covid-19/usms%20phase%201%20return%20to%20competition.pdf>

- Sabine Weiser November Classic – The two-day competition will be held on November 14/15 at the Conroe ISD Natatorium. Per the safety guidelines, a maximum of 50 competitors (Gulf LMSC members only) will be allowed on each day of the competition. The meet will be SCY this year and will offer the following events: 50s of all strokes, 100s of all strokes, 100 IM, 200 IM, and 200 free. The meet will be slowed down to provide sufficient rest between events. All participants will provide health status information, sign a waiver, and have their temperature checked upon arrival. Each swimmer will be provided with a mask and hand sanitizer. Awards, if requested, will be mailed to the team coach for distribution to swimmers. A SMOG grant is available if the meet loses money because of the limitation on the number of entrants.
- Emmett Hines Award – The Selection Committee (Kris, Karlene, Mark) will select this year's recipient from the nominees. The award recipient will be announced at the annual meeting.

New Business

- This is an ELECTION YEAR! Linda Visser is being nominated as our new Membership Coordinator. Mark is willing to continue as treasurer. Karlene is willing to continue as secretary. Stacey, the current Top Ten Recorder, wants to do other things within the Gulf LMSC and USMS and is, therefore, stepping down. She has already found and is nominating her replacement, Kyra Wakefield. Kyra is detailed oriented, and Stacey will ensure a smooth transition. Nicole and Stacey have volunteered to be the nominating committee. If other members wish to run for office, they need to notify Nicole and Stacey
- We need a by-law change to **delete** the following section:
Income -- Any income derived from the promotion of Masters Swimming by members of GMSC must be used for further promotion of swimming or for the general welfare of the Gulf LMSC or USMS as a whole. The change will be voted upon at the annual meeting, and requires 15 days notification prior to the meeting date. The by-law change needs to be included in the annual meeting notification email.
- Nicole reported that Dad's Club would like to hold a small masters meet after the November Classic. The width of pool will need to be measured to see if the lanes are in compliance after the recent pool resurfacing. Nicole has the laser measurement tool and will check the pool.

Upcoming Events

- The Sabine Weiser November Classic meet will be held on November 14-15, 2020. It will be a SCY meet this year.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. (virtually). This will be the annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karlene Denby, Secretary