

USAS Convention—Atlanta, Ga., September 26–30, 2007 United States Masters Swimming House of Delegates—Minutes

Friday, September 26, 2008, 8:00 a.m.

President Rob Copeland called the meeting of the House of Delegates to order at 8:00 a.m. EDT. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll for delegates who had not yet been certified.

Introduction. President Copeland welcomed delegates to the convention and reminded delegates that the theme of the convention was “USMS Membership: It’s Up to Us.” He called attention to the handout that details the National Office’s accomplishments since Executive Director Rob Butcher came on board. Rob reminded delegates to vote for the rule book cover choice and to attend the induction ceremony for the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame, at which USMS members Bob Strand and Jim McConica would be honored.

Convention coordinator’s report. Victor Buehler thanked the Long Beach Grunions for their efforts in the hospitality suite at last year’s convention, and also the Georgia Masters volunteers at this year’s convention. He announced that 221 delegates had been certified. He also presented a Florida Gators baseball cap, signed by Coach Urban Meyer, to Rob Copeland.

Parliamentarian’s report. Parliamentarian Bill Tingley went over the standing rules for the convention (posted in the convention section of www.usms.org). **MSA adopting the standing rules.**

National Championship Meet Award. Hill Carrow, Kate Hawley and George Simon (North Carolina) of Raleigh Area Masters presented the award to Tom Taylor of HyTek. HyTek has provided meet management computer services at our pool national championships since 1994, and has continually enhanced their product and increased the professionalism of our meets. The award reads: “USMS National Championship Meet Award, presented to Tom Taylor for many years of outstanding meet management technical services in support of USMS Championship Meets, September 26, 2008, Atlanta.” Tom thanked USMS for the award, and said HyTek runs many meets all over the world, but USMS is special.

Executive director’s address. Rob Butcher delivered the following:

Mr. President, Board of Directors and House of Delegates,

Thank you for the honor to serve as United States Masters Swimming executive director. I thank all of you for your many years of service and passion to our cause. Without your dedication, USMS would not be here today.

For many, this may be your first “live” introduction to me. If you had an opportunity to digest any of the convention report, you probably saw some ideas that are outside the traditional USMS box and a proposed budget number that makes you think, “So who is this young kid we’ve just hired and entrusted to lead our organization. The first thing he does is roll into a convention with these grand ideas and a budget deficit? What is he thinking?” That is a fair question, and if I were sitting in your shoes, I could see myself having a similar attitude and want some reassurance that he knows what he’s doing, and that we can trust him.

So I hope in the next few minutes to share and also provide a brief biographical narrative so you can get to know me a little better, and then during this convention I in turn will get to know each of you a little better.

I first became introduced to swimming at the age of 12. I would visit my dad’s side of the family in Indiana during the summertime. My youngest sister, Susie, who was seven years old at the time, was taking swim lessons with the Michigan City Waves. My sport was soccer at that age, and my dad and stepmom would drag me along to watch Susie’s swim meets. I don’t necessarily remember so much the competition, but I remember the fun Susie had with swimming. She was always joking, laughing and having a good time with the other kids on the team.

A few years later, it was my junior year in high school, we were getting ready for the upcoming high school soccer season. I’d been playing soccer year round since about the age of six and was really feeling the burnout effect. Home life was a challenge for me and I needed something new in my life, something positive. During home room, I heard an announcement that the swim

team was looking for swimmers. I remembered back to summer visits when Susie was swimming and thought, "I can do this." So I showed up at the pool deck that afternoon. Living in Florida, all I had were the beach board shorts. I'd never heard of Speedo and surely wasn't going to wear one of the tighty whitey suits. Coach Bob Hendren was the coach. He was trying to build up the high school team. He threw me in an outside lane and said "Show me what you got, give me all four strokes." At the end, he said, "Well, you'll need a lot of work and we need a breaststroker." So that was it, day one of the Spruce Creek High School swim team my junior year and I was a breaststroker.

That evening, I went home and told my mom that I was quitting soccer and joining the swim team. Now my mom was the strongest, toughest, most positive lady I'd ever met. She at first had questions, but when she saw that I no longer had the passion for soccer, she didn't argue. My mom was a believer in following your passion and, well, my stepdad, he was another story, but for me swimming was my lifeline. At that time in my life, I thought it would just be an escape, something to get me through high school. Little did I know that 20+ years later, I'd be standing here with an opportunity to serve this passion of mine, this passion of all of ours, which has given each of us so much more than we could ever give it.

As graduation of Spruce Creek High School neared, I started to have this crazy idea that maybe I could swim in college. My times weren't all that great but I was having fun. Coach Hendren himself swam in college for Georgia Southern University and made a few phone calls. I was accepted at Georgia Southern and fall of 1990, I was a freshman on the swim team. I swam all four years at Georgia Southern, and somehow, in our senior championships in my very last individual event won the 200 yard breaststroke at our conference championship. It was the first individual championship for a Georgia Southern guy in nearly 10 years and let's just say there are a few guys in this room who go faster today than I went back then.

In the summer of 1994, I graduated with a degree in marketing and immediately started grad school at Georgia Southern. For me, swimming had ended far sooner than I would have liked but of course I had no idea there was this whole world of adult swimming out there. I imagine there are a whole bunch more college graduates today like most of us who went through the system and still have a love for swimming but may not be aware United States Masters Swimming exists and what it can offer. More though on that later.

In the summer of 1995, I accepted a one-year post-graduate internship working in the Auburn Sports Marketing Department. It was at Auburn that I was first introduced to Masters swimming and guys like Connor Bailey and Adam Dawkins. It was guys like that, who had a love for the sport themselves, who drew me back into the water. It was also at Auburn where I met Head Coach David Marsh and Rowdy Gaines. Both of those guys have become lifelong friends and planted the seed that my best swimming could still be in front of me.

A year later, having made many friendships that still continue today, my internship with Auburn was completed and I moved to University of Maryland to work in the Terrapin Sports Marketing Department. My Masters swimming experience at Auburn was so positive that I couldn't help but want to join Terrapin Masters.

While with the Terrapin Masters, it was there at the encouragement of Masters swimmers such as Dave Diehl that I entered my first Masters meet. The highlight was the 1997 Long Course Masters Nationals in Orlando. At that meet, I swam senior national level times that were much faster than I'd ever gone in college. I guess most of you can also relate.

So, I was faced with a dilemma. You see, in 1992 when I was a sophomore at Georgia Southern, our coach was taking a couple of our fast girl swimmers for a last chance Olympic Trials qualifying meet in Indianapolis. I wanted to go, I desperately wanted to go. I'd read about the Olympic Trials in *Swimming World* and I just wanted to see it. But our coach kept saying no. Finally, after continuous begging, offering to pay my own way, and saying I would sleep on the floor, he acquiesced.

That weekend experience was like my first Christmas. I guess the statute of limitations have passed so Mel, I can now admit this. I snuck past security, got on deck, and jumped in the warm-up pool. I actually swam in the same lane as Janet Evans and Pablo Morales and Matt Biondi. To this kid who had been swimming all of four years and only knew Georgia Southern swimming, it was the best experience you could imagine.

So, as I left the 1997 Orlando Masters Nationals, I made the decision that I was going to go for it. I wanted in on the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials. I can tell you, though, I had no idea what that meant. I didn't understand the training side. I didn't understand the commitment it would take. I didn't understand the sacrifice I would have to make. And I didn't understand the disappointment I would go through on the journey. All I had was a vision, and the belief that I could be an Olympic Trial qualifier.

I was now living back in Florida, Daytona Beach specifically, and started training with Steve Lochte who had just moved there to take over the program. Some of you may have heard of Coach Steve, and some may have heard of his son Ryan. Ryan was a little guy at that time, only 12 years old. I guess he's now turned out to be a pretty good swimmer and to this day I think I'm one of the very few who can say I ever beat Ryan Lochte.

If you do know Coach Steve, you know he's a pusher. He has high expectations and coming into a Daytona Beach program that had been down for a few years, he was out to change the culture. It was a blessing for both of us that we connected. I needed a coach who knew how to coach big time, and Coach Steve needed an example of someone who would work hard and buy into his process.

Over the next two years, we trained many lonely mornings together and plenty of hot afternoons in the Florida sunshine. Well, another reality for me was setting in and that was that I needed to somehow support myself. Through a connection, I was introduced to our local Prudential office and it so turns out that the district manager was a Masters swimmer himself. That manager bought into my dream and championed the Prudential Athlete Assistance program. From 1998 to 2000, I was one of a select number of Prudential financial planners who had a flexible work schedule that allowed me to train. One of my commitments to Prudential was to be a good community ambassador by speaking at high schools and charity events. It was through one of these outreach programs that another Masters swimmer introduced me to a couple of contacts with NASCAR, which is headquartered in Daytona Beach. I think you can see a pattern here that swimming and Masters swimming has played in my life.

As I shared earlier, my Olympic Trials journey was absolutely incredible. Over a two-year period, I shaved and tapered more than 10 times trying to qualify for the breaststroke events. Finally, in April of 2000 and at my last meet, I swam a qualifying time fast enough in the 100 breaststroke to get me in. I went to Indianapolis with as much joy as a 16th seed has playing in the NCAA tournament, just happy to be there and soaking in the entire experience. Returning back to Florida, I had just turned 28 and was asking myself, "Now what?"

The next couple of months, I took some time to detox and let the experience sink in. It was also during this time, that I was able to call on those NASCAR relationships and networked my way into an entry-level job. On January 3, 2001, I started as an operations manager in the souvenir program department. My job was to head up the program sales at NASCAR events. And wouldn't you know, that in markets like Daytona and Kansas, I was able to hire the local swim teams to sell programs, adding tens of thousands of dollars to their swim teams as a fundraiser. Just once again, you can see how swimming has played a role in my life.

After only six months in the program group, I was hired into the corporate marketing group as an entry-level salesperson. My responsibility was to sell sponsorships to NASCAR and Indy Racing League events at the 13 speedways the company owned. Over the next five years in the sponsorship sales role, I was promoted four different times and ultimately was able to add \$60 million in cash sponsorships and media sales. I thoroughly enjoyed what I was doing and then had a chance meeting with some venture capitalists in late 2005. Those guys were able to lure me away from NASCAR to become the chief marketing officer for another racing company they had poured many millions of dollars into. Their previous CEO had squandered all of their investment and they were pretty desperate for a turnaround. So, in January of 2006 I signed on along with a new CEO and COO. We had done as much homework as possible on the situation, but it wasn't until we got inside that we were able to pull back the curtains and see a total disaster. While the racing product was good, employee morale was horrible, financially the company was bleeding tremendous money every day, the brands were tired and depressed, all the technology was outdated, the accounting was bad, and we didn't have a headquarters. To top it off, the investors were expecting us to turn around the situation almost immediately.

Well, two years later, we were for the most part able to stabilize things. We'd moved the company to Charlotte and increased revenue from \$12 million to nearly \$20 million and brought expenses down to a more equal level.

Professionally, it was the most intense time of my life. There were many 14- to 16-hour days, and a lot of trips to New York and Chicago to reassure the investors. Personally, it was even more stressful. In December of 2006, my mom, the same lady who had been my greatest encourager and my greatest supporter, was diagnosed with stage IV appendix cancer. She underwent surgery and then six months of intense chemotherapy. My brothers and I were making regular trips to Florida to be with her. In July of 2007, her oncologist called and said she would need a second surgery. At that point, I'd made a decision I was going to step aside from World Racing Group. I felt good about the contributions I'd made and was choosing to support my mom and the rest of the family. We did our homework, made the visits, and in September of 2007 our mom had a second surgery at Wake Forest hospital in North Carolina. For the next 14 weeks, I pretty much lived at the hospital while Mom was in intensive care. She had her moments of consciousness, and if any of you have ever read *Tuesdays with Morrie*, this was that experience for me. When Mom was able to communicate, no topic was off limits. On November 26, my mom passed away. My brother Mike and I were at her bedside holding her hand. While I'm saddened to have lost her at only 62 years of age, I can promise you if she were here today she would tell each of us to live life with joy, treat it as a gift, make a difference in someone else's life, dance if you want to and remember attitude is the one thing we can control. Those continue to be guiding words of wisdom for my life.

So how does that tapestry get us to here today? I'd made a commitment to myself, in honor of my mom, that whatever I did next would be with a cause I genuinely believed could make a difference in people's lives. If you've had success making money in sports, there will be opportunities. I was getting very attractive calls from the NFL, NBA, NASCAR and Major League Baseball, but none of them fit that baseline criteria, so I stayed patient. And then in late March of this year, I got a phone call that United States Masters Swimming was searching for an executive director. I started doing my homework on USMS and asking around. The reports were for the most part good with kind of a common theme: "They are a sleeping giant."

I decided to submit my application, along with recommendations and references from guys like Chuck Wielgus, USA Swimming Executive Director, and Rowdy Gaines.

Now, I can tell you from the candidate perspective, the process was very thorough and included a one-on-one interview with the search firm, six very thought-provoking questions to be answered in writing, a face-to-face interview with the search committee and a cognitive aptitude test. Then, it went to the Board of Directors for their vote and on June 9, we were able to make the announcement that has me here today.

I've been asked since, why did I take this role and not one of those other higher profile, higher paying gigs. Health, wellness and exercise are part of my DNA. Swimming is what I love, and it's my activity of choice. I may not be as fast as I once was, but I still have a deep-down love, much like each of you, for our sport. And while all that is great, I think what really juices me is I've seen the difference swimming, and in particular Masters swimming, has made in my life. I so wanted to be a part of this story, and I wanted you to be a part of mine.

So here we are, roughly 100 days into my tenure, and you might be thinking to yourself, "What has he been up to?" Well, I'm glad you asked. In front of you is a list of milestones we've been able to accomplish in our first 100 days. They are yours to keep and we'd encourage you to take them home and hang them on the bulletin boards of your pools if you'd like. I won't read all the milestones, but would like to highlight a few of the significant ones.

I made a commitment to communicate; I've had dialogue with all the Board members, and as well I'm pleased that I was able to meet one-on-one with all USMS employees in the first 60 days. The employees now have a weekly staff-only call where we can exchange updates, ideas and areas where we can help each other.

The 2008 budget allowed for the opening of USMS's first-ever satellite office, and we did so on day 33. The 650-square-foot space isn't anything fancy, but one day we'll be able to look back and say "Remember when...."

Through our relationship with Chuck Wielgus of USA Swimming, USMS was invited at no cost to be a sponsor at the USA Swimming Olympic Trials. USMS had a 16 x 8 foot banner on display and was the sponsor of Rowdy Gaines' appearance in the AquaZone.

We announced a new partnership with Liberty Mutual and welcomed Blue Seventy as a partner at the Portland Long Course Nationals. We are placing a premium on sponsor opportunities that offer membership value, activation and promotion of USMS.

With the Club Development Task Force, we incubated a Club Development Program in June that to date has led to development of four new clubs and brought in more than 20 volunteer mentors. No doubt this initiative is paying dividends and club and coach services will be a vital part of our success for years to come.

Responsibilities such as Snooper rental, video library and the features on the USMS.org website have been transferred from volunteers who put in many hours operating these benefits to USMS staff.

We've signed a consultant who is helping us with phase I of the USMS brand redesign.

USMS has announced a proclamation with the College Swimming Coaches Association that we will support collegiate swimming. This new partnership will allow USMS to target the younger demographics, a market that is important for our future growth.

We've had meetings with the YMCA to open dialogue on how USMS and the YMCA can better work together on initiatives such as the YMCA Masters Nationals, and growing program opportunities within the YMCA.

And ... well ... that brings us to our future. USMS is undergoing an evolution. This evolution started more than five years ago when the Board at that time approved the position of an executive director. That was the first step in the evolution process. We now find ourselves facing the next step. But what does this next step mean? And more importantly, why is it necessary?

We are all here today because of our membership. Membership has entrusted USMS, LMSCs and your home club or workout group with dues for which they have expectations. At its basic level, USMS has met those expectations. We provide insurance in practices and competition, we provide a bimonthly member magazine, we provide a website, we track results and we provide a few sponsor benefits. Previous to my hiring, we had a staff of six. Only two are full-time. One is part-time. The other three are independent contractors. All six live in six different parts of the country. Outside of these six, the majority of USMS is operated and managed by volunteers. When I first started to learn about the organization and its structure, I was in awe. USMS is a nearly 40-year-old nonprofit. It sits on the doorstep of almost 50,000 dues-paying members. It has a \$1.5 million operating budget. It has no debt and it has been financially disciplined to build a \$1.5 million cash reserve.

Dear House of Delegates, whether it was me or another person serving as your executive director, the time for the next step in the USMS evolution is now. You have prepared, you are ready and the USMS membership will be the benefactor.

You have been presented with an action plan. The action plan isn't just a document that I drafted from a corner office. Rather, it came from you. In 2006, USMS conducted a fairly extensive membership survey. Your feedback drives a significant part of the action plan. The Board, committee members, coaches and strategic plan also help shape a great deal of the action plan. In a nutshell, the action plan can be segmented into three buckets.

The first is Membership Services. This bucket is what do we do for you, the individual member. The action plan says USMS will become more of a partner in operating and promoting our national events. In doing this, we aim to provide a better experience. The action plan also says we will expand our member benefits by bringing in more sponsors, such as Liberty Mutual, who can offer benefits and services of value.

The second segment is Club and Coach Services. Every one of us knows the value of our coaches. Your 2006 survey results said coached practices were the most important benefit to you as a Masters swimmer. It didn't matter whether you were a hard-core competitor or purely fitness swimmer, the majority of you place a high value on coaches. We have already incubated a Club and Coach Development program, and are making available best practices such as information on starting a club, growing a club and how to coach the differing groups of swimmers in your club. This program will expand so it can serve even more clubs and coaches. We will also begin the process of developing a USMS coach and instructor certification program, so we can offer education as a resource to those in or wanting in on the profession.

The third segment is Marketing and Promotions. We've listened. We know you want the USMS brand to be reenergized. We've hired a consultant who is undertaking that process. We

know you want more information in the member magazine. We know you want a better USMS.org website with updated information such as Places to Swim. And, if you have a computer in front of you, go to Google and type in “adult swimming” or “swimming and health” as examples. You’ll notice USMS is nowhere to be found. Marketing and Promotions. This is the third segment we will put resources into and do a better job of enhancing the USMS image and telling the USMS stories, so it can translate into growth for the organization.

All of this may sound great, but before we can get there we have to put in place the infrastructure. Our current employee structure of each living in a different geographical area is not realistic to take on new initiatives. We will centralize our operations. Centralization allows for efficiencies to be developed, it fosters team communication, it creates shared resources and it lets us begin to put in safeguards for succession planning. With centralization, we will also add staff where needed and justifiable to execute the action plan.

In all of this, I ask for your patience. This evolution is a process, and putting in place the proper infrastructure will be done carefully so we can implement the three segments outlined. As we reach new milestones, they will continue to be communicated.

I also ask for your continued assistance. Volunteer passion has built this organization. It will continue to play an important role in its future. Please, stay active in the committees. Just because we have a professional staff coming together does not mean we can nor want to do it all. If you aspire to leadership, let your committee chair or LMSC leaders know. We are always on the lookout for future leaders who bring the energy, commitment to the values of USMS and spirit of teamwork.

So, here today we stand together. A proposed 2009 budget has been submitted to you. Both the 2009 proposed budget and accompanying action plan have been thoroughly reviewed by the Board. The Board unanimously voted its approval of use of USMS reserves to implement the action plan. The Board also voted its approval for the dues increase as outlined in the action plan. I now ask for your vote in doing so.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with you through the rest of this weekend.

Election nominations from the floor. Vice President Leo Letendre explained that our election guidelines state that floor nominations are to be made immediately after the committee’s report, but the Zone Committees report is not scheduled until Saturday. If we waited until then for nominations, we would not have time to consider them. **MSA to suspend the rules and allow the nominations during Friday morning’s House of Delegates meeting.** Election Committee Chair Julie Heather then called for nominations for at-large director. Chris Colburn (Illinois) nominated Chuck Burr (North Texas) for director from the South Central Zone. Mark Gill (Kentucky) seconded the nomination. Chuck indicated he was willing to serve if elected. Julie noted that Chuck had previously submitted a nomination packet, included in the pre-convention packet. **MSA to close nominations.** Julie announced that the election would be held during Saturday’s House of Delegates meeting, as required by the Election Operating Guidelines.

Actions of the Board of Directors. Because the written minutes of the Board’s meeting had not yet been distributed, this report was postponed.

The meeting was recessed at 9:15 a.m.

Friday, September 26, 2008, 1:45 p.m.

President Copeland reconvened the meeting at 1:45 p.m. EDT. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll for those who had not yet been certified.

Remembrance of those who have passed away since last convention. President Copeland read the following names submitted by the delegates and held a moment of silence: Mary Lee Watson (Southeastern), Dave Maehr (Kentucky), George Dodge (Kentucky), Thomas Martinez (Southern Pacific), Jack Buchanan (Colorado), Michael Barnett (Southern Pacific), Paul Fortoul (Metropolitan), Fran Zeumer (Wisconsin), Kevin Perry (Southern Pacific), David Farrell (Wisconsin), Maia Haykin (Pacific Northwest), Dore Schwab (Pacific), Barr Clayson (New England), Carolyn Samuels (Southern Pacific), Gil Young (Oregon), Ned Smith (Florida Gold Coast), Penny Weaver (North Carolina), Harlan Drake (Wisconsin), Mary Jane Schafer (Florida), Albert Fisher (Missouri Valley), Steve Highley

(Potomac Valley), John Locke (Potomac Valley), Mary Lemmon (Potomac Valley), Liz Stock (Colorado), Beverley Tucker (Florida), Alison Davies (North Texas). USMS extends its deep sympathy to these members' families.

Recognition of delegates. President Copeland recognized the new delegates and also the old delegates for their many years of service to USMS, particularly our longest-serving delegates, June Krauser (Florida Gold Coast) and Ted Haartz (Arizona).

Q & A with Club Assistant. Club Assistant is the vendor for online registration. Vice President of National Operations Leo Letendre introduced George Simon, chair of the Registration Committee, who said he felt our migration to Web-based registration went very well. Leo then introduced Dan Wegner, CEO of Club Assistant. Dan introduced Programmer Julie Austin and new employee Karen Adams. All Club Assistant employees are registered USMS members and competed as a club at LC Nationals in Portland. Leo then went over the timeline of implementation of online member registration. Leo made clear that no credit card information is stored on the system. We are able to track affiliation status as well as financial status, and the data is backed up more often than daily. Shortly after the system was turned on, online self-registration constituted 40 percent of all individual registrations. He expects that when re-registration begins Nov. 1, 2008, that 70 percent or more will register online. We have been processing about 1,000 online registrations a month since February 2008 (the first full month of operation). Statistics indicate that online registration has increased our membership.

Lessons learned: We expected most of the support calls to come from individuals trying to register online, but in fact most calls came from registrars. We also learned that self-registrants make more errors entering their own addresses than the registrars did. Dan shared his experience at a meet in February in which he observed participants using the Internet to register immediately before deck-entering the meet, something he was not expecting so soon. This will ultimately save time and decrease entry errors. Dan also explained that when the 2009 registration year begins, LMSC registrars will be able to email encoded links to their members that will allow them to re-register online immediately. The online registrants will be able to update any information that has changed. Most of the delegates indicated they planned to re-register online this year. He also reminded delegates that members have the ability to reprint lost cards. Planned updates include the ability for members to update address changes themselves rather than going through their registrar. He also noted that mailing labels are pulled from the database just days before *USMS SWIMMER* is mailed, leading to fewer bad addresses and more new members receiving their magazines. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) stated that the system has given registrars many capabilities they never had before, and thanked Club Assistant for their willingness to tweak the system in response to registrars' concerns and their rapid response. Carolyn Boak (Gulf) asked if implementing rolling registration renewal would be a problem, and Leo said that it would not. Cathy Kohn (Ozark) asked if local charitable donations could be integrated into the online registration process. Leo said that there is one field that LMSCs could use for donations, but cautioned that USMS has a policy against the organization (including LMSCs) affiliating with specified charities; this policy has no bearing on what charities clubs may support, however. Ray Novitske (Potomac Valley) said that currently his registrar sends each club a list each month of new members and asked if there were plans to allow local club registrars to have access to this information, which is important for assuring that all participants are insured. Dan said this request had also been made at the Registration Committee meeting, and that they could provide a link to allow the clubs to access this information. They hope to have this function available soon. George noted that this is also reported in the Registration Committee's minutes. Ralph Davis (Michigan) asked that the ability to contribute to the Michigan Masters' scholarship program be implemented for 2009. Leo said that option was available now, and George asked that the Michigan registrar contact him about how to do it. Doug Huestis (Pacific) asked for clarification on how he, as a coach, would be able to verify his swimmers' registration. Leo said that as soon as the ability is made available, he would be sent the link to access this information. Nancy Crecelius (Gulf) said she felt it was important for club registrars to have immediate access to all registration data for their members, particular contact information. Leo said that Club Assistant has many functions already built into their system, some of which we will be implementing. USMS will be looking at giving greater data access to club registrars. We have so far been concentrating on making sure the financial aspects were working properly. Kate Hawley (North Carolina) asked if a list could be generated of all who had not re-registered by a certain date, so that a reminder email could be sent only to those who had not yet re-registered, and the answer was yes. Maryann Bradley (Florida) asked about the status of informing clubs that they had to be registered first before any of their members could be registered online. George explained that each LMSC's registrar needs to contact all clubs and ask them to make sure they are registered, and expects this to be available beginning October 1. Mel Goldstein (Indiana) asked when a club's registration expired. Mel felt that if a club's registration is in effect until December 31, then the club is already registered and swimmers should be able to register with that club beginning November 1; new clubs would have to be registered by November 1, but previously

existing clubs should already be there. George, Leo and Rob Copeland (Georgia) explained that no individuals can register for the next year until the club is also registered for the next year, regardless of the club's previous year registration status. George explained that this is not a change in policy because of online registration; this has always been our registration policy. Jeff Roddin (Potomac Valley) explained that next year's registration does not take effect until January 1 of that next year, even though swimmers are allowed to use that next year's registration for the remainder of the previous year; therefore, the club must also be registered for the next year. Leo added that if individuals were registering for the next year for a club registered only from the previous year, USMS would have to void their memberships on January 1 of the next year if the club had not re-registered by January 1 of the next year. Susan Ehringer (Kentucky) called attention to rule 201.1.2.

Recognition and Awards Committee report. Chair Sally Dillon recognized Barry Fasbender (Pacific), winner of this year's Ransom Arthur Award, as well as all previous Ransom Arthur winners. She and Vice Chair Hill Carrow then announced this year's Dorothy Donnelly Service Award winners: Pat Baker (Lake Erie), Tom Bliss (Florida), Gussie Crawford (Ozark), Tom Foley (Pacific Northwest), Allen Highnote (Southern Pacific), Doug Huestis (Pacific), Charles Kohnken (Florida), WonKee Moon (Potomac Valley), Randy Nutt (Florida Gold Coast), Fred Pigott (Illinois), Jeanne Seidler (Wisconsin), Dick Sidner (Indiana), Erin Sullivan (Nebraska), Sarah Welch (Pacific Northwest) and Scott Williams (Pacific). Sally then presented the Club of the Year Award to Woodlands Masters Swim Team. She also congratulated the runner-up, Noblesville Adult Swim Team. **MSA the committee's report.**

Announcement. Vice President of Local Operations Julie Heather announced that the workshop on postal swims planned for Saturday morning was being replaced with one on club development.

Reports of staff, liaisons and special appointments. President Copeland stated that these delegates' reports were printed in the pre-convention packet. National Office Administrator Tracy Grilli, Webmaster/IT Director Jim Matysek, Controller Margaret Bayless, FINA Representative Nancy Ridout, Risk Management Coordinator Jim Wheeler, International Swimming Hall of Fame Liaison June Krauser, National Board of Review Chair Laura Kessler and USMS Liaison to USA Swimming Ted Haartz had nothing further to add to their written reports.

USMS Liaison to International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Jessica Seaton reported that the results from the IGLA Championships held in Washington, D.C., in June were submitted for world records, but were rejected. IGLA is launching an appeal, and Jessica noted that Rules Committee will be considering submission of a rules proposal to FINA that would state that results from meets put on by a third-party organization but sanctioned by a FINA affiliated organization and in which all participants are members of FINA affiliated organizations are acceptable for world records.

Rule Book Coordinator Susan Ehringer announced that she has received seven bids to print the 2009 rule book and has narrowed her choices to two. She hopes to have a final decision soon. She reminded delegates to vote for the cover design, and announced that the 2009 rule book will be dedicated to Meg Smath (Kentucky), previous editor of the rule book.

Mel Goldstein, representative for Union American de Natacion, announced that one bid has been received for the third Pan American Masters Championships for 2009 and he expects it to be accepted. The short course meters meet will be in Veracruz, Mexico, in October.

MSA the reports of the staff, liaisons and coordinators.

Club Development Task Force report. Task Force Chair Jeanne Ensign announced that a pilot program is under way that will provide preliminary data to use when staff are in place to administer club and coaches development. To date they have visited four areas, resulting in four new clubs. Their emphasis is one-on-one contact. She encouraged all delegates to support the program. **MSA this report and all other task force reports contained in the pre-convention packet.**

Endowment Fund Board of Governors. Rob Copeland reported for Chair Doug Church, who was unable to attend the convention. **MSA the report.**

Executive Committee report. Rob Copeland had nothing to add to the written report. **MSA the report.**

Board of Directors report. Sally Dillon (Pacific Northwest) stated her opposition to action item 9, "MSA (unanimously) to pursue transitioning the postal events from the Open Water and Long Distance Committee to a staff-run and -managed function over the next two years." She said postal events were significant fundraisers for clubs and

did not want to see clubs lose this opportunity. Tom Boak (Gulf) asked what is accomplished by this vote, and that he feels the House of Delegates still has jurisdiction over this issue. Vice President of National Operations Leo Letendre explained that the action item does not mean that the Board has made this change, only that the Board wishes to pursue it. A rules proposal is being submitted, which will be considered by the HOD. Vice President of Member Services Mark Gill explained that moving the postal events' administrative functions from the Open Water and Long Distance Committee to staff will allow the committee to focus on promoting open water swimming. It will be consistent with the way pool championships are administered. The purpose is not to take anything away from clubs wishing to host postal events, but to improve efficiency. Because hosts are determined two years in advance, over the next two years the hosts' only responsibility will be to design an event logo and print and distribute T-shirts. And he noted that only the One Hour Postal generates significant income. Marcia Cleveland (chair, Open Water and Long Distance Committee) said that this change was brought up last year, but was not acted upon. She said the committee is excited about the possibilities for expanding events, although they are concerned that the events might lose their championship status and about potential loss of revenue to hosting clubs. President Copeland clarified that this proposal would not change the events' championship status. The sole motivation is to market the events better from the National Office.

Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) stated her opposition to action item 10, "MSA that we establish a policy that USMS maintain the same language as USA Swimming [rules] except for Masters-specific differences." Kathy Casey (chair, Rules Committee) stated that this policy conflicts with page 1, paragraph 2 of the rule book, which states that USMS rules are based upon articles 101, 102 and 105 of USA Swimming rules. She quoted several other supporting rules, including 601.4.1 (which says that part 1 may be amended, and there are no restrictions as to USA Swimming language), 601.4.6A (which says that USA Swimming amendments to articles 101, 102 and 105 are automatically adopted unless USMS votes to reject those amendments), 601.4.6B (which says that USA Swimming amendments adopted between annual meetings are automatically adopted by USMS, except that the Rules Committee may alter, amend, repeal or change the amendments), 507.2.16 (which says that the Rules Committee "may initiate and shall consider proposed amendments, and shall report them, with the committee's recommendations" to the House of Delegates, and there is no statement about maintaining USA Swimming's language) and 506.4 (which says that the Board of Directors "cannot amend the rules and regulations"). Article 506.4 also states that the Board has "emergency power to adopt or suspend any swimming rule ... or administrative regulations of competition ... with the advice and consent of the Rules Committee" or the Legislation or Open Water and Long Distance Committees. Kathy stated that the previous chair of the Rules Committee has noted on numerous occasions that the language of USMS rules is better than that of USA Swimming rules. She said that the Rules Committee was offended by this action item, which implies that the Rules Committee does not know what it is doing, and that if the Board had concerns, they should have discussed them with the Rules Committee. Vice President of National Operations Letendre apologized to the Rules Committee and said that the statement was not intended as it had been received. He also apologized for not discussing this with the Rules Committee beforehand, saying he had not had time to read the Rules proposals before convention. Charlie Cockrell (Virginia) felt the principle of common language was good, but would have to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Secretary Meg Smath confirmed that her use of the word "establish" in the minutes was not intended to mean that a policy had been passed. Rob said that the BOD would discuss the proposal further at its post-convention meeting.

MSA the report.

Fitness Education Committee report. Chair Marcia Anziano called attention to the committee's action items in reference to the Go The Distance event: "MSA \$5,000 budget adjustment for the development of the online entry of swim distances to eliminate the manual input of data each month" and "MSA \$3,000 budget adjustment to purchase awards for the GTD." Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) clarified that the Finance Committee has already approved the budget, so the affected line items will need to be pulled for discussion. **MSA the report.** Marcia then presented the 2008 Fitness Award to Linda Shoenberger for contributing fitness articles for the USMS website.

Announcement. Treasurer Jeff Moxie announced that, as Jeanne Ensign mentioned, the Finance Committee had approved the budget on Friday, a day earlier than usual, so that the House would have time to study and understand it. Jeff commended the Finance Committee, and Chair Ralph Davis in particular.

History and Archives Committee report. Chair Barbara Dunbar pointed out that the committee's third motion had inadvertently not been copied to the action items summary. She also thanked Webmaster Jim Matysek for his assistance to the committee during the year. **MSA the report.**

Communications Committee report. Chair Hugh Moore complimented Jim Matysek, Jeanne Seidler and Mel Dyck, who recreated the Top Times database during the year after the vendor that had been managing the database abruptly terminated its services. He then asked the House to think about how information technology and delivery has evolved since the committee was formed. The committee recognizes that much of its function is being taken over by the National Office, so the committee will be changing its focus to providing support for clubs and LMSCs. **MSA the report.**

Hugh introduced Carl Saxton (Illinois), who announced that the finalists for the TYR Newsletter of the Year Award were the South End Rowing Club, Florida Maverick Masters, Aquafit Masters, Dallas Aquatic Masters and Federal Way Kings; the winner was Florida Maverick Masters, and the award was accepted by Editors Paul and Margie Hutinger. Hugh then presented the June Krauser USMS Communications Award to Paul Hutinger (Florida), in recognition of his pioneering efforts. Paul published "Lane Four," a quarterly newsletter for Masters swimmers, and was on the staff of *Aquatic World* magazine. He distributed a daily log for swimmers to record their times and accomplishments in order to help swimmers realize the importance of regular training and to help them keep track of their goals. In 1982 he published *Journal of Masters Swimming*, a compilation of articles from "Lane Four." He has conducted research on the effects of aging on swimming, using himself as a test subject, and presented his results at international conferences. He continues to write columns in his LMSC newsletter.

Coaches Committee report. Chair Chris Colburn corrected action item 3 in his report: there were actually 10 recipients of the Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award, not nine. He then presented the awards, in recognition of building clubs at the local level, to Kerry O'Brien (Walnut Creek Masters), Conrad Johnson (Team New York Aquatics), Justin Welborn and Claire Broussard (Red's Masters), Paul Jones (Columbia Gorge Masters), Marilyn Grinrod (Olympic Aquatic Club Masters), Fred Nelis (Dutch Masters), Kathryn Gregory (Striper Masters), Cynthia Krass (Columbia Athletic Club Masters) and Brandon Vail (Common Ground Community Masters). Kris Houchens (Indiana) explained the requirements for the Speedo Coach of the Year Award and announced the winner, Susan Ingraham (South Texas); her award will be presented during the banquet Saturday night. **MSA the report.**

Registration Committee report. Chair George Simon thanked the registrars for all their work during the transition to online registration. And he asked all delegates to do their registrar a favor and remember to print their own card when they register online. He also noted that he had neglected to include the motions passed in the action items summary. **MSA the report.**

Marketing Committee report. The minutes were not yet available, so this report was postponed.

Sports Medicine and Science Committee report. Jessica Seaton (Southern Pacific) reported for Chair Jane Moore. She encouraged delegates to fill out and return the sports medicine survey distributed with their minutes. **MSA the report.**

Publications Management Committee report. Chair Heather Hagadorn had nothing further to add to her report. **MSA the report.**

The meeting was recessed at 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 27, 2008, 12:45 p.m.

President Copeland reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m. EDT. Secretary Meg Smath called the roll for those who had not yet been certified.

Election of at-large directors. Chuck Burr (North Texas) withdrew as a candidate for director from the South Central Zone. Vice President of Local Operations Julie Heather announced the following slate: Anthony Thompson (Breadbasket), Betsy Durrant (Colonies), Jerry Clark (Dixie), Nadine Day (Great Lakes), Jeanne Ensign (Northwest), Michael Moore (Oceana), Don Mehl (South Central), Laura Winslow (Southwest). **MSA to accept the slate by acclamation.**

Marketing Committee report. Chair Chris McGiffin asked delegates who had already submitted marketing surveys to resubmit them since the box they were being collected in had been lost. **MSA the report.**

International Committee report. Chair Anthony Thompson introduced Javier Carrera from the Mexican Swimming Federation and John Perez from Puerto Rico Masters Swimming, invited by the International Committee, as well as Chris Smith, Nigel Kemp and Lindsay Patton from Canada Masters. Javier thanked USMS for the invitation, and encouraged the delegates to join him in Veracruz, Mexico, for the Third Pan American Masters Championship in October 2009.

Anthony called attention to the committee's action item, "MSA that pending successful bid for 2011 Pan American Championships, USMS will suspend selection of normal USMS LCM Championship bids for 2011." Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) pointed out that it won't be known until October 2009 if the U.S. bid has been accepted, so the Championship Committee won't know by next year's convention whether to suspend selection of the 2011 LCM Championship. Mark Gill (Kentucky), chair of the organizing committee for the U.S. bid for the 2011 Pan American Championship, said he would be willing to submit a late bid for the 2011 USMS LCM Championship if the Pan American Championship bid fails. Sandi suggested that the International Committee's minutes be amended to say that the committee *recommends* suspension rather than requiring suspension. Mel Goldstein (Indiana) said he realizes the timing dilemma, but encouraged suspending our Nationals if we get the Pan American bid, in order to give the Pan American meet a chance to succeed. Tom Boak (Gulf) felt that if it were the sense of the House that we should suspend LC Nationals if we get the Pan American bid, we should accept the wording proposed by Sandi, and then give the International and Championship Committees the authority to work the problem out. Leo Letendre (New England) stated as a point of order that suspending 2011 LC Nationals would require suspension of article 104.1. John Grzeszczak (Florida Gold Coast) felt USMS should hold its national championships every year, regardless of other meets scheduled. Mark Moore (chair, Championship Committee) said that Championship is currently working with two potential bidders for 2011 LC Nationals and would not want to tell them the meet may be suspended. Chris Campbell (Pacific) said if both meets were held, he would be forced to choose one meet or the other, and would lean toward the meet for which he qualifies for the most events. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) said he understood the concern about both meets having a negative impact on attendance, but pointed out that in 1992 there was a successful Pan Pacific Championship and a successful LCM National Championship held only six weeks later. Ed Saltzman (Georgia) asked what guarantee we have that we would get the Pan American bid, and was concerned what our course of action would be if we had already suspended LC Nationals and did not receive the Pan American bid. Wayne McCauley (Southern Pacific) offered an amendment for the International Committee's consideration, but was ruled out of order. Mark Gill (Kentucky) said that if USMS goes ahead with awarding a 2011 LCM National Championship, the organizing committee would withdraw its bid for the Pan American Championship. Ken Burr (Pacific) noted we have had difficulty getting championship bids, and now that we have the possibility of two bids for the 2011 LCM National Championship, he was concerned about sabotaging our ability to get more bids in the future. And he said he was more concerned with our organization's own meets than holding international meets. Debbie Cavanaugh (Florida Gold Coast) asked what guarantee we would have that the aquatic complex that is submitting the bid for the 2011 Pan American Championship will not be under construction. In response, Mark Gill (Kentucky) said that the facility would delay construction until after the meet. Lisa Dahl (Pacific Northwest) asked if the Pan American meet would conflict with the World Championships in Sweden and was told that the meet in Sweden will be held in 2010, not 2011. Cathy Kohn (Ozark) asked if the Pan American meet had to be LCM, or could it be SCM and at another time. The answer was yes to both questions. **MSA to table the report.** The International Committee met outside the House to consider its options.

Javier Carrera then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the venue for the 2009 Pan American Championship. Graham Johnston (Gulf) asked about possible pollution near the venue. Javier said they would ensure that the water for the open water venue was safe.

Records and Tabulation Committee report. Chair Ed Tsuzuki commented that this committee has been closely aligned with the End-to-End Event Management Task Force, and is looking forward to the task force's recommendations. **MSA the report.**

Legislation Committee report. Chair Sean Fitzgerald explained the procedure for emergency legislation. **MSA L01. MSA L02.** Rob Copeland (Georgia) noted that as a result of L02, housekeeping changes would have to be made elsewhere in part 6 of the rule book. Vice President of Location Operations Julie Heather stated that the Legislation Committee suggested that the Zone Committee write a policy on how to handle boundary proposals, and this will be on the Zone Committee's to-do list for 2009. **MSA the report.**

Officials Committee report. Chair Charlie Cockrell noted that the committee had an ambitious agenda during the year, including four LMSC workshops. Their emphasis has been on training and educating officials on our rules,

which led to the committee's development of minimum officiating standards. Next year the committee will focus on developing resources. They have taken the first step toward revising certification guidelines. Mike Heather (Southern Pacific) asked if the Championship Committee had been consulted about action item 1 ("MSA to adopt the LMSC minimum officiating standards"). Charlie confirmed that Championship had been consulted and was in favor.

MSA the report.

Zone Committee report. Chair Julie Heather reminded the recipients of the zone grants that they will need to file a reimbursement form. She called attention to the committee's action item, to amend the Election Operating Guidelines, and explained each amendment. Betsy Durrant (Virginia) asked for clarification of EOG 4. Lynn Hazlewood (Potomac Valley), the author of the original guidelines, explained that floor nominations are intended as a safety valve, and therefore need to occur after slating; EOG-4 therefore adjusts the timing of slating. Julie added that the Zone Committee will be going over the Election Operating Guidelines during the year to improve them, as well as define LMSC minimum competencies.

MSA the report. Tom Boak (Gulf) asked if online registration fees could be withheld to persuade an LMSC to comply. Julie confirmed that that was the approach the Zone Committee wished to pursue.

Championship Committee report. Chair Mark Moore thanked Carolyn Boak and Barry Fasbender, meet liaisons for this year's championships, as well as the hosts of both championships. He reported that the committee certified Atlanta's bid for 2010 SC Nationals. **MSA awarding 2010 SC Nationals to Atlanta.** Mark next reported that the committee certified San Juan's bid for 2010 LC Nationals. **MSA awarding 2010 LC Nationals to San Juan.** **MSA the report.**

International Committee report. MSA to remove the report of the International Committee from the table. Chair Anthony Thompson proposed the following amendment to action item 1: Replace "Pending successful bid for 2011 Pan American Championships, USMS will suspend selection of normal USMS LCM Championship bids for 2011" with "**Rule 104.1.2 for LCM Nationals for 2011 would be suspended so that the United States would have an opportunity to hold the Pan American Championships in 2011.**" Wayne McCauley (Southern Pacific) stated as a point of information that the UANA representatives will attempt to award the 2011 Pan American bid prior to USMS's next convention rather than after. Mel Goldstein (UANA representative) confirmed that UANA had planned to have a face-to-face meeting with bidders for the 2011 Pan American Championships at the 2009 championships in October, but will now move that meeting to August 1, and that in addition to the bid from the United States there is a possibility of a bid from Brazil. He added that if the Brazil bid goes forward, the United States organizing committee would defer its bid until 2013. So what the International Committee is asking is that if the United States receives the bid, which will be known by August 1, 2009, that USMS at that time would suspend LC Nationals for 2011. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) pointed out that by also amending article 104.1.1 and allowing a SCM National Championship in November we would have more opportunities.

MSA the amendment. **MSA the report.** Tom Boak (Gulf) felt the House had glossed over Hugh's very creative idea about holding a SCM championship in 2011 rather than a LCM championship.

Finance Committee report. Chair Ralph Davis gave an overview of USMS's financial position. He stated that USMS has prepared itself to take the next step forward. The deficit submitted in the budget approved by the Finance Committee is \$317,000.

Line items 5840, 5320, 5460 and 5370 were pulled for discussion. **MSA all line items not pulled.**

Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) pulled line item 5840 to ask if one-event registrations are included in USMS's donation to the International Swimming Hall of Fame. The answer was no. **MSA line item 5840.**

Marcia Anziano (chair, Fitness Education Committee) pulled line item 5320. Sarah Welch (vice chair, Finance Committee) explained that the Fitness Education Committee had made a request for \$3,000 for awards for Go The Distance, but their request did not reach Finance before the budget was approved. She also pointed out that revenue in an equal amount will be generated. **MSA adding \$3,000 to line item 5320 and \$3,000 to a revenue line item to be created.** Sarah also explained that Fitness Education requested an additional \$5,000 for IT services for online entry for Go The Distance. However, IT services were already included in the budget, so that amount is not necessary. Sarah clarified that because there is no need to act upon the Fitness Education Committee's request to add \$5,000 to line item 5320, no further action in regard to the budget is required. Lucy Johnson (Southern Pacific) as a point of clarification explained that because the House of Delegates' approved the Fitness Education Committee's report the day before, which included adding \$3,000 to line item 5320, means that we did not actually need the vote to add \$3,000 to the budget, and Fitness Education has now withdrawn the request for \$5,000 more to be added to

line item 5320. Tom Boak (Gulf) said that the House then needs to amend the Fitness Education Committee's report to remove the request for \$5,000. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) said that the \$5,000 in the Fitness Education Committee's report is referred to as a "proposed expenditure" so no further action is required in regard to the Fitness Education report.

Jessica Seaton (Southern Pacific) pulled line item 5460 to explain why the \$2,000 the Sports Medicine and Science Committee requested for honorariums for speakers at Short Course Nationals was not included in the budget. The Sports Medicine and Science Committee will instead handle this expense as an overbudget expense. **MSA line item 5460.**

Randy Nutt (Florida Gold Coast) pulled line item 5370; the Open Water and Long Distance Committee asked for \$2,000 in seed money to develop a cable swim. Robert Zeitner (Illinois) said that the committee was also asking for approximately \$5,500 to buy awards (the money for the awards is recovered when meet directors buy the awards from the committee). Phil Dodson (Illinois) stated that the Finance Committee felt the awards money should be included in the budget as a capital expenditure and so should be discussed as a different line item. Patty Miller (Virginia) asked how the \$2,000 to develop a cable swim would be spent. Randy explained that the seed money is to establish a cable swim in the western United States and to gain knowledge to help other clubs set up cable swims in other parts of the country. Jeanne Ensign (Pacific Northwest) asked if the seed money would be returned to USMS. Randy said no, but pointed out that the \$1,000 in seed money set aside last year for the 25K National Championship was not used and was returned to USMS. Mike Heather (Southern Pacific) suggested that another way to finance this cable swim would be to apply to the Endowment Fund. **MSA to add \$2,000 to line item 5370.** Phil Dodson (Illinois) suggested we add \$5,500 for awards to capital line item, Long Distance Awards. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) asked if we want to buy five years worth of championship patches if the USMS logo might change. Robert Zeitner clarified that the patches do not contain the USMS logo. **MSA to add \$5,500 for awards to capital line item, Long Distance Awards.** Margaret Bayless (controller) stated we should put in the P&L budget the portion of the \$5,500 worth of awards that we think we will sell in 2009. Leo Letendre (New England) moved to add revenue of \$500 in patches and \$2,000 in medals to P&L. The motion was seconded. Phil Dodson (Illinois), who worked with Chair Marcia Cleveland to develop the Open Water and Long Distance Committee's budget request, said he did not feel an adjustment to the budget was necessary, and recommended we defeat the amendment. Margaret questioned Phil's interpretation. Ralph recommended we table the amendment. **MSA to table the amendment.**

MSA the budget as adjusted. The final deficit amount was \$322,346.

Sarah Welch (Pacific Northwest) went over amendments to the Financial Operating Guidelines. Several amendments were in response to USMS now having an executive director. They also revised the schedule for the budget process, added guidelines for reimbursement for volunteers and vendors under the new Coach and Club Development Program, added a section on reserves and revised internal controls related to IRS guidelines. As a housekeeping change, instead of specifying the staff members entitled to reimbursement for convention expenses, FOG now refers to the executive director and designated staff. Other housekeeping covered the approval process for over-budget requests. They also identified as future work for the Finance Committee over the short term a review of our investment policy, but did not make any changes to investment policy at this time. Jennifer Parks (Michigan) asked that changes to FOG be included in the LMSC Handbook. **MSA FOG as amended.**

Ralph then went over the committee's action items. **MSA that the HOD authorizes the Finance Committee to present a deficit budget for the year 2010. MSA that the Board of Directors and the Finance Committee receive a report including financial metrics from the executive director within 30 days of the end of each quarter.** Jeff Moxie (Southern Pacific) moved to recommend a dues increase of \$2 per year for the 2010 membership year; the motion was seconded. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) noted that the BOD approved a motion to increase dues \$2 per year for up to eight years in order to allow for planning. Tom Boak (Gulf) explained that the Finance Committee wanted to make a motion only for 2010, and that he did not believe this motion conflicts with the BOD motion. Erin Sullivan (Nebraska) pointed out that if we are only dealing with one year, then the motion should not say "per year." Striking the words "per year" was accepted as a friendly amendment. Zach Gray (New England) spoke against the \$2 increase because he feels it is a hardship for younger members and could stifle growth. Nancy Ridout (Pacific) asked if registrars can still tell their swimmers to expect \$2 increases for the next eight years. Lucy Johnson (Southern Pacific) explained that the Finance Committee wanted to deal operationally with just the next year. She also pointed out, in response to Zach Gray's comments, that many young members are also members of USA Triathlon, whose dues are more than ours, and also pay much higher entry fees for USA-T events. Chris Colburn (Illinois) shared that his LMSC provides scholarships for full-time students under the age of 26 and for new members under the age of 27. Mark Gill (Kentucky) spoke in favor of the dues increase because it is in support of the executive director's vision for additional services and benefits. Leo Letendre (New England) offered a point of information that the House accepted the report of the Board of Directors, which states that we will be increasing our dues \$2 per year

for the next eight years; so there is no ambiguity about what our plans are. **MSA to recommend a dues increase of \$2 for the 2010 membership year.**

MSA the committee's report. Ralph thanked his committee for their hard work, and especially thanked Margaret Bayless.

Open Water and Long Distance report. MSA the committee's first report. Marcia called attention to a correction of an action item in the minutes of the second session; the action item should say that COMA has been awarded \$2,000 as seed money to develop an open water cable swim in Elk Lake, Oreg. **MSA to accept the bids for open water championships awarded by the committee.** Chair Marcia Cleveland stated that the committee decided not to take up the rules proposals dealing with disabled swimmers and withdrew them. She also asked for volunteers to help with researching this issue. The following proposals were pulled: LD58, LD2, LD2A, LD16, LD16A, LD22, LD25A, LD35, LD51 and LD54. **MSA the committee's recommendation for items not pulled.**

LD58, which defines "turn" in the glossary, was pulled by Sally Dillon (Pacific Northwest), who asked whether it would also apply to pool events. Marcia clarified that the term was not previously defined in our rule book, and that the wording is from the USA Swimming rule book and seemed to apply to both open water and pool events. **MSA LD 58.**

LD2 was pulled by Patty Miller (Virginia), who felt it was confusing to change "may" to "shall," because it could be interpreted that this wording is required. She also pointed out that it would be inconsistent with 202.1.1. **MSD LD2.**

LD2A was pulled by Lynn Hazlewood (Potomac Valley) because we already have a policy that electronic signatures are acceptable; she felt this should be policy, not "hardwired into the rule book." She also felt it would be a hardship on meet directors of large events. Rob Copeland (Georgia) pointed out that the phrase "on race day" was misplaced. Patty Miller (Legal Counsel) stated there is more risk for open water events, so as a safeguard event directors may want to have releases signed on race day. However, she recognized that requiring race day signatures may not be practical and recommended that race directors be aware of the potential risk. Nadine Day (Illinois) pointed out that some events allow entry by others, which would not be possible with this amendment. John Grzeszczak (Florida Gold Coast) felt the only way to be sure an event has sufficient protection is if the participants physically sign the release. **MSD LD2A.**

LD16 was pulled by Anna Lea Roof (Missouri Valley), not to discuss the rule, but to discuss the rationale, which she found to be noninclusive and offensive. Marcia responded that she has heard comments both in favor and against the rationale. Sean Fitzgerald (Georgia) pointed out that this amendment is actually only accomplishing a housekeeping change. **MSA LD16.**

LD16A was pulled by Jenny Quill (Illinois), who said she recommended including the phrase "when the water does not exceed 78°F" because the language is consistent with USA Triathlon's language, but not identical. It is a simpler rule than USA-T's, and the goal of adding this was to have a safety check to prevent competitors from wearing wetsuits when the water is too warm. Mike Heather (Southern Pacific) felt this information more properly belongs in the open water policy manual. Jim Miller (Virginia) asked why the full language of USA Triathlon was not used, and said he would prefer standardized language between the two organizations. Randy Nutt (Florida Gold Coast) answered that the committee was trying to give meet directors only a basic guideline. Jim Miller (Virginia) offered a friendly amendment to restore the complete language, because there are many different factors that go into temperature effects. Randy was open to adding the other conditions but felt it would take time to iron out the desired language. Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) said she preferred the simpler language of LD16A. Mark Gill (Kentucky) explained how USA Triathlon's temperature rule works and how cumbersome it can be for meet directors. He felt the current wording of LD16A was a good first step. **MSA LD16A.**

LD 16B was pulled in error. **MSA LD16B.**

LD22 was pulled by Robert Mitchell (Southern Pacific) in order to amend it by changing "swims" to "events." **MSA the amendment. MSA LD22 as amended.**

LD25A was pulled by Donn Livoni (Montana) to amend it by changing the last word from "chair" to "committee." **MSA the amendment. MSA LD25A as amended.**

LD35 was pulled by Chris Stevenson (Virginia) because he didn't understand how allowing separate finish lines for wetsuit and non-wetsuit competitors will grow open water swimming, as stated in the rationale. He understood that there had been a more extensive proposal to allow separate awards categories for wetsuit and non-wetsuit and asked why that was not considered. Bob Bruce (Oregon) explained that LD35 addressed a practical matter for keeping wetsuit entrants and non-wetsuit entrants separate. Bruce Hopson (Ozark) said that the committee had changed the language to remove duplication. Bob Bruce (Oregon) clarified that LD35 doesn't mean you can't have a separate finish line. **MSA LD 35.**

LD51 was pulled by Rob Copeland (Georgia), who pointed out that “meet director” was already defined in the rule book and wanted to clarify that the desired intent was to also define “event director.” Marcia confirmed that was the committee’s intent. **MSA LD51.**

LD54 was pulled by Rob Copeland (Georgia), who pointed out that open water was already defined in article 302.2.2 and asked why there was a need for a separate, different definition in the glossary. **MSD LD54.**

Mark Gill (Kentucky), who voted with the majority, moved to reconsider LD35; his motion was seconded. **MSA to reconsider LD35.** Mark proposed replacing “*excluded* for the purposes of articles 305.8 through 306.1” with “*included* for the purposes of articles 305.8 through 306.1” because he felt USMS needs to be inclusive, by adding a wetsuit division to our open water championships. Jenny Quill (Illinois) said that this change would require too much manpower; she said the Open Water and Long Distance Committee would like to explore this option, but is not prepared to do it now. Bob Bruce (Oregon) felt the amendment was trying to increase membership at the risk of “destroying the soul of open water swimming.” He also pointed out that wetsuits are allowed in nonchampionship events, and that wetsuits are allowed in our championships, but those who wear them are not eligible for awards. Al Prescott (New England) asked for what articles 305.8 through 306.1 cover. Marcia answered that they cover national championship results, All-Americans and All Star awards. Ann Svenson (Potomac Valley) pointed out that wetsuits are not allowed at the Ironman World Championships in Hawaii. Mark Gill (Kentucky) responded that this is because the water temperature in Hawaii is above 78°F. Chris Stevenson (Virginia) stated that many triathletes do not understand why wetsuits are not allowed in open water events when Blue Seventy suits are allowed in pool championships. Jill Gellatly (Gulf) asked for clarification as to whether the names of current participants wearing wetsuits would appear in the results. Marcia responded the names would be in the race results, but not in the national championship results; they would not receive a championship award. Jill said she was in favor of there being a separate division and awards being given for that division because she did not think it was that much more work; it would help grow open water swimming. Jim Wheeler (Pacific) called the question; his motion was seconded. **MSA to call the question.** Those already in line at the microphone were allowed to speak. Sally Dillon (Pacific Northwest) said that wetsuits *are* allowed at championships, but those wearing wetsuits are not eligible for championship medals or patches, although they can still participate and win event medals. She thinks open water swimming is a great place to grow our sport, but not at our national championships. We should focus first on getting nonchampionship open water swims to start offering wetsuit categories and awards and try to get the wetsuit-wearers to join USMS. Mike Heather (Southern Pacific) said he personally would not consider swimming with a wetsuit but supports the amendment because it would promote growth. Janet Renner (Hawaii) pointed out that USA Swimming does not allow wetsuits in their open water championships. Alan Levinson (Pacific) questioned the relevance of this discussion to LD35 and asked why these questions were not raised during the committee meeting. Susan Ehringer (Kentucky) pointed out that the words “except where noted” are not currently in the rule book and should be underlined to indicate they are being added. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) made a point of order that what we were in the process of doing was taking what should require a two-thirds vote to override the decision of the Open Water and Long Distance Committee and changing it to a vote requiring only 50 percent; we had substantively changed LD35. **MSD the amendment to LD35.** There was a call for a division of the house. After counting the votes, **MSA the amendment to LD35 by a vote of 91-89.** Parliamentarian Bill Tingley confirmed Hugh’s assessment, and explained that because there was a substantive change to the rule recommended by the committee, a two-thirds majority would be required to pass the rule as amended. Randy Nutt (Florida Gulf Coast) agreed that the USMS philosophy should be to include everybody, but pointed out that LD35 only deals with five elite events, and also pointed out that if the rule passes more funds would be required for more medals. Marcia Benjamin (Pacific) said that if this proposal were passed, her work as All-Star tabulator would be doubled. She also said that none of the wetsuit competitors in her LMSC have complained about not getting a medal before. Mark Gill (Kentucky), in response to the point that USA Swimming does not allow wetsuits in its championships, said that USMS is the leader in open water swimming, not USA Swimming. He also questioned the logic of allowing participation in a championship event but not allowing wetsuit-wearers to fully participate in the awards. He also felt that as the events grew that the unit cost of medals would drop. Janet Renner (Hawaii) asked if we know that the market we’re trying to tap into is interested in getting an award. **MSA to call the question.** Those in line at the microphone were still allowed to speak. Phil Dodson (Illinois) said he sees competing against wetsuit-wearers as an opportunity to beat them. **MSD LD35.** Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) made a point of order that because we reconsidered LD35, amended it, then defeated it, we had lost the original intent of LD35; LD35 has now failed. He moved to reconsider LD35’s original language; the motion was seconded. **MSA to reconsider LD35. MSA to call the question. MSA the original LD35.**

MSA to approve the committee’s report.

Rules Committee report. Chair Kathy Casey asked her committee to stand so she could thank them, especially Kris Wingenroth, who wrote the minutes for all of the committee meetings, and Vice Chair Lianne Crittenden. She also thanked the Records and Tabulation Committee for participating in the review of article 105, as well as the Officials Committee, the Championship Committee, the International Committee and the Open Water and Long Distance Committee. She also thanked Convention Coordinator Victor Buehler for finding the committee rooms to hold extra meetings in.

She commented that for the minutes of their first meeting, there should have been action items copied from agenda item 5, 6 and 7.

Proposals R2, R14, R19, R31, R32, R41, R43, R46, R59 and R60 were pulled from the “Approved” section of the report. **MSA the proposals in the “Approved” section that were not pulled.**

R2 was pulled by Paige Buehler (Inland Northwest), who said that a competition is something that occurs under specified conditions (e.g., required officials), and asked about adding those specified conditions to the definition. Kris Wingenroth (Gulf) stated this wording is identical to the USA Swimming definition. Leo Letendre (New England) said this wording is so bad he didn’t want to be associated with it, and felt we could come up with better wording. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) asked if we need this definition. Mike Laux (Connecticut) was concerned about insurance risk, possibly conferring status to activities that would not now be considered competition. **MSD R2.**

R14 was pulled by Jennie Quill (Illinois), who asked what is meant by “initial start.” Lucy Johnson (Southern Pacific) explained that it has to do with a restart of an event. Fred Pigott (Illinois) explained what a “closed race” means. **MSA R14.**

R19 was pulled by Sandi Rousseau (Oregon), as well as R59, because it conflicts with R59. Tom Boak (Gulf) said there was a substantial difference between the two proposals. Sandi said that R19 only cleans up the language and does not change the intent of the rule, which R59 does. **MSA to table R19.**

R31 was pulled by Cathy Kohn (Ozark) because it removes the men’s and women’s scoring categories. She proposed amending R31 by adding the following paragraph (C) to article 104.5.6: “Each of the regional and local club categories will be scored in women’s, men’s and combined divisions” and in article 104.5.7C to replace “through tenth place clubs” with “first through fifth place club winners in the women’s, men’s and combined divisions.” Chris Campbell (Pacific) observed that the intent of the rules was to provide teams of various size and composition with the opportunity to have a fair and equitable impact at Nationals. He suggested reconsidering dividing teams by size, acknowledging that the dividing lines would not always be deemed fair. President Copeland reminded the delegates that discussion should be confined to the amendment. Tom Boak (Gulf) felt that the net effect of this amendment, rather than offering more award opportunities, would be that the largest teams would then get three awards while the smaller teams would still get no awards. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) said he has never understood why we have separate men’s and women’s divisions at Nationals when men and women do not train separately. Sally Dillon (Pacific Northwest) said that the proposed amendment would actually decrease the number of awards offered. **MSD the amendment to R31.** Homer Lane (New England) felt R31 could hurt a club’s membership development because clubs could “game” the system. Leo Letendre (New England) was concerned that occasional intramural competitions could jeopardize a local club’s status. Carolyn Boak (Gulf) said the proposal was not meant to imply that one type of club is better than the other, only that they’re different. Bruce Hopson (Ozark) was concerned that his local club sometimes has meets in which local workout groups compete against each other, which would make them a regional club and then they would have to compete against 500-member regional teams. Nadine Day (Illinois) felt R31 is an opportunity for true local clubs to be recognized. Cathy Kohn (Ozark) went through an overview of the three different scoring proposals: R30, R31 and R32. Al Prescott (New England) was concerned because his LMSC has a variety of clubs that might be considered regional and some that might not. He asked the definition of a workout group, and was told that it has not been defined. Al added that even New England’s workout groups have intramural competitions. Jim Wheeler (Pacific) said that small regional teams are already competing against larger regional teams. Kim Crouch (Colorado) said she is a member of a regional team but was in favor of R31. Mike Heather (Southern Pacific) called the question; his motion was seconded. **MSA to call the question.** Those already in line at the microphone were allowed to speak. Charlie Cockrell (Virginia) agreed with Jim Wheeler that small regional teams already compete against large regional teams, and added that there are many different models for clubs to follow, and they should choose what works best for them. And he recommended further study. Lucy Johnson (Southern Pacific) told about her experience at LC Nationals in Mission Viejo when her team was fourth and having to go up against regional teams. Chris Stevenson (Virginia) said he doesn’t mind trying something until we work something better out. **MSA R31 by a vote of 94 in favor, 69 against, and 6 abstentions.**

MSA R32.

R41 was pulled by Ray Novitske (Potomac Valley) in order to correct the grammar. **MSA R41.**

R43 was pulled by Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) because she was confused about the Rules Committee's categorization of this amendment as a deletion. Kathy explained this was an error. **MSA R46.**

R59 was pulled by Bill Tingley to make sure that the House understood that this amendment allows the Championship Committee alone to award bids. Bill asked that the Championship Committee keep the House of Delegates informed of the entire process. Cathy Kohn (Ozark) said she was in favor of the proposal, and applauded the Championship Committee. She noted that the bid presentations were sparsely attended. Lisa Watson (Georgia) said Championship was trying to make the process easier and less intimidating for bidders. Jim Wheeler (Pacific) called the question; his motion was seconded. **MSA to call the question.** Those in line at the microphone were still allowed to speak. Jennifer Parks (Michigan) stated that Michigan Masters was indeed discouraged by the grilling they underwent in the House of Delegates a few years earlier when they bid. **MSA R59.**

Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) moved to remove R19 from the table; his motion was seconded. **MSA removing R19 from the table.** Hugh stated that the House needed to defeat R19 in order to avoid conflicting with R59. **MSD R19.**

R60 was pulled by Leianne Crittenden (Pacific) in order to strike "deck-seeded," which was included in error. Carolyn Boak (Gulf) explained that the only change being made in R60 was to allow different ways of seeding. Mike Laux (Connecticut) asked who would make the determination of which seeding method to use and was told the Championship Committee would. Heather Hagadorn (Colorado) called the question; her motion was seconded. **MSA to call the question. MSA R60.**

R12, R18 and R37 were pulled from the "Approved as Amended" section. **MSA the proposals in the "Approved as Amended" section that were not pulled.**

R12 was pulled by Heather Hagadorn (Colorado) to point out that the word "no" should be "not." **MSA R12.**

R18 was pulled by Mark Gill (Kentucky) because he felt it was unnecessary. He pointed out that USMS has never been solicited by a foreign federation; the bid for Puerto Rico was solely his responsibility, not Puerto Rico's. Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) noted that the Championship Committee did not recommend this proposal. Leianne Crittenden (Pacific) was concerned that meets put on by foreign federations could cause insurance problems. Phil Dodson (Illinois) opposed this proposal because he felt it limits choice. Tom Boak (Gulf) noted that bidders are required to get a sanction (but this requirement was waived for the Puerto Rico meet). Cathy Kohn (Ozark) pointed out that the Rules Committee, in order to make sure R18 didn't apply to the Puerto Rico meet, added the phrase "effective September 1, 2010." Ken Burr (Pacific) felt the House was being sidetracked by a situation that applies to only one meet. Carolyn Boak (Gulf) clarified that the Rules Committee was split on this proposal. Jennie Quill (Illinois) called the question; her motion was seconded. **MSA to call the question. MSD R18.**

R37 was pulled by Mike Heather (Southern Pacific) because it mixes measurement terminology, and the standard specified for metric measurement was inadequate. Charlie Cockrell (Virginia) clarified that the tolerance is already defined on the pool measurement form contained in the LMSC Handbook (although not on the version in the current rule book; this will be corrected). Julie Heather (Southern Pacific) said that the proposal was originally submitted as "English or metric units," in an effort to shorten the rule book. Patrick Quinn (Adirondack) pointed out there is no such thing as "English measurement"; it should be "statute measurement." He also stated that plus/minus measurements are considered adequate internationally. **MSA R37.**

R30 was pulled from the "Disapproved" section.. **MSA the proposals in the "Disapproved" section that were not pulled.** Anthony Thompson (Missouri Valley) reminded delegates that speakers were limited to one trip to the microphone for three minutes and one rebuttal for one minute, according to our standing rules.

R30 was pulled by Ginny Miller (Ohio) in order to review the purpose of the proposed additional award. She stated that USMS wants both participation and competition. The traditional club award puts small clubs at a disadvantage. R30 is unbiased as to club size. It does assume that no one will try to "game the system." This system is already in place in the Ohio LMSC and no one there has tried to game the system. She believes education could prevent this, in any event. Scoring could also be deeper in order to reward more clubs. Hugh Moore (Pacific Northwest) called the question; his motion was seconded. **MSA to call the question.** Those in line at the microphone were still allowed to speak. Cody Rasmussen (Ohio) stated his belief that coaches who would ask swimmers to stay home in order to exploit the system would not have quality people and therefore would not challenge for club awards. He added that if clubs place in both categories it means they have both good participation and good swimmers. He acknowledged a club composed of Olympians would sweep both categories, but felt in general that the flaws of one system are usually answered by the other. He also reminded the delegates that the system proposed in R30 would be in addition to the current system. He urged other LMSCs to implement this system. Cathy Kohn (Ozark) applauded the Ohio LMSC for a creative, innovative idea that was professionally presented. **MSD R30.**

USA Swimming amendments that affect USMS rules were distributed. Lucy Johnson (Southern Pacific) asked for the Rules Committee's reasoning on rejecting U5. Charlie Cockrell (Virginia) explained that we are currently required to have two officials, and only the referee must be certified. The USA Swimming rule is requiring that starters be certified. **MSA the Rules Committee's recommendations on USA Swimming amendments that affect USMS rules.**

Proposed amendments to FINA rules were distributed. The proposals are the same as submitted in 2006, with the addition of a proposal related to records achieved at sanctioned meets put on by a third party. **MSA that the House of Delegates instructs the Executive Committee to submit on behalf of USMS these proposals to U.S. Aquatic Sports to further submit them to FINA as proposed rules changes.**

MSA the report of the Rules Committee.

Sandi Rousseau (Oregon) commended Rules Chair Kathy Casey for the fine job she has done leading the committee.

Rule book cover design contest. President Copeland announced that the winning design was by Dave Oplinger (Indiana).

Closing remarks. President Copeland thanked all the delegates for their hard work and reminded them of the wrap-up meeting the next day.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m. EDT.