

**GULF MASTERS SWIM COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**March 22, 2023 6:30 pm**

**APPROVED 3-27-23**

**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), Kris Wingenroth (Secretary), Karlene Denby (Treasurer, Communications Chair/Newsletter, Fitness Co-Chair), Linda Visser (Membership Coordinator), Kyra Wakefield (Top Ten), Jill Gellatly (College Club Swimming Liaison), Patrick Harrington (Coach's Chair)

Absent Officers and Committee Chairs: Stacey Eicks (Vice-Chair, Fitness Co-Chair), Kevin Lunsford (Sanctions), Andreas Lorenz (Long Distance Chair), Anna Bass (Diversity & Inclusion), Herb Schwab (Officials), Clair Parker (Social Media)

Other Attendees: none

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Minutes from the 2/1/2023 meeting were approved by email vote on 2/8/2023 and have been posted to the Gulf LMSC website.

**Officers' Reports**

- **Chairman** – Nicole Christensen – no report.  
Nicole would like to form a subcommittee to explore why membership is dropping and what we can do about it. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact her.
- **Vice Chairman** – Stacey Eicks (not present) - no report.
- **Secretary** – Kris Wingenroth – The minutes from the 2/1/23 meeting were previously approved and posted (2/8/23).
- **Treasurer** – Karlene Denby – We currently have \$45,479.46 in cash and \$30,565.29 in CDs (3).

**Committee Reports**

- **Membership Coordinator** – Linda Visser – We have 669 swimmers registered as of 3/19/2023. We have two new teams that were not registered last year: LJST (Lake Jackson) with currently five members and YMST (Mark Chapman YMCA in Katy) with one member registered.
- **College Club Swimming** – Jill Gellatly – Twenty-two members participated in the Sweetheart meet. It was a very positive experience for the swimmers and many have qualified for their national meet. There are currently only two CCS teams in Texas (Texas A&M and Texas Tech).
- **Sanctions** – Kevin Lunsford (not present) – The TEST Spring Splash LCM meet on April 15-16 2023 was sanctioned. This is a dual USA, USMS meet. The pool set up as LCM is supposed to be measured the day before the meet.
- **Top 10 Recorder** – Kyra Wakefield – no report.

- **Newsletter** – Karlene Denby – The Spring 2023 newsletter will be published in early May. She will begin recognizing members who donate to the Gulf LMSC.
- **Fitness**
  - Karlene Denby (Gulf Swim University) -There are 55 members signed up, with 51 of them reporting their mileage. Over 2,800 miles have been recorded which is ahead of last year's pace.
  - Stacey Eicks (not present) – no report.
- **Webmaster/Emails** – Nicole Christensen – **Website** – Nicole has updated items on the website. Please send input/requests to [ncr@creativewaters.net](mailto:ncr@creativewaters.net). **Emails:** currently the Gulf does not have an email system except for the email capability of the USMS registration portal. She sent an email through the USMS Registration system this week in lieu of other options.
- **Coaches** – Patrick Harrington – no report
- **Officials** – Herb Schwab (not present) – no report.
- **Open Water** – Andreas Lorenz (not present) – no report
- **Diversity and Inclusion** – Anna Bass (not present) – no report
- **Social Media** – Claire Parker (not present) – no report

**South Central Zone Report – Nicole Christensen (Zone Chair)** An email was sent out to over 5,049 people in the zone on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>. However at this moment, there is no email system set up to send zone wide emails out. The zone website has been kept up to date with zone events and results.

The SC Zone in Lewisville currently has 188 swimmers as of 3/20/23. The Lake Longhorn Open Water Round Up is the first stop on the Zone Open Water series. It is on April 16<sup>th</sup> and is open for registration. The distances are 1.25, 2.5 and 5K. The second stop has almost completed sanctioning. It will be hosted by North Texas at Joe Pool Lake outside of Dallas on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Hopefully, it will be posted on the USMS Calendar of Events this week. Nicole is working on the third stop, also at Joe Pool Lake, on July 30<sup>th</sup>. This would be in conjunction with the existing OWS Challenge which has been a USAT event. Event directors are looking at adding a USMS wave with the same distances of 750M, 1500M or 2.4 mile swims.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Coaches survey:** Information is needed in order to send out the Team Dividend checks due after March 31. Patrick will begin making phone calls to the teams to gather information. Nicole will help him develop the talking points for the calls.

### **New Business**

1. **Email provider:** Nicole presented information about the new MailChimp paid email plans. Their essential plan will meet our needs and is their least expensive plan. The price is \$26.50 per month, less a 15% non-profit discount. Kris moved and Kyra seconded to approve the use of the MailChimp essentials plan for our emails. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Board appointments:** Karlene moved and Patrick seconded that the Board approve the following appointments. The motion was approved unanimously.
  - a. Kris Wingenroth as second signatory to the Gulf checking account at Frost Bank
  - b. Jill Gellatly as the member to reconcile the Gulf bank statements at least annually
3. **Budget:** Karlene presented the proposed budget for 2023. The line items were discussed and two adjustments were made. The Club Assistant budget was lowered to the correct cost of \$720 and the need based registration rebate was lowered to \$100 since no requests had been received so far this

year. Kris moved and Jill seconded that the budget be approved as adjusted. The motion was approved unanimously. Karlene wishes to begin discussion of the 2024 budget in September so that the 2024 budget will be approved by the end of 2023. The approved budget for 2023 is attached.

4. **Financial Policy updates:** Kris presented a re-write of the Financial section of the Gulf Policies. Jill, Karlene and Kris worked on the reorganization and rewording of this section and ensured that our financial policies were updated to USMS and IRS standards. Substantive changes included adding a statement of documentation requirements for reimbursements and a procedural policy for the situation when the Treasurer must reimburse themselves. Patrick moved and Kyra seconded to approve the new Financial policy section. The motion was approved unanimously.
5. **Bylaw updates:** Kris presented proposed changes to our bylaws Article III and Article IV. These changes are being proposed so that our bylaws will match our policies and current practices. The major substantive change is to move approval of the budget from the powers of the House of Delegates to the powers of the Board of Directors. It was recommended that this change be made because it matches our actual practice. Additionally, the threshold to require Board approval for an overbudget request was lowered from \$1000 to \$500 and the time period for reconciliation of bank statements was changed from at least quarterly to at least annually to match the financial policy. Kyra moved and Karlene seconded a motion to publish the proposed bylaw changes a minimum of 15 days in advance of our next meeting so that they can be voted on. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Two additional policy proposals:** Kris presented two additional policy proposals. One to allow the Board of Directors to waive the sanction fee for a dual sanction meet when it is considered in the best interest of the Gulf and one to put into our policies our current practice of reimbursing mileage to voting members that drive more than 100 miles round trip to attend Gulf meetings. Karlene moved and Patrick seconded to approve both of these policies. Motion approved unanimously.
7. **Marcus account with Goldman-Sachs:** At Jill's suggestion, Karlene researched the Marcus account offered by Goldman-Sachs. The Gulf currently has over \$45,000 in CDs at Frost Bank earning 0% interest. Goldman-Sachs is currently offering 4.50% APY for a 12 month CD. They also offer a savings account with an interest rate of 3.75% APY. The savings account offers same day transfers to/from other banks. Karlene suggests that the Gulf move their three CD accounts to Goldman-Sachs and purchase three 12 month CDs spread out 4 months apart. Kris moved and Kyra seconded to approve the transfer of funds to Goldman-Sachs. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023. It will be held in-person. The tentative time is set at 6:30 pm, possibly at Dads Club.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

### **EMAIL VOTE**

Nicole made the following motion via email on 3/24/23 which was seconded by Kris.

"Motion to waive the dual sanction fee for the 2023 TEST Spring Splash Meet." The motion was approved.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE:**

### **Short Course Yards Swim Meets:**

Mar 31-Apr 2, 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:**

April 15-16, 2023	TEST Spring Splash Long Course Meet – Dual Sanctioned	Open for Registration
June 4, 2023 -	Graham Johnston Invitational, Dads Club, Houston, TX	To be Posted
July 8, 2023	Woodlands Long Course meet, Conroe ISD Natatorium	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	Information Posted
August 2-11, 2023	FINA World Masters Champs, Kyushu, Japan	Open for Registration

### **Open Water Swims and Clinics:**

April 16, 2023	Lake Longhorn Open Water Round Up, League City, TX Part 1 of Zone Series	Open for Registration
May 21, 2023	North Texas Open Water Swim – Part 2 of Zone Series	To be posted
June 3, 2023	2 Mile Cable Nationals – Charlottesville, VA	To be posted by USMS
July 15, 2023	Marathon Distance Nationals – Applegate Lake, OR	To be posted by USMS
August, 12, 2023	Middle Distance Nationals – Lake Oahe, SD	To be posted by USMS
September 24, 2023	OZ Mile – Beaver Lake Dam, Eureka Springs, AR	Open for Registration

### **2023 USMS Events**

September 8-10, 2023	USMS Annual Meeting	Houston
October 20-23, 2023	USMS Relay	Houston

### **2024 USMS Events**

September 13-15, 2024	- USMS Annual Meeting	virtual (tentative)
November 3 – 4, 2024	- USMS Level 2 and Level 3 Coaches Certification Class	Houston