

**Pacific Northwest Association of Masters Swimmers  
Minutes of Board Meeting via MS Teams  
Monday, March 9, 2026**

Attendees: Linda Chapman, Steve Peterson, Brent Barnes, Sally Dillon, Kathy Casey, Dave Scott, Jim Davidson, Lorraine Masse, Dan Underbrink, Bob DeWard, Doug Jelen, and Diana Hermanson. (12)

Absent: Kim Boggs

**A. Call to Order and Introductions:** President Linda called the meeting to order at 6:46 pm.

**B. Votes Taken Between Meetings:**

1. **MSA the January 12 minutes.**
2. **MSA Champs meet fees of \$55 plus \$2/event.**

**C. Officer Reports**

1. President's report:

**PNA Champs:** Linda reported that PNA Champs are back on, which "...took a lot of patience and collaboration ... ." When she and Dawson spoke in mid-December about the eventual USMS policy, they thought it would be finalized soon after the Feb 20-22 Board retreat. Unfortunately, another week and a half was needed to resolve sufficient legal issues allowing BWAQ to sign the KCAC rental agreement. Additional language regarding the new policy is still awaited for insertion into the meet announcement, at which time the meet can open for entries.

**USMS Swag Giveaway at Champs?** During their discussions, Dawson, aware that our meet timeline was getting very compressed, offered national level assistance to aid PNA Champs success. Linda suggested holding a drawing during the meet for nice USMS swag (swim bags, towels, goggles, etc.) to boost attendance. After consulting Wendy, she asked Dawson if USMS could send us 6 – 10 items. He said he'd work with his staff and Linda hopes the NO will come through. The meet goal is 250 entrants; last year 242 signed up.

**New USMS Policy:** The new USMS transgender policy stipulates that USMS sanctioned meets will follow state and local public accommodation laws. As local results are uploaded to the national USMS database, transwomen's times will not be eligible for Top10 or USMS records.

There are 21 states with laws like Washington's; of the remaining states, many have laws which go the opposite direction. Crafting one policy that complies with laws that conflict is impossible. Linda expects an email from USMS to the membership in the next few days explaining the new policy. (See also the NW Zone representative's report, attached.)

**PNA Test Drive Program and Knowledge Sharing Program:** Linda thanked her subcommittee members Bob DeWard and Dave Scott for their work to come up with a two-component approach to enhance PNA Board participation. (See E.3 below for details.)

**Coach of the Year and Dawn Musselman Awards:** Ten COY nominations but no Dawn Musselman nominations have been received as of March 7. Nominations are due March 21. Linda suggested an email blast to remind members to encourage their teammates to nominate anyone who inspires them in their swimming journey.

**Relay 2026:** This will take place September 25-27 in Denver. The focus is on Event Development. Planning has started and Linda will share details as available. PNA is entitled to send five people. The annual USA Swimming Golden Goggles banquet will take place nearby and will be an option for those who want to attend.

The National Coaches Clinic will take place at the same time as Relay.

2. Financial report: Steve asked about the Seattle business license fee (last report). Brent said that because he had not changed PNA's mailing address from Seattle, maintaining registration there keeps things simpler and the fee is no more expensive than Olympia's, for example.

Income, January - February: ..... \$8,545:  
 Registrations (members) ..... \$8,100  
 LMSC donations ..... \$421  
 Medal sales ..... \$13  
 Registrations (Club/WOG) ..... \$10  
 Interest ..... \$1

Expenses, January - February: ..... \$286:  
 Rule Books ..... \$172  
 Wiggin Fund reimbursements ..... \$75  
 Rule Books postage ..... \$39

Net revenue, January - February: ..... \$8,259

Total Assets as of December 31: \$112,898:  
 Checking account balance: \$54,568  
 Savings account balance: \$58,330

3. **Membership:** Currently **1,350** (733 women, 617 men). Membership is running about 10% behind as of March 7. Linda expressed hope for a membership boost when PNA Champs opens for entries.

PNA MEMBERSHIP BY MONTH AND YEAR																
2017 Thru 03-07-2026																
YEAR	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	Thru Feb 28	Full Year	YTD Diff	YTD Diff %
2026	489	595	214	52	31								1350	1381		
2025	420	672	267	94	100	58	94	70	80	54	73	54	1453	2036	-103	-7%
2024	309	656	332	81	88	61	80	72	52	57	68	69	1378	1925	-28	-2%
2023	312	660	283	84	85	74	69	46	57	44	63	71	1339	1848	11	1%

  

Comparison to same day previous years:										
2026	3/7/2026		1350			617 Men	46%	733	Women	54%
2025	3/7/2025		1496	-10%		966 Men	47%	1071	Women	53%
2024	3/6/2024		1414	-5%		864 Men	45%	1061	Women	55%
2023	3/7/2023		1358	-1%						

**D. Coordinator/Committee Reports**

1. **Constant Contact:** Lorraine reported these membership emailing statistics (Jan 12 – March 9):

Messages	Sent	Delivered	Bounced	Unsubscribed
4	9813	9651 (98%)	162	16
<b>Open rate:</b>	61% (6562)	Mobile: 49%	Desktop: 51%	
<b>Click rate:</b>	6% (611)	48%	52%	

The Board discussed how to improve the delivery and click rates, possibly via a Facebook post encouraging members to be aware of the new Constant Contact PNA emails. Dan offered to work with Lorraine on ideas.

2. **Meets:** As Linda noted in C.1 above, Champs will be held at KCAC. Sally said that planning the annual meeting and awards ceremony is under way for Sunday following the competition. The liquor license, hall rental (\$480) and security deposit (\$500) are covered. Sally messaged BWAQ (Wendy and Angie) for the notice of pool liability coverage to forward to the banquet hall manager. Diana and Bob will assist Sally, Lorraine will set up a Dropbox link for photos, Sally will message team reps to submit photos, and Steve will compose the slideshow from those.

Lorraine requested a dual-sanctioned or dual-approved meet with the Port Angeles Swim Club. The venue is the recently refurbished William Shore Aquatic Center in Port Angeles.

**MSA the “PASC/PNS/PNA Masters and Munchkins” meet on May 16.**

## E. Old Business/Ongoing projects

1. PNA Bylaws: Kathy, Jim, Sally, and Steve continue to meet via Teams each week, 13 times since December 4. They discuss proposed edits in-depth, carefully review proposed language insertions multiple times, and prepare recommendations for the Board to review and consider. They have reviewed sections 1.0 through 9.2 (of 13 sections) so far and will continue to meet until all recommendations for the Board are completed.
2. Redo meet agreement: Linda and Lorraine continue to work on revisions.
3. Board shadowing program: As Linda noted in C.1 above, the subcommittee (Linda, Dave, and Bob) split this concept into two components: *Test Drive* and *Board Knowledge Sharing*. The former aims to recruit new people not currently on the PNA Board. The latter facilitates cross training within the Board for succession planning and backup skill coverage.

Linda posted a detailed document that describes the application process, mentoring option, and participation expectations in this month's meeting folder. Dave has begun building a descriptive pro forma page on the website as well.

Linda suggested that initial outreach could include email messaging, direct club contacts, flyers with QR codes, and announcements at meets. Volunteer selection could start by May 1. Jim urged being proactive in soliciting people and said he would contact one candidate directly.

**MSA the Test Drive and Board Knowledge Sharing engagement programs.**

## F. New Business

1. Meets and Membership Policies: Linda evaluated PNA's guaranteed profit and maximum meet entry fee policies. Accordingly, she prepared three documents proposing (1) updates to the Meet Policies (Standing Policies §7), (2) related changes to the PNA *Hosting an Event* webpage, and (3) her rationale for these revisions. Further action was tabled until the next meeting to give Board members more time to review these changes.
2. LCM Meet at KCAC: Sally noted that traditionally KCAC has been available only on the weekend closest to July 4, which is not ideal for turnout. She expressed willingness to organize a 2-day or preferably 1-day meet – with volunteer help – should her KCAC inquiry reveal alternate dates available. Potential conflicting events include Fat Salmon and the WA State Senior Games, July 25 and 26, respectively. Sally suggested August 1 as a warm-up for Summer Nationals (Sacramento), August 5-9.

## G. Looking Ahead

1. Next meetings: Monday, May 11, and Monday, July 13, 6:45 pm via Teams
2. PNA Annual Meeting: Sunday, April 12, following Champs at KCAC

## MSA to adjourn at 7:43 pm

Minutes prepared by Steve Peterson, Secretary

Attachment: NW Zone representative's report

## **Report from At-Large Director (NW Zone)**

USMS is still battling multiple legal challenges to our Eligibility Policy. Florida and Texas have filed lawsuits against us and are both in the Discovery phase of the process. Our attorneys in those states both feel that the suits will be dismissed, as the evidence does not support the accusations against our organization. California and New Jersey are also states where some action has already been taken, though no lawsuits have been filed yet.

Our interim Eligibility policy has evolved again, to allow us to adjust the policy based on the local jurisdiction's requirements. In King County, for example, we would allow transgender women to compete and place for points, while in Texas, we will have to alter the policy to meet their requirements.

The board is also currently involved in reviewing the structure of our LMSCs around the country, trying to find ways we can better support the smaller entities around the country. We have retained a consulting firm to look into the efficiency of the current LMSC structure and practices and the legal matters of operating 52 independent organizations under our umbrella national organization. This firm has extensive experience with non-profits like ours in identifying areas in which we can move our organization from a 50 year-old structure into one that is more efficient in the current age. This study should conclude in July 2026, and will help the board prepare a process that will be clear and identifiable to our members. At our recent board meeting, the board was divided into 4 groups to re-imagine what the organization might look like if we were to start it today. The discussions were lively and productive in identifying what we do really well and areas where we can improve the process.

Overall USMS membership numbers for 2026 are slightly ahead of our budgeted forecast. Grown Up Swimming membership is up again in 2026, and we still project turning a profit on that venture in 2026. CCS registrations are up as well.

If anyone has specific questions as to any of the Board activities, I'm happy to help. Just email me your questions to [boatyme@hotmail.com](mailto:boatyme@hotmail.com).

**Rob Heath**, NW Zone At-Large Director