

Pacific Northwest Association of Masters Swimmers

Minutes: November 3, 2012

I Warm Up

A. Call to Order & Introductions. PNA held a Board meeting and Retreat at 9:00AM on November 3, 2012, in a meeting room at Sally Dillon's home in Issaquah (*Thanks, Sally, for arranging the room, snacks and lunch*). Present were Chericka Ashmann (afternoon only), Herb Cook, Lisa Dahl (afternoon only), Sally Dillon, Jeanne Ensign, Mike Grimm, Doug Jelen, Arni Litt, Hugh Moore, Jane Moore, Kerry Ness, Steve Peterson, Shannon Singer, Walt Reid, Ken Rice (afternoon only), and Sarah Welch.

B. President's Report. Immediate Past President Steve Peterson agreed to chair the morning session in the absence of President Lisa Dahl, who was coaching.

C. Minutes. Minutes of the August 28 Board meeting were approved as corrected.

D. Treasurer's Report. Jeanne Ensign reported PNA incurred an operating deficit of about \$3,500 through October 31. Jeanne projected an annual operating deficit of about \$3,800, substantially less than the budgeted deficit of about \$11,500. Administration costs were well below budget, in part because PNA's website redesign cost about \$2,500 less than expected. PNA's balance sheet remains strong, with about \$42,400 in unrestricted cash and no debt. **MSA: To approve the October 31 Financial Statements as submitted.**

Over-budget Request. After discussion, **MSA: To approve payment of \$152.21 to cover one unbudgeted hotel night for Ken Rice at the USMS Convention in September.**

Jeanne asked Board members and Committee chairs to submit 2013 budget requests to her by November 26, for consideration at the December 4 Board meeting.

Jeanne reported she had filed PNA's nonprofit corporation registration with the Washington Secretary of State.

Jeanne mentioned that the City of Seattle had proposed fee increases of 20 percent at municipal pools. Board members discussed how PNA members might advocate for maintaining public swimming facilities with reasonable fees.

E. Membership Report. Registrar Arni Litt reported PNA had 1,642 members on October 31, up nearly 50 members from the same date in 2011. Arni has distributed Team registration forms for 2013.

II Main Set

A. USMS Convention Review. Attendees shared information from "a very busy 4 ½ days" at the 240-delegate convention.

B. PNA Website. Webmaster Steve Peterson discussed maintenance of e-mailing lists and solicited suggestions for PNA website content.

C. The WetSet. Steve Peterson offered to work with Editor Chericka Ashman to coordinate website and WetSet content.

D. 2013 Pool Meet & Open Water Schedule. Mike Grimm noted that PNA is sanctioning fewer meets than 5 or 10 years ago. Sally Dillon attributed the decrease in part to the difficulty of finding and renting affordable pools. Arni Litt said the Mary Wayte Pool on Mercer Island and the Connolly Center pool at Seattle University might be available to host meets. Hugh Moore said one problem is that meets are clustered—four in the first four months of 2013—and should be distributed more evenly through the year. Sarah Welch said the new Puget Sound

Masters Club might host a meet in March or November. After additional discussion, **MSA: To approve the Meet and Open Water schedule for 2013 (appended to these Minutes by reference) and to give Meets Director Linda Chapman authority to reschedule the Anacortes (January 27) and Briggs YMCA (February 3) meets.**

E. Club Reports. Puget Sound Masters President Sarah Welch said she will convene the Club's officers to make start-up decisions. Hugh Moore reported the Blue Wave Aquatics Club nominated itself for USMS Club of the Year, and had success in bringing in new Club members through a program to help triathletes improve their swim skills.

III Sprint Set: Committee & Coordinator Reports

A. Meets. No report.

B. Open Water. Chair Sally Dillon reported that all four PNA-sanctioned OW swims in the summer were very successful. Sally will determine how many swimmers entered multiple events and evaluate the possibility of an OW series with point competition in 2013. Sally noted that more PSM members swam the 10k than the 5k in the USMS National Championship Postal Swim.

C. Coaches. No report.

D. Other. Bylaws Chair Jane Moore recommended that PNA's Bylaws be updated. Jane reminded the Board that 2013 is a PNA election year, requiring the following actions:

- Appoint a Nominating Committee at the December 4 Board meeting;
- Publish notice of the election in the January-February issue of *The WetSet*;
- Accept nominations from the membership by petition until February 1.

Jane recommended revising the Bylaws to permit voting by email; defining the terms of PNA Committee Chairs, and revisiting the role of Coordinators.

Hugh Moore recommended reviewing Board membership and perhaps revising PNA Bylaws to reduce the total number of Board members, since many nominal members (e.g. team representatives) rarely attend meetings or otherwise participate in PNA governance.

IV Retreat (1-4PM)

1. The WetSet, the PNA website & LMSC Meetings. Sally Dillon introduced the following motion:

In order for all LMSC members to be informed, Clubs will be asked periodically to:

- a. Provide information for a "Club news" page in each issue of The WetSet. Both BWAQ and PSM can share news on this page of Club activities that may be of interest to the LMSC membership;**
- b. Submit Club information to PNA's Webmaster for posting under Member Services/Club Development. This area provides info about each Club and a link to where more information can be found;**
- c. Present a brief report at each LMSC meeting via their representatives.**

Sally said all PNA members would benefit if Clubs shared information through PNA's website and newsletter. WetSet Editor Chericka Ashman said she would like to see a page from Clubs in each issue. Hugh Moore said BWAQ has its own website and newsletter, and he was not sure there was value to BWAQ in communicating through the PNA website or The WetSet. After additional discussion, the question was called: **Motion Failed.**

2. Orca logo. Board consensus was that PNA will retain the Orca logo, and the Puget Sound Masters Club (PSM) will make its own decision on a Club logo.

3. Serving the Unattached Swimmer. At the August 28 Board meeting, Directors voted to allocate \$5 from fees paid by Unattached Swimmers to programs benefitting those swimmers. At the Retreat, Registrar Arni Litt pointed out that only 12 PNA swimmers registered in 2012 are not attached to a Club. Mike Grimm and Jane Moore said \$60 (12 swimmers x \$5) cannot support much programming. Herb Cook suggested that PNA and PSM might undertake a joint project to reach out to Unattached Swimmers. No action was taken.

4. PNA LMSC Standing Policies. The Board undertook a thorough review of all Standing Policies, adopting some recommended changes, tabling others, and deleting all policies relevant only to Clubs. Arni Litt, Steve Peterson and Chericka Ashman agreed to serve on a committee to review standing policies for The WetSet. Sally Dillon agreed to review policies concerning Open Water Safety Officers. Jane Moore agreed to draft new grievance and conflict of interest policies. **PNA's Standing Policies, as amended, are appended by reference to these Minutes.**

5. Volunteers: How to engage more people in PNA leadership. Deferred.

6. Programs for 2013. Discussion focused on adding additional meets to PNA's competition schedule, perhaps including relay-only or other special-focus meets. Mike Grimm volunteered to work with Sarah Welch and Linda Chapman on studying why some meets are not renewed annually. Chericka Ashman, Ken Rice and Lisa Dahl volunteered to develop proposals for encouraging additional meets. Herb Cook suggested making an effort to inform coaches, team representatives and pool managers about PNA's guarantee that any sanctioned meet will earn a profit of at least \$6 per swimmer.

V. Warmdown (Next Meeting)

December 4, 6:45-9:00PM, Arni Litt's, Seattle (Potluck Dinner & Budget Meeting)