

Chair Sally Dillon called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM (PST). Also present were Vice Chair Hill Carrow, Andrea (AJ) Block, Norm Bower, Dan and Edie Gruender, Margie Hutinger, Hugh Moore, Walt Reid, Nancy Ridout, Gail Roper, Kelly Sharitt, Laura Val, and Robert Zeitner. Heather Howland joined the call mid-way after attending another committee conference call.

**1. Discussion forum – guidelines**

The committee will be using an R&A Committee discussion forum to conduct some of its business this year. Webmaster Jim Matysek provided some information and recommendations that were discussed. The forum is just for our committee but there are administrators (national office plus some volunteers) can also view the forum. We won't be using the forum to discuss issues such as selection of the Ransom Arthur recipient. Hugh and Nancy have experience using committee forums and have found them to be very useful. One advantage is that we can correspond with each other and our emails are automatically archived within the discussion subject.

**2. Committee Description in the Rule Book – propose a legislative change in 2011**

Current Wording

**Recognition and Awards Committee**—*The Recognition and Awards Committee shall review and approve proposals for all official USMS awards and maintain a history of award recipients. The committee shall consist of the committee chair and 16 or more members with at least eight Ransom J. Arthur award recipients and additional members to include one member from each of the following committees: Coaches Committee, Open Water and Long Distance Committee, Records and Tabulation Committee, and the History and Archives Committee.*

Sally recommended that we consider a revision to our description to eliminate the requirement that we have eight RJA recipients and sixteen members. She has found that the RJA recipients who are still active and willing to work on committee business are in great demand and often serving on other committees. There are no other committees that require a certain minimum number of members and she'd like to see people serve on the committee due to their interest and not to just fill a quota. Also, the workload of the R&A committee doesn't require 16 members. The description was changed approximately 4 years ago to reduce its size, since it previously contained all RJA recipients and a group of other members to balance the age representation – for a total of around 40 members. Sally noted that all RJA recipients continue to have a vote for that award but only those serving on the committee have a say in the committee's other business. Various suggestions were discussed but as a whole, the committee agreed that change is warranted. Suggestions included having a minimum number of RJA recipients of 4 or 6 and eliminating any requirement for total members. We will use our new committee forum to flesh out the right combination of RJA recipients and members and propose a legislative change for next year's convention.

Sally also mentioned that she thinks we should consider inserting the word "service" into our description. Traditionally, we have approved and helped maintain the *service* awards for the organization. The only competitive award we've been involved with was approved prior to the formation of the committee and we've only posted the winner each year it's been awarded. The Records and Tabulation Committee tabulates the pool All American and All-Star awards and they are not posted on the USMS Award page. Robert mentioned that the Long Distance Committee determines the recipients of their All American and All Star awards – and they're not on our award page either. It was noted that our committee maintains the ISHOF and IMSHOF awards but in actuality, we just list them on the website to recognize USMS members who were honored. When the ISHOF nominating committee was disbanded, the R&A committee inherited the responsibility but in actuality, we do not assist in the selection of the competitive awards, we can only recommend people for recognition as a coach or contributor. We will discuss this further on our forum. Meanwhile, Sally will contact the R&T chair to encourage a change in his committee's description to reflect their involvement in the USMS competitive awards.

**3. Club and Coach Development "Club of the Year" recognition awards / incentive program**

Margie and Sally shared information on a missive they received from Susan Ingraham. Susan distributed a plan to Dixie Zone reps regarding recognition of clubs for various gold, silver, and bronze levels and "Club of the Year" was the designation used. Sally exchanged emails and spoke with Susan and explained that there is an official USMS Club of the Year award already. Susan agreed that they would use different language – probably something like "incentive program" for the recognition the Club and Coach Development group is planning. Heather recalled discussion from a year or more ago about expanding the Club of the year to allow more clubs and thought that was what Susan was proposing. Sally said our committee has already approved that for 2011. We'll be recognizing one or more Club of the Year in each of two divisions - local and regional. The Club and Coach Development proposal recognizes clubs for various levels of timely registration, increase in membership, retention of membership, participation in postal and competitive events, and so on. Nancy expressed concern that confusion between the USMS Coach of the Year award and these other awards is a problem. She suggested we need to communicate with this group to be sure their program does not get confused with ours. Their criteria need to be different. Margie noted that some of their questions are like those on our older COYA nomination form. If this is a National Office project, they need to be looking for different things to recognize than we are. Sally will contact Susan about the committee's concerns.

**4. USMS Awards to be included in convention program**

Sally noticed that in the most recent convention program only three awards were listed - Ransom Arthur Award, Coach of the Year award and David Yorzyk award. Other NGBs list numerous awards. We discussed our options and agreed that we should list the recipients of the Club of the Year, June Krauser Communications Award, Fitness Award, National Championship Meets Award, and the

Ted Haartz Staff Appreciation Award. These are usually given to one individual or club. We will not list the USMS Service or Kerry O'Brien awards as they have a sizeable list of people each year. Sally will let Elaine Cox know.

**5. Recognition of Volunteers** Sally has compiled the information from the convention workshop and asked for a couple of volunteers to help her proof the materials and offer suggestions for the format. Robert and Norm both volunteered.

**6. "Stories" of Ransom Arthur Award recipients**

Sally brought everyone up-to-date on the efforts to see that each Ransom Arthur recipient has a "story" explaining why they received the award. She has found speeches and other documents that she has submitted to Meegan Wilson for posting, since the History & Archives Committee is responsible for maintaining the stories. The vast majority of recipients now have some information about their receiving the RJA award some still do not. Sally asked for and received volunteers to do some research and write up stories for the following recipients: Richard Smith (2000), (Nancy/Laura) Mel Goldstein (1997) (Norm), Suzanne Rague (1996) (Sally will contact someone from Oregon), Kathy Casey (1993) (Hugh/Kelly), Walt Reid (1992) (AJ), Dan Gruender (1989) (Dan), and Ray and Zada Taft (1979) - Nancy. When finished, the stories should be sent to Sally who will see that they get posted. It was clarified that the stories can go beyond the RJA award – especially if the recipient has no other story on their web page.

It was MSA to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 PM (PST).

Minutes MSA by email: 12/22/2010