

U.S. Masters Swimming

Committee Name: Recognition & Awards

Committee Chair: Elizabeth Nymeyer

Minutes recorded by: Stacy Abrams

Date/time of meeting: April 23, 2023, 6 pm CST

Actions taken: none

Number of committee members present: 10

Absent: 2

Guests: 1

Attendees: Stacy Abrams, Rich Burns, Hill Carrow, Michael Hillegonds, Mary Jurey, Nancy Kryka, Michael Moore, Beth Nymeyer, Ray Novitske, Nancy Ridout and Ed Coates (VPLO)

Absent: Sally Dillon, Elise Shank

Guest: Ann Marshfield (??)

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm Central time.

A. General Business

1. Minutes: The minutes of the March 12 meeting were approved via email and are posted on the USMS Website.
2. VPLO report regarding the RJA Award pins: Ed shared details of the pins via an email as follows: *As discussed last month, I inquired about the specs used to order the new batch of RJA lapel pins. We used the same size specifications as we did last time. I have attached the most recent order form, the prior order form that was provided to the current vendor and the prior graphic proof. We order the required minimum of 10 pins at a cost of \$435 per pin plus a setup charge. We did use a different vendor, so some differences would be expected.*

Other comments:

Sally Dillon via email (she was unable to attend the meeting: *They would have saved a lot of money by using the vendor we used 10 years ago - \$775 by my calculation for then die charge alone! It would not have been necessary with a repeat order. Also, I notice the size of the 10K pins is not indicated. The issue that I brought up in the first place was that the new RJA pins are significantly smaller than the revised pin that has been given out over the past 10 years. So, they are paying significantly more for a smaller version. Hard to understand why the NO has taken this over. They pay more and also pay staff to do something volunteers have managed quite well for 30+ years.*

- Michael M loves the pin, but never wears it because he is scared of losing it.
 - Nancy R. said she would like this committee to have some input into the order of new pins (assuming we do order new pins).
 - Rich said that he believes the last order was placed through his next door neighbor who is in that business and supposedly offered us a 'deal'. We did comparison shop at the time. There were no records for the order that preceded that one. You are correct about the price of gold, now hovering at around \$2000 an ounce, was then as I recall, in the \$1200 - \$1300 range. You might also check the karats. He didn't know the number of that order but remembered discussing what it needed to be and was sure it was higher than 10k. Rich agreed with Ed that the committee should not have to be the bank for an expenditure of this size.
 - This committee would like design oversight and opinion on the next process.
3. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be June 4 at 6:00 pm CST. The Zoom link will be on the agenda.

B. Subcommittee reports:

1. Ransom Arthur Award (RJA): Michael M. reported that Barbara Dunbar, of San Diego Imperial LMSC, was the recipient of the 2023 Ransom J. Arthur Award. Barbara was notified April 21 at a morning meeting with members of her LMSC present. Daniel Paulling of the National Office has written a story about her that is on the USMS website: <https://www.usms.org/fitness-and-training/articles-and-videos/articles/barbara-dunbar-named-2023-capt-ransom-j-arthur-md-recipient>
Michael would like to develop best practices and a timeline for the nomination handling. There are also some edits that could be done to the nomination form to better align with USMS. He sees this happening over the next couple of months.
2. June Krauser Award (JKC): Nancy R. has not received any nominations for the award but expects to receive some soon.
3. Dorothy Donnelly Award (DDSA): Beth reported that she has received a couple nominations. Ray noted that last year we did not give the award to a few nominees. He asked if we have explained to the nominators why they were not awarded and encouraged them to resubmit. Beth said she would work with Ray to make this happen.
4. Club of the Year Award (COYA): Mike H. reported that the committee has been assembled. He plans to contact the clubs that were not selected last year and encourage them to resubmit. Based on discussions with Sally Dillon, he recommended revisions to the policies for COYA to reflect changes made last year. Mike noted that Clubs and Workout Groups can be nominated and based on the quantity and quality of the nominations, more than one award can be presented each year. He also noted that the National Office will order the award banners.
 - Re: #8, Ray thinks the NO wants to review the award banner to ensure the USMS logo is used properly. Regarding the recommended revisions, #2 does not mention local or regional clubs. That needs to be clear.
 - Ed said a regional club is only defined in scoring and a part of the Rule Book.
 - Beth noted that Workout Groups are part of the MINN club to allow relay participation at nationals.
 - Nancy R. Suggested "Any club or workout group can be nominated".
 - Beth suggested that other edits should be sent to Mike H. She also said that Jessica Reilly wants to be part of the award banner process and what her role will be needs confirmation.
5. Masters International Swimming Hall of Fame (MISHOF): Sally submitted the following report via email: Nadine Day was one of 4 individuals who were nominated in the Contributor category. The subcommittee submitted a beautiful nomination, but the Hall of Fame staff reformats the nominations, likely due to space issues. She attached what was published. It was formatted just like the other 35 nominees across the various categories! The results of voting have not yet been released. Sally thanked the other MISHOF subcommittee members for their contributions: Rich Burns, Hill Carrow, Nancy Kryka, and Nancy Ridout.

C. Other reports:

1. Webinar: Beth thanked all who attended or provided information. She has the PowerPoint slides if anyone is interested.
2. Social Media Outreach: Beth explained that the committee has a Google Sheet that has all the emails by Zone and LMSC and we create a draft of an email highlighting our awards and soliciting people to nominate for awards. The next big task is the outreach/email effort in May. Some people write customized, targeted emails to people they know. Others who aren't connected can send using mail merge. The following volunteered to take on their zones. Breadbasket Zone (Beth), Colonies Zone (Ray), Southwest Zone (Mary), Southeast Zone (Nancy K).

3. Awards Reel: This is the annual award presentation that is shown at convention. September 1 is the deadline for completion. Beth said there is currently no need to do anything.
4. Awards Form Standardization: Stacy made a new test form and would like everyone to stress-test the form. She asked everyone on the committee to submit their selves or a fake person for an award (or multiple awards). Test data will be deleted later. Go to this link: <https://forms.gle/kafQhjtNtW2sq15Z8>. It will be necessary to log in and have a Google Account in order to test the form because we are using the file upload question type and need to verify that respondents are not spammers. Once we figure out if the form's function works for us, we can discuss the questions asked and make content improvements. This would be implemented for next year's award cycle.

In closing, Beth asked committee members to let her know if they will be attending Nationals.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm CST.