

Arkansas Masters LMSC Annual Meeting Minutes

Monday, Jan. 11, and Feb. 9, 2021 via Zoom

Byron called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Those attending were Byron Shefchik, Bonnie Adams, Carie O'Banion, Scott Halliburton, Anita Parisi, Kristen Caldwell, Megan Cameron, and Dotty Burke (for part of the meeting on 1/11).

Byron reviewed accomplishments from 2020 for our LMSC:

- Sponsorship for Trifest Open Water Challenge.
- One meet only this year because of Covid-19: The SCM meet in Joplin in Feb.
- Facebook and webpage maintenance
- Promo items given out: Caps, stickers, luggage tags...
- Welcome letter and decal for 1st-time USMS registrants (this ended when the decals ran out).
- Virtual Convention was attended by Byron. Byron is on a national committee now. Our request for boundary change to include 3 southwest Mo. counties was approved.
- USMS Covid-19 Relief Grants: applications were received and approved for 2 clubs. LMSC funds and USMS matching funds were distributed.

Officer Reports:

- **Vice Chair:** nothing to report except that Bonnie noted that we did not create a job description for her this year as was promised last year
- **Secretary/Communications Chair:** Carie reported that she has sent out fewer newsletters this year because there wasn't much to report for much of the year. She has been maintaining the ARKM website, posting on the Facebook page, and answering emails that are sent to her inquiring about swimming in Northwest Arkansas.
- **Treasurer:** Anita reported that she moved over money from the Capital One account to Bank of OZK so now our checking and our savings are in the same location. She stated that it was much easier to work with a financial institution that had a brick and mortar local location. The rates are comparable to Capital One.

Anita reviewed the balance sheet and the actuals for 2020. We operated in the black this year, mostly because the pandemic prohibited us from holding meets, attending convention, etc.

Total revenue for 2020 was \$2,476.15. Most comes from our membership dues. We also had \$385 in donations which is much higher than the past.

Total expenses for 2020 were \$1,489.19. Gross income for the year was \$987.

The budget for 2021 was reviewed, but we plan to approve it at our next meeting in February.

The Balance Sheet for our LMSC shows total assets of \$16,877.58. Anita stated that this amount is considerably higher than it is recommended for non-profits with our income/expenses and that we should try to find ways to spend that in the coming years.

Anita stated that she will only reimburse clubs for their fees once in a calendar year. Same will apply to board members who wish to be reimbursed for their membership fee.

- **Membership Coordinator:** Scott reported that as of today we have 97 members registered for 2021. The total membership for 2020 was 193, which was an all-time high. Much of that can be credited to Megan's program in Joplin and her requirement for USMS membership. The number of Unattached (UC23) swimmers has risen because the regional club (ARKM) was not renewed. The four clubs for 2021 are: Little Rock Masters (LRM), Northwest Arkansas Masters (NWAM), The Joys of Swimming (TJOS), and MC Soakers (SOAK). Scott asked that we include a thank you in the next newsletter for the donations.
- **Coaches Chair:** Megan stated that it has been a strange year, but that she will try to update the list of coaches in our LMSC soon. She stated that Berserkers are not holding any masters practices at this time.
- **Officials:** Kristen has received the new 2021 Rule book, so let her know if you need it.

New Business:

While most pools are reopened in the LMSC, some are still operating with restrictions. Megan explained her restrictions for her indoor pool at Missouri Southern.

Swimmer of the Year: There was discussion about whether or not to push Byron's Swimmer of the Year (SOY) award to this year since he wasn't recognized last year. A motion was made to not award a new SOY this year. Motion failed. After much discussion about the award, it was decided that Carie would send an email to our members asking for nominations and that the deadline would be 1/31/2021.

Draft of the Meet Support Plan: Byron asked for any other changes to the draft of the document that he sent us prior to the meeting. He would like a link to all of the ASI officials for the state. Kristen prefers all requests for officials go through her as the officials chair. Anita would like to add some information about the timing system. The

Aquahogs host the system for our area, and would be willing to rent it to us for a masters meet.

New Committee Roles: These are volunteer roles that USMS details. It was decided that the following people will fill these roles.

- Sanctions: Kristen
- Open Water/Postal: Kristen
- Safety: Kristen
- Fitness: Megan
- Awards & Recognition: Bonnie
- Affiliated Organization: Bonnie
- Records: Scott

Since it was going on 2 hours, we decided to suspend this meeting and continue it on Feb. 9th at 6:30pm. Byron would like us to discuss LMSC goals for 2021. He wants us to choose 1 goal and focus on that. Bonnie wants to discuss Adult Learn to Swim programs, and Kristen would like us to discuss masters at the Walmart Fitness Center.

We will meet Tuesday, February 9th, 6:30PM via Zoom (or some other online meeting platform).

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.

Part 2 of the Annual Meeting (Feb. 9th, 2021)

Byron called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. Those attending were Byron Shefchik, Bonnie Adams, Carie O'Banion, Scott Halliburton, Anita Parisi, and Megan Cameron.

Swimmer of the Year: Bonnie stated that there were 5 nominations for this award. She read the nominations for Jim Sellers, Bonnie Adams, Carie O'Banion, Megan Cameron, and Jack Gooding. Byron asked Carie to read the award description again, and asked about any written procedures for choosing the recipient. Since we don't have any written procedures, Byron suggested that we survey the general membership via email. He asked Scott to do this and to give members about a week to respond to the survey.

Meet Support Plan: A motion was made to approve this document with Anita's additions. Motion passed. Carie stated that she would add this document to the ARKM webpage.

Bylaw Revisions: The revised bylaws were emailed to board members for a pre-read and we reviewed those. Anita suggested correcting the font issue. Motion approved to approve these.

Jesse Coon Award: Byron read the description of this Zone Award and stated that he has been asked several times to encourage nominations. He asked us all to consider nominating someone for this award.

USMS Club of the Year: We discussed whether a small club like MC Soakers had a chance of winning this award. Anita stated that we should go for it, and focus on the percentage growth, rather than just total numbers.

Virtual Zone Meet: Byron stated that the South Central Zone would like to have each LMSC host a meet to be included in a “virtual zone meet.” He asked Carie what the BCC has charged for previous meets, and stated that Tulsa is wanting to hold one, but that the daily rate for the pool is just too high. We might be asked to help fund the meet.

Goals and Plans for 2021: Byron suggested that we try to focus on at least one of these:

- Measure pools in the state that haven't been measured for USMS to encourage meets
- Recruit more members/clubs in the LMSC
- Offer swim clinics and/or ALTS clinics
- Offer more support to Triathlon teams in our LMSC
- Partner with aquatic managers in our LMSC to develop their own masters programs

Megan stated that she wants to measure her outdoor pool (Millennium Family Fitness) so she can hold a meet there. However, the pool needs starting blocks.

Bonnie plans to apply for a USMS ALTS grant (deadline is end of Feb.) The funds will be distributed quickly this year (in March) to allow for April clinics. She plans to offer a week of ALTS clinics the 3rd week of April, Mon-Thurs. and Sun. She will be asking for volunteers from USMS members for this.

There was some discussion about supporting triathlon teams. It was stated that this would probably offer better potential for new members than clinics might be.

Megan also plans for ALTS clinics in May, and also an April clinic for triathletes in preparation for the Neosho Triathlon.

Anita is offering a Feb. 20th clinic to support the indoor tri being held at the Jones Center. She also discussed her Mt. Sequoyah “adult swim” program. She has not made it a USMS club yet because it only operates for 5 months of the year. FAC's adult swim program is also not a USMS club yet either – mostly because they already pay \$150 per month to belong to the FAC.

There was a discussion about the USMS college club program at the Univ. of Arkansas. Anita stated that it was self-hosted. Scott offered to reach out to Neil and perhaps try to build a relationship with this club (social event when it is safe to do so?)

2021 Budget: A motion was made to approve the budget. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:06PM

Next meeting: April 6th, at 6:30pm