

USMS Convention — Jacksonville, Florida 2018

Committee Name:	Recognition & Awards	Session #:	1
Committee Chair:	Ray Novitske	Vice Chair:	Megan Lassen
Minutes recorded by:	Ray Novitske, Megan Lassen, Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	9/27/18 11:30 AM

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. None

Motions Passed:

1. MSA to move the Ransom Arthur award presentation from the Spring National Championship meet to a venue in the recipient's LMSC, effective 2019.

Number of committee members present: 14	Absent: 1	Number of other delegates present: 20
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Ray Novitske, Megan Lassen, Chris Campbell, Rich Burns, Laura Val, Sally Dillon, Lori Payne, Nadine Day, Ginger Pierson, Cathy Hallman-Kenner, Barry Fasbender, Nancy Ridout, Marcia Benjamin, Charis Anderson McCarthy, Linda Bostic, Chris Colburn (VP)		
Committee Members Absent: Carolyn Boak (member of other committee scheduled at same time)		

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:32 AM and a quorum was established.

1. The Chair gave a summary report on the year. - Ray
 - a. The Ransom J. Arthur Award subcommittee successfully utilized a new method of tallying votes that eliminated a runoff when a nominee did not receive the required percentage of votes.
 - b. The committee dialed back efforts to encourage nominations for service awards this year due to past success and chose instead to promote recognition of local volunteer service.
 - c. The committee was successful in our nomination of Walt Reid, to the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Contributor.
 - d. We helped the Officials Committee institute its new service award, the Officials Excellence Award.
 - e. We most likely will stay within our committee budget after all 2018 expenses have been submitted. We are proposing the same amount for our 2019 budget.
 - f. Laura, Ginger, Carolyn, Rich, and Walt Reid assisted the IMSHOF with reviewing selection criteria.
2. Capt. Ransom J. Arthur MD Award Report - Sally
 - a. There were six nominations this year: Ed Tsuzuki, Skip Thompson, Ralph Davis, Mark Moore, Ed Saltzman, and Sarah Welch.
 - b. The recipient, Ed Tsuzuki, was not attending the Spring National Championship, so a surprise presentation was arranged at his home LMSC.
 - c. The new voting system had people rank their votes for nominees, in order to name a recipient without requiring a second runoff vote. The new vote tally system was deemed to be successful by comparing the results to potential runoff vote results since both methods would have produced the same results.
3. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award - Ray
 - a. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award had 22 nominations this year. 14 were selected to receive the award by Megan, Ray, and Patty Miller.
 - b. We have seen nomination letters in the past that contained vague, flamboyant, and general statements without much substance, making them difficult to evaluate. This year, Ray reached out to the authors of some of these nomination

letters requesting more substantive information of qualifications. Revised letters with more elaboration and specific qualifications were received, resulting in some of these nominees being selected for the 2018 award

4. June Krauser Communications Award - Nancy
 - a. This year we received two highly-qualified nominations, which represent a decline from previous years' numbers.
 - b. Voting was completed through email and a recipient was selected.
5. Club of the Year
 - a. All nominations were of high-quality and the committee had a difficult time selecting after lively discussions. On the third ballot, our vice president (a member of the selection committee) voted and broke the tie.
 - b. Clubs nominated for the regional and local awards were Texas Ford Aquatics, Longhorn Aquatics, North Carolina Masters, Masters of South Texas, and Greenville Splash. Nancy commented on the number of nominations from Texas and wondered if there was something the zone was doing to promote service awards. One nomination for the JK Communications Award was also from Texas.
 - c. All clubs not being selected are sent a letter next year as a reminder to encourage a resubmission.
6. Recognition at the local level - Cathy
 - a. All LMSCs were contacted to offer help in developing service awards if needed, and to convey awareness of the Online Volunteer Store merchandise for recognizing volunteers. Response from the outreach by LMSCs was very limited. Most respondents were aware of the store but had not used it.
 - b. #usmsvolunteer buttons were developed for the convention and passed out. The buttons were made to promote recognition and appreciation of volunteers by using the hashtag #usmsvolunteer for posts to social media like Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. Stories and photos can use the hashtag.
7. IMSHOF- Laura
 - a. USMS was contacted by IMSHOF regarding advice on instituting new recognition for coaches, appreciation, and inspiration. USMS passed the request to our committee. Ray sent some information regarding selection criteria for our service awards and pass along the coaching recognition request to the USMS Coaches Committee.
 - b. Four members of the committee and Walt Reid worked independently to help craft suggestions for updating the IMSHOF selection criteria based on world records, longevity, selection committee makeup, and number of annual inductees. A report was prepared and sent to IMSHOF but no response or comment has been returned. Walt mentioned that the Swimming Hall of Fame has been reorganized this year with some new people in leadership positions and the report may have been put aside for now. The subcommittee agreed to submit the report again later in the year.
 - c. The committee recognized Walt Reid (in attendance) for his upcoming induction into the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honor Contributor.
8. Website award pages - Ray
 - a. Every service award recipient has a separate web page with a small writeup of accomplishments that our committee has been developing. We continue to populate these pages, and over the past two years have completed the Ransom Arthur award recipients' pages and are close to finishing the Dorothy Donnelly Award recipients' pages. We will need assistance in completing the remaining DDSA pages since there are no records of nomination letters for the remaining early award recipients from the 1990s.
 - b. The committee will continue with its current membership until the end of the year, so this is task be can continue to be worked on.
 - c. The last phase of the web pages task will involve assisting other committees that present service awards to populate the pages with their recipients.
9. Peer to Peer Teleconference for Recognizing Volunteers - Sally
 - a. The majority of the participants were R&A and LMSC Development committee members. Participants traded information and ideas on methods for recognizing volunteer service. An audio recording and notes from the call are posted on the USMS website.

10. New Business

- a. Nomination forms and criteria should be upgraded all together. A subcommittee will be organized after the convention to review and revise any forms prior to the end of the year.
- b. The Ransom Arthur award recipient has not been present during Spring Nationals for a number of years. The presentation/announcement during the meet takes place on deck where it is difficult to get the swimmers' attention. Meanwhile, the actual award presentation has taken place in the recipient's LMSC with a small group of people taking part. Everyone is "sworn to secrecy" until the official announcement takes place at convention. Sally suggested that we focus on the local presentation and allow the winner to be announced immediately. This would enable the LMSC and recipient to have a special event that can include more people and remove the element of "secrecy". It was suggested that when possible, a photo and short story about the recipient could be inserted in the Spring Nationals program. It was also noted that we would no longer have the conflict of getting the news media coverage of the event that we desire, which was always difficult during the meet.
 - Jeff Roddin (Championship Committee) indicated that the recipient can be named prior to the meet and be included in the meet program. The deadline for the meet program publication in 2019 would allow this.
 - It was suggested that the Club of the Year or Coach of the Year awards may be appropriate for presentation at Nationals
 - The past award recipients should still be honored at the Spring Nationals.MSA to move the Ransom Arthur award presentation from the Spring National Championship meet to a venue in the recipient's LMSC, effective 2019.
- c. Ginger suggested requiring nominations to include a photo of the nominee. This suggestion will be taken up by the subcommittee reviewing nomination materials. Ray mentioned that everyone on the committee was asked to come to the meeting with suggestions after reviewing the nomination materials. These will be conveyed to the subcommittee when it is formed.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Develop subcommittee to review the nomination materials and criteria and develop new materials prior to close of 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.
