

Lake Erie LMSC Board Meeting
Saturday, February 3, 2024
11:30 a.m.

Attendance: Ann Marshfield, Laura Wright, Mark Marshfield, Ashley Braniecki, Diane Spence, Judith Norton, Chuck Beatty, Kristen Bergmann, Paul Berman, Andrea Hahn-Lawson, Rick Mitchell

Location: Barry's Bagels 2100 Center Road, Avon, Ohio.

Ann Marshfield called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m. She reported on goals set for 2024, including the establishment of a business plan for the promotion of Level 2 coach certification.

USMS Level 2 Coach Certification April 6, 2024

Ann Marshfield reported on the proposal for approving \$1,500 in scholarship funds for the Masters Level 2 Coach Certification course scheduled for April 6, 2024 in Cleveland, Ohio. The following resolution, which authorizes LE LMSC to pay scholarship funds was presented to the Board:

RESOLVED, that, the LE LMSC has approved a \$1,500 scholarship fund in connection with the Masters Level 2 Coach Certification course scheduled for April 6, 2024, in Cleveland, Ohio. LE LMSC Level 1 Coaches are eligible for a minimum of 50% reimbursement of the paid fees (up to \$100 per person) following the successful completion of the course. Gold Club members are required to request the discount code prior to registration to receive the 20% discount.

A discussion followed. Laura Wright provided an example of how the reimbursement would work. If the fee for the course is \$200, then there will be a Gold Club discount of 20% reducing the cost of the course to \$160. Upon successful completion of the course, LE LMSC will reimburse a minimum of \$80. In the event that the \$1,500 scholarship fund is not depleted, then the coach may receive an additional reimbursement up to the total amount of \$100. Mark Marshfield expressed his concern that this proposed resolution is limited to this one event.

Ann Marshfield made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Chuck Beatty. The resolution was approved with one no vote by Mark Marshfield.

Reimbursement of 50% for Course Fees Paid for Coach Certification

Mark Marshfield discussed that the LE LMSC should provide financial assistance to LE LMSC members who have successfully completed USMS certifications. The following resolution, which authorizes LE LMSC to provide such financial assistance was presented to the Board:

RESOLVED, that, the *LE LMSC has approved LE LMSC members to receive 50% reimbursement for the fees paid by such member who successfully completes USMS Level 1,2, or 3 coach certification courses. Gold Club members are required to request the discount code prior to registration to receive the 20% discount.*

A discussion ensued. Mark Marshfield noted that the reimbursement is only for fees that are paid for the course and that this does not include travel or other expenses. He clarified that the member must present receipts showing payment to receive reimbursement.

Mark Marshfield made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Ann Marshfield. The resolution was approved with all in favor.

Reimbursement of Fee for Clinic Course for Coaches on April 6-7, 2024

Ann Marshfield discussed the need to promote clinic courses for coaches. The following resolution, which authorizes LE LMSC to reimburse LE LMSC members the \$60 fee for completing the clinic was presented to the Board:

RESOLVED, that, the LE LMSC has approved LE LMSC members to be reimbursed the \$60 fee upon the successful completion of Clinic Course for Coaches hosted by USMS on April 6-7, 2024, in Cleveland, Ohio.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the need to complete a clinic as part of the process for Level 2 coach certification.

Ann Marshfield made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Laura Wright. The resolution was approved with all in favor.

How to Support Swimmers and Clubs

Ann Marshfield reported on, and a discussion ensued on the following:

*The National Coaches Clinic is scheduled for October 18-20, 2024. This is a working event and provides continuing education. There was discussion concerning how coaches may apply to participate, and what costs should be reimbursed. No decision was made, and the subject may be revisited at a future meeting.

*There was a discussion regarding how to support swimmers. The plan of action is to provide clinics and to organize and pay for post-meet socials potentially after the Stow and Lakewood swim meets.

*There was a discussion on how to get LE LMSC members more involved in activities within LE LMSC. As part of the effort to achieve this goal, the Annual Meeting will follow the first Sunday practice at Avon pool on September 8, 2024. There will be no charge for LE LMSC members that attend the Avon practice on that day. A free catered breakfast will be served at the meeting. A drawing will be held for attendees with a prize of a paid 2025 USMS membership. In addition, a Participation Award program will be created and introduced at the Annual Meeting. The details need to be worked out, but in concept, to be eligible for an award an LE LMSC member must participate or volunteer in 4/5ths of the swim meets or open water events within LE LMSC. Ashley Braniecki has volunteered to run the program, and she will announce the details of the program at the Annual Meeting. During 2024, an informal program will be used for the purpose of presenting awards at the Annual Meeting. Finally, there was a brief discussion regarding paying the USMS fees for Board members that attend 3/4ths of the Board meetings. It was agreed that this should be an item presented to the LE LMSC membership to vote on at the Annual Meeting.

*There was discussion regarding how to support clubs. Bill Brenner of USMS has requested LE LMSC to implement a policy to help fund developing clubs within LE LMSC. In particular, this would be the creation of a fund equally paid by LE LMSC and USMS in the total amount of \$5,000. Under the proposed plan, USMS would be responsible for vetting any club seeking financial assistance. LE LMSC's contribution would be paid from a percentage of up-front membership fees. The consensus was that this is a good concept; however, LE LMSC is not in favor of committing to a formal policy. Rather, LE LMSC will consider any requests on a case-by-case basis. On a related issue, there was a discussion concerning LE LMSC reimbursing clubs their yearly registration fees paid to USMS. This issue will be revisited.

The Sharing of the Pool Rental Expense with Ohio LMSC in Connection with Championship Meets

Ann Marshfield reported on discussions to share pool rental expenses with Ohio LMSC for Ohio championship meets. The following resolution, which authorizes LE LMSC to pay 40% of the pool rental costs incurred in connection with state championship meets was presented to the Board:

RESOLVED, that the, LE LMSC has approved the sharing of pool rental expenses incurred in connection with Ohio state championship meets. Ohio LMSC shall pay 60% and LE LMSC shall pay 40% of such expenses.

A discussion followed. Ann Marshfield clarified that this is not just for the SCY Masters Championship meet currently scheduled for April 14, 2024, at Ohio State. The resolution is intended to include any championship meet in Ohio. It was further explained that this would not entitle LE LMSC to share in the revenue from the meet. Rather, the club that runs the meet remains entitled to receive the revenue.

Ann Marshfield made a motion to approve the resolution, which was seconded by Laura Wright. The resolution was approved with all in favor.

Other Items

There were brief discussions concerning: meets sponsored by Viking Masters; open Board positions for 2025; supporting Grown-up Swimming; recruiting volunteers for PanAm Masters Games; soliciting interested swimmers to attend Relay; Bylaw revisions; and the possibility of an open water event at Fairport Harbor in Lake County.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Secretary
Richard S. Mitchell