

## Recognition & Awards Committee

### Conference Call

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Minutes

**Action: MSA to eliminate the Club of the Year policy requiring a club that has received the award to wait at least five years before being nominated again.**

**Action: MSA to approve the USMS Open Water Swimming Service Award**

Chair Sally Dillon called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm Pacific time. Also present were: Cheryl Gettelfinger, Hugh Moore, Peggy Buchanan, Nancy Ridout, Lori Payne, Margie Hutinger, Rich Burns, Ray Novitske, Laura Val, Walt Reid, and Ed Tsuzuki (EC Liaison).

Sally noted for the record that the minutes for the December 11, 2012 were approved by email and posted to the USMS website.

#### **1. Proposal to amend the policies for the Club of the Year Award:**

As head of the selection committee for the Club of the Year Award (COYA), Ray proposed that we consider changing the current policy dealing with how frequently a club can win the award. Current policy state: "Once a club receives this award, they may not be nominated again for five years." Ray's proposal was to extend the time before a club can again be nominated to ten years. The committee had discussed this on its USMS forum but more discussion was clearly needed. The opinions ran the gamut from committee members who thought a club should never be eligible to win the award a second time to others who thought a club should be able to win it in consecutive years. It was noted that the dynamics of clubs change – leadership and coaching among other things. The award was compared to the Coach of the Year and Ransom Arthur awards that never go to the same person twice and it was also compared to the swimming All Star award, which goes to deserving athletes regardless of whether they have already received it. There was concern expressed that a winning club might be discouraged that they cannot go after the award again. It was also pointed out that the selection committee should make the decisions when considering the nominees.

It was moved and seconded (Ray/Margie) that the period of time before an honored club can be nominated be extended to ten. The motion failed.

**It was MSA (Rich/Laura) to eliminate the Club of the Year policy requiring a club that has received the award to wait at least five years before being nominated again.**

#### **2. Proposal for a new service award: the USMS Open Water Swimming Service Award:**

On behalf of the Open Water Committee, Lynn Hazlewood submitted an official proposal and nomination form to the committee for its approval. The proposal was submitted on the R&A committee's official form and the committee found both documents to be well prepared.

**It was MSA (Margie/Peggy) to approve the USMS Open Water Swimming Service Award**

Nancy expressed a concern about the Open Water committee making a selection of one of its own members is nominated and Sally said she would pass that concern on to Lynn.

#### **3. Ongoing Project review**

a. Bids for RJA and DDSA pins: Robert Zeitner needs final details so he can go to bid with various companies. Rich will contact Robert (who was not on the call) to assist in answering his questions. We need to move the project along so the pins will be ready for presentation at convention.

b. Promotion of USMS Service Awards

1) Coach Services Director Bill Brenner contacted Ray and Sally for information that he will use in his efforts to promote the Club of the Year Award to coaches and clubs. We need to do the same within our own LSMC and zones. Reach out to clubs who impress us and encourage them to nominate themselves. Sally confirmed that each winning club has received a good-sized banner.

2) Considering previous concerns that the Regional Club of the Year Award application might be too complicated, Ray corresponded with Sally Guthrie from Michigan Masters who said the application required a little bit of work but it wasn't enough to cause a problem. There were others on the committee who previously committed to filling out a regional form and Sally will email them a reminder to get the task done. If we want to make changes to the regional form, they must be done within the next couple of weeks.

3) At the last meeting it was proposed that we provide the original artwork for the COYA banners to each winning club so they can be displayed on their website. Rich has created the artwork and Sally has obtained original designs from Kast-A-Way. Sally and Rich will get together to determine which artwork is best suited for posting on the club's websites

4) Feature article in the May/June issue of *Swimmer Magazine*: Committee members Laura, Rich, Nancy, Ray, and Heather contributed information about the 2012 winners and Sally submitted it to the USMS editor only to find out that space was not available after all because the editorial calendar had already been set. Needless to say Sally (and others) was very upset because we understood from Sally's discussion with Laura at convention that she was willing to work with us on the article. Emails went back and forth between Laura, Rob Butcher, Ed and Sally and eventually it was decided to use the *Splashback* column to share information about the various USMS awards and last year's winners. It wasn't exactly what we were hoping for in that it doesn't "feature" and tell more about some of the recipients but at least we ended up with something. Sally and Ray will look to secure something more prominent for next year. Ed said he has been working with Rob Butcher to try to improve the impression the volunteers have of the National Office. Please continue to provide Ed with feedback.

c. Nominate Ted Haartz for the IMSHOF 2013 Honor Contributor: Thanks to Lori Payne for her work on this project. Sally submitted the final paperwork to Bob Duenkel and Ted's nomination was accepted – now we wait to see if he wins! Walt said the ballot comes out in May and over 100 masters from all over the world are on the selection committee. Once nominated, a person is on the list for 10 years. Walt is the new chair of the selection committee.

d. Promote service awards at the local level: Committee members were encouraged to provide information about the USMS service awards to the LMSCs and clubs within their Zones. Information about each award is on the USMS website that would provide good information for an article in their Zone and LMSC newsletters. They should also look within their zones for volunteers who are not being overlooked by their own LMSCs for their service and, if necessary, initiate nominations of individuals and clubs for our upcoming awards. It was noted that there are lots of great volunteers that don't go to convention who are deserving of USMS awards.

#### **4. Other business**

Ransom Arthur Award: With six nominees this year, no one individual received over 50% of the votes during the first ballot. A runoff is being conducted between the top two vote getters and those who did not vote for them initially have been asked to vote again. The deadline to cast a vote is Wednesday.

It was MSA (Ray/Laura) to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 pm Pacific time.