

2020 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Virtual

Committee Name:	Southwest Zone	Session #:	N/A
Committee Chair:	Michael Heather	Vice Chair:	N/A
Minutes recorded by:	Diana Dolan LaMar, SPMS	Date/time of meeting:	September 10, 2020, 8:00 pm EST

Motions Passed:

1. MSA the Southwest Zone minutes from 9/12/2019.
2. MSA to endorse Jill Gellatly as candidate for the Southwest Zone At-Large Director.
3. MSA to move the previously approved 2020 Southwest Zone Championship meet rotation schedule forward to 2021.
4. MSA the Southwest Zone meets for 2021 as amended.

Number of committee members present: 29

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):

AZ – Judy Guiles, Jeff Commings, Kathy Gallagher, Lisa Harris

NM – Teddy Decker, Nick Decker, Barbara Deshler

SI – Barbara Dunbar, Marilyn Fink, Alta Stengel

SPMS – Michael Heather (Chair), Alina de Armas, Robin Smith, Omar de Armas, Ken Brisbin, Virgil Chancy, Anita Cole, Laura Winslow, Diana Dolan LaMar, Mary Hull, Nancy Kirkpatrick Reno, Mark Moore, Arlette Godges, Becky Cleavenger, Jessica Seaton, Dan Wegner, Jill Gellatly, Mary Jurey, Megan Johnston

Number of committee members absent: 3

AZ – Terry Heggy, Jack Salvatore

SPMS – Brandon Franklin

Others Present:

Susan Kuhlman, CFO, USMS; Ted Haartz, Past President BOD; Bill Sive, SPMS; Karin Wegner, SPMS

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m. EST by Southwest Chair Michael Heather

Approval of Minutes: MSA the Southwest Zone minutes from 9/12/2019.

Southwest Zone At-Large Director: Jill Gellatly is the only candidate for the Southwest Zone At-Large Director.

MSA to endorse Jill Gellatly as candidate for the Southwest Zone At-Large Director. Vote was 97% yes, 3% abstain.

Zone Reports

Arizona – Judy Guiles (Chair) reported that membership decreased 21% from 1,316 members to 1,038. Three meets were held in 2020 – Polar Bear in January, Sr. Olympics in February, and Sprint Meet in March. Currently not soliciting contracts for 2021 meets. AZ finished process of amending both the bylaws & policies to add language about meeting attendance for board members and how to remove a board member if necessary.

Changed the bylaws for BOD members to have 80%+ attendance at BOD meetings. Jeff Commings is in charge of the upcoming election in November. The update of bylaws was completed.

New Mexico – Teddy Decker (VP) reported that membership remained fairly stable and only decreased from 380 to 351. Most pools in New Mexico are closed but still planning to host an Open Water event in 2021.

San Diego-Imperial – Barbara Dunbar (Chair) reported pool openings, Masters workouts, and lap swim availability are in a state of flux. Many pools remain closed after an initial 3-month closure. There is less pool space available due to limited capacity, reservation-only policies, and staff, budget, and COVID restrictions. There are 565 members which is 20% below 2019 at this time. 2019 saw an increase of 10% due to the proximity of SC and LC Nationals to San Diego; SI expected a 10% decrease in 2020 memberships. SI remains not in favor of the Unified Fee which will result in reduced income and would reduce SI's ability to subsidize events and older swimmer memberships. All SI meets for 2020 have been canceled and no meets are currently scheduled

for 2021. Right now, many older swimmers have safety concerns and are less willing to take the risk of attending competitions until everything is safe. The SI website crashed due to the crash of the USMS host server. Members have reported frustration or problems with the USMS website including navigation, bad links, and difficulty finding places to swim.

SPMS - Mark Moore (Chair) reported that SPMS is in the process of updating policies and procedures. A new Diversity and Inclusion Committee was created and Virgil Chancy is the Chair. A new position of Volunteer of Fitness Records was created and this person will track various fitness events and participation. SPMS approved \$30,000 from the budget to match the COVID-19 USMS grant program. Grant applications are due by September 30, 2020. Contractor bids for three positions are now open and will be voted on September 17, 2020. Twenty-four meets were scheduled in 2020 and 6 were held; 18 cancelled. All 8 open water events were cancelled. Club membership dropped from 95 to 85. SPMS membership decreased 18% from 4,689 to 3,868.

Zone Championship Meets

Discussion of the Zone meet rotation schedule, cancellation of all Southwest Zone meets for 2020, and selection of LMSCs to host the championships for 2021.

MSA to move the previously approved 2020 Southwest Zone Championship meet rotation schedule forward to 2021.

Discussion of selection of LMSCs to host the 2021 Zone Championship meets. SI is not able to host SCY meet; NM is not able to host the OW event; AZ will host SCM; and SPMS will host LCM. SPMS will host SCY (tentatively at Simi Valley Pool) in conjunction with Matt Biondi meet. SPMS will host the OW event with a possible tentative venue in Santa Barbara.

MSA the Southwest Zone meets for 2021 as amended.

Old Business – none

New Business

Chair Michael Heather posed a question to BOD delegates regarding USMS waivers and liability due to COVID-19. Teddy Decker and Jill Gellatly responded that LMSC's may sanction meets but USMS is not recommending that sanctions be issued at this time. The current USMS waiver does not need to be changed. There is a USMS BOD sub-committee that is making recommendations on a month-to-month basis. The sub-committee is developing a manual on how to safely start hosting meets again. All LMSC's must work directly with and follow the regulations of their local city, county, and state governments.

Mary Jurey, USMS and SPMS Fitness Chair, recommended that clubs/teams place an emphasis on participating in the fall and winter USMS fitness series.

Judy Gillies stated that USMS officials are recommending and writing rules regarding the sanctioning of virtual swim meets.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

None

MSA to adjourn meeting at 8:46 p.m. EST
