

**Pacific Northwest Association of Masters Swimmers**  
**Teleconference**  
**September 6, 2016**  
**Minutes**

In the absence of both the President and Vice President, Secretary Sally Dillon called the meeting to order at 6:48 pm. Also present were Kim Boggs, Kathy Casey, Linda Chapman, Lisa Dahl, Jim Davidson, Matt Edde, Arni Litt, Hugh and Jane Moore, and Sarah Welch. VP Zena Courtney joined the call at approximately 7 pm and led the meeting from that point forward.

**A. OFFICER REPORTS**

1. **Approval of Minutes: It was MSA to approve the minutes of the 7/12/16 meeting as presented.**
2. **Treasurer:** Arni reported that the budget is on track and our net income as of August 31 is \$8550. Convention expenses have not been submitted, August income and Open Water expenses have not been received, registrations are down slightly, and a reimbursement request for *The WetSet* expenses has not been received. Arni will remove the subscription income for *The WetSet* since it is available online and. The balance sheet shows PNA assets to be ~\$2000 ahead of last year. **It was MSA to approve the financial report as presented.**
3. **Membership:** The Membership Chair was absent so Arni reported that we have 1646 members (818 men and 828 women). This is 40 fewer than last year's final total. A few registrations might come in with two meets being held in October. Swimmers registering now receive all of 2017 as well.

**B. OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Board orientation and welcome letter:** Tabled due to President Mike Grimm's absence.
2. **Welcome letter for new member registrations:** A message highlighting the benefits of membership will go to each member registering online. Arni presented a draft and it was **MSA to approve it with minor changes.**
3. **Filling open positions on the Board:** Hugh reached out to Steve about the Club and Coach Services Coordinator position but had not heard back. Steve said he would be happy to take on the position and will relinquish his Appointed Director position. Zena officially appointed Steve as the Club and Coach Services Coordinator. Sally suggested we contact those on the "willing to volunteer" list to seek candidates for the vacant Director positions (At-Large Director and Appointed Director). Zena offered to reach out to those on the list and encourage them to attend the October meeting.
4. **ALTS Training:** Sarah has created a survey to get feedback from those who attended the ALTS training in 2015. She will report the results of the survey at the next meeting. Zena asked about the scholarships for the Coach Level 1&2 clinic that will be held in October, indicating her interest in taking the course and whether it would benefit PNA. Sarah noted that we budgeted for 10 scholarships and the more coaches that we get certified, the more our members will benefit. Lisa noted that USMS membership retention and growth is dependent on the quality of our coaches; the better trained they are, the more likely they will retain and attract members.
5. **Meet Attendance Survey:** Linda surveyed the coaches in July and 10 responded. There wasn't a great deal of consistency in the answers – with reasons all over the map. Half the coaches cited "the meets take a lot of time on weekends". It was agreed that it would be difficult to get away from that. Linda observed that when our economy is good, attendance drops because we have funds to travel and do other things. Other comments included: too many meets in February/March; teams made up of OW or triathlon swimmers who are not interested in pool meets. Sally suggested that we ask coaches to encourage their swimmers to attend even if their coach does not, as swimmers may benefit more from fellow teammates than coaches. Lisa noted that most coaches are not paid to attend meets. Zena suggested that we see if coaches who do attend would be willing to help swimmers without a coach (as they do at nationals).
6. **PNA Wiggin Fund Grants:** Tabled until the October meeting.
7. **Policies for sending Delegates to USMS Convention.** Tabled until the October meeting.

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Approval of minutes between meetings:** Sally explained that due to the length of time between some meetings, she would like to have our minutes approved via email. Doing this would also enable her to include meeting summaries in *The WetSet* that are more current than has been the norm. Jane noted that our bylaws won't allow this since approval of the minutes is not an "emergent" issue. It was suggested that a tentative approval could be done after corrections to the minutes are made, allowing for meeting summaries for *The WetSet* to be written; final approval to be made at the meeting.
2. **USMS Convention – discussion of hot topics:** Kathy brought up two Rule proposals that she expects to be controversial. R-15 proposes changes for establishing the official time and R-27 proposes changes for pool measurement to match FINA rules and policies. Hugh asked if there is any research regarding how often pool length confirmation has failed and a couple of instances were cited. Hugh also asked about R-29, which requires

national records to be swum in “fresh water”, as opposed to salt water. Kathy said there is no definition of fresh water or how much salt could be tolerated (some pools use saline purification). Hugh also pointed out that LD-5a might be controversial as it seeks to change the age-determining date to correspond with metric competition rather than SCY competition. L-9 deals with updating the title of the USMS Executive Director to CEO, which Sarah explained has already been approved by the BOD. During the search process it was determined that seeking a CEO would attract someone who would better meet USMS’s needs. Steve will put together a list of the meetings at convention and our 12 delegates will be asked to indicate those they plan to attend. He will generate a Google Doc that we can fill out and share. Lisa noted that she will be at convention working with USA-S and be involved in a couple events that relate to diversity inclusion. On Friday there will be a speaker at 1:30 on the USA-S side and also on Friday, Sarah will lead a USMS workshop on diversity. Finally, Kathy noted that the transgender policy has been updated to conform to IOC Standards; it is posted on the Convention webpage.

3. **Financial support for PNA coaches to attend the USMS conference in San Mateo on November 11-13:** Matt was contacted by Shannon Singer and Chris Jenson, who indicated their interest in receiving financial support to attend the conference. They estimate expenses to be \$200 for clinic registration, \$200 for airfare, and \$300 for hotel cost. Matt noted the ~\$1000 in the PNA budget and Sarah responded that those monies were set aside to support attendance at the Level 1&2 Coaching clinic being held in Seattle October 22/23. Arni noted that we actually budgeted for 15 coaches at \$125 each. The clinic cost is \$180. There are no other expenses involved for this clinic. **It was MS that we provide Shannon and Chris with \$125 each as well.** It was noted their request was rather late, considering the event has been on the calendar for a year and well publicized since June. Jim asked and received information about the difference between the two coaching events. Hugh suggested we provide some support this year and do a better job of promoting these events next year. **The motion passed.**
4. **Membership fees for 2017:** Arni suggested that a \$2 dues increase be included for the 2017 registration. PNA has twice absorbed the USMS \$2 increases. **It was MSA to pass on the USMS \$2 increase to our members for 2017 and not absorb it.** Arni also brought up the \$10 discount for members 65 and older. We have no discount for members under 25 and she wondered if we should consider that. Kathy asked how many members fit into the two categories and Arni reported that there are 75 swimmers currently 65+ (with 15 more likely next year) and 94 members under the age of 25. Further discussion and/or a decision was tabled until the October meeting.

#### D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Meets:** Linda reported that the Board voted via email to approve the following fees for the SCM Championship meet being held at KCAC in November: the surcharge will be \$38 and the cost per event entered will be \$4. **It was MSA to approve the meet fees.** Linda has distributed materials to meet hosts for 2017 meets; requests are due to her in October. The BAM, Snohomish (first Masters meet), and SCM Championship meets have been sanctioned; BAM and Snohomish are open for entries.
2. **Open Water:** Jim reported that four of the five sanctioned Open Water swims are in the books. Attendance was up for all except Fat Salmon, which had a number of scratches – possibly due to weather and water conditions. The Last Gasp takes place on September 17 with 68 Masters and 15 USA-S swimmers entered thus far. Jim received an email from Marlis Kepper asking to promote *SwimTrek’s* 35 destinations in *The WetSet* as well as at OW events. The fees for a newsletter ad are in the Standing Policies. Marlis would like to set up a table and hand out flyers for *SwimTrek* events. Sarah noted that *SwimTrek* is a USMS Sponsor and Jim should check with the National Office about their sponsor agreement. Zena suggested that the flyers could be put in the goodie bags for The Last Gasp.
3. **Newsletter:** Lucianne Pugh was not on the call but all agreed that she is doing an excellent job producing *The WetSet*. Arni suspects Lucianne has had some expenses and also wondered who is sending the hard copies; Steve offered to mention both to Lucianne. He also noted that Lucianne has worked very hard to get the newsletter out by the first of the month, and then the email blast goes out many days later. Arni confirmed that the registrar is the only person with access and she will discuss the situation with Stephanie. Steve will speak with someone at the National Office during convention to see if he, as Webmaster, could have email access at least in order to be of assistance. Zena mentioned that PNA member Erika Norris swam from Bremerton to Alki over the weekend; Zena would like to see the story in our newsletter. Sarah suggested we send a link to the story to the National Office as well.

**The next Board meeting will be Saturday, October 29 from 1-4 pm at Timber Ridge in Issaquah. Those wishing to have lunch should RSVP to Sally and arrive at 11:45.**

**It was MSA to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm**

Minutes prepared by PNA Secretary Sally Dillon