

8 USMS R&A Committee Meeting Notes 8-16-26, 7:30 PM ET
2026 Recognition & Awards Committee US Masters Swimming

Committee Name: Recognition & Awards	August 16, 2026 Meeting
Committee Chair: Tara Mack "TMack"	Vice Chair: Caitlin Gagnon
Minutes recorded by: TMack & Zoom AI	Meeting Date/Time: 8/16/2026; 7:30pm ET

Actions Taken: Bios for 2026 R&A Recipients; Video for Annual Convention and USMS website. [Guidelines](#) for bios.

Number of committee members present: 21	Absent: 3	Guests: 0
--	------------------	------------------

Committee Members Present: Tara Mack "TMack" (Chair); Caitlin Gagnon (Vice Chair); Rich Burns; Hill Carrow; Jane Moore; Michael Moore; Nancy Ridout; Crystie McGrail (VPLO); Ann Marshfield; Cheryl Kupan; Marilyn Fink; Ed Saltzman; Kathrine Casey; Fiona Duncan; Sally Dillon; Barbara Protzman; Becky Cleavenger; Sharon Wyatt; Robin Smith; Jill Wright

Committee Members Absent: Emily Cook; Beth Nymeyer; Sara Dunn; Hayley Martin; Dan Underbrink
--

Guests: n/a

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm ET. Meeting agenda [here](#)

1 Welcome: "Roll Call": TMack recorded attendance automatically. The meeting began with TMack welcoming attendees to the Recognition & Awards committee meeting, which meets every third Sunday evening at 7:30 PM Eastern. TMack welcomed everyone to the call and invited everyone to introduce themselves with their names and LMSCs, she went first in this process and called names to provide a structure. TMack welcomed everyone again and then shared what the agenda was (in the meeting chat box) and how the meeting would flow. Started with the VPLO report.

2 VPLO Report, Crystie: Crystie thanked the committee for their work celebrating volunteer contributions and reminded members to sign up for committees next year through the annual meeting survey that will be coming soon.

3 TMack shared that the Minutes from July 19, 2026 were previously approved and posted.

4 TMack used a slideshow [Overview of Awards](#) and asked the subcommittee chairs to share the details on what each subcommittee does and the requirements involved as a member of each subcommittee. TMack emphasized that the 2026 R&A recipients will not be discussed, just the dynamics of the subcommittees and how to get involved and what this committee focuses on.

*TMack shared with the committee members that the next item for all subcommittee members is to write up the Award Bios for the 2026 recipients as well as for the Annual Meeting video.

TMack worked with Claude to create a [Guidelines](#) sheet. With an immediate focus on the bios for the Video, the R&A committee will work on the USMS website bios more during our September meeting, Sept. 20th 7:30pm ET.

Ransom J. Arthur Award Announcement

Michael explained that the Ransom J. Arthur Award is the oldest and highest annual award given to one person who has significantly furthered the USMS vision, values, and priorities over an extended period. The award selection process has been completed, and the National Office is expected to announce the recipient within the next week, with Daniel confirming the announcement will be made on Tuesday evening along with a related article on the website and social media. Michael's next priorities include gathering feedback on the nomination and voting process through surveys and updating the committee policy language to strengthen the process and improve transparency.

Dorothy Donnelly Service Award (DDSA)

For the Dot Donnelly Service Award, 24 nominations were received, and the selected recipients will be announced in a virtual video created by Hill Carrow.

Club of the Year (COTY)

The Club of the Year award received three excellent nominations, with all three being considered strong contenders, though the winner won't be announced until September.

June Krauser Communications Award

The June Krauser Communications Award was also discussed, with Nancy Rideout serving as subcommittee chair. Nancy explained the purpose of the communication award, which recognizes innovative ways people keep their USMS communities connected through various platforms beyond newsletters. She described the award process, noting that it involves reviewing nominations and holding a brief meeting to select recipients, with the award to be announced at the annual meeting via the R&A video. Nancy invited others to join the committee, emphasizing that it requires a nominal time commitment but offers insight into creative communication strategies in the US masters swimming community.

Fitness Award

The USMS Fitness Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to fitness activities within U.S. Masters Swimming was shared by Ann Marshfield, Jane Moore, and Emily Cook who all worked on the award committee. Ann noted they were challenged to get nominations and credited Jane and Emily for revising the nomination form. The committee reviewed a nomination and determined it was worthy of the award, which will be announced at the annual meeting in September.

MISHOF and ISHOF Awards

The committee discussed the US Masters Swimming relationship with the International Swimming Hall of Fame, where Rich Burns explained that while USMS has limited influence over Hall of Fame selections, they do have a say in the Contributor category through nominations.

End of specific awards highlights.

The committee reviewed their responsibilities, noting they oversee the Donnelly Service Award but not other awards like Coach of the Year or National Championship Meets Award. The group discussed upcoming bio guidelines and video requirements for award recipients, with Caitlin highlighting the need to keep video lengths manageable. The next committee meeting is scheduled for September 20th at 7:30 pm ET, and recipients for this year's awards were expected to be announced during the USMS Annual meeting on September 18th, 2026. Most recipients will be informed of their selection ahead of time and the Coach of the Year (not a component of the R&A Committee) will be announced at Relay/NCC during the weekend of September 25-27.

TMack highlighted the successful progress in digitizing and simplifying nomination forms for various awards, including the Captain Ransom J. Arthur Award, Dot Donnelly Service Award, Club of the Year Award, June Krauser Communications Award, and Fitness Award and included that other awards committees also updated their digital nominations to JotForm as per the national office. TMack commended the committee on their diligence to making the nomination process streamlined, efficient, and user-friendly by testing the drafts and requesting edits through the national office. She thanked the national office for assisting in this task.

5 TMack opened discussion to other members of the R&A committee to share their experiences if they so desired. Ann Marshfield expressed her appreciation for the committee and acknowledged the support and deep sense of community she felt especially during the personal transition in her family.

6 TMack opened the meeting to questions or comments from guests. Cheryl Kupan asked when the nominees would be informed if they are to receive an award. TMack shared that they will be individually contacted if they are under the purview of the R&A and she expressed she felt other committees would be doing the same soon if they haven't already done so.

7 TMack thanked the committee members for all their hard work on these awards and the entire process this year. "We aren't done yet!" And, she mentioned, If celebrating others is your jam also, please watch for the invitations from USMS to add the 2027 R&A Committee to your request form as Crystie mentioned in her VPLO report.

8 Adjourn 8:23pm