

2009 Convention Report

Bill Brenner, SYSM

As a first time delegate to the 30th United States Aquatic Sports (USAS) convention, I would like to share my experience with our Florida LMSC members. It was tremendously helpful to have our LMSC president Meegan Wilson submit my pre-registration application and Marianne Bradley arrange my transportation and hotel reservation.

Upon arrival at the host hotel, I went straight to the convention registration desk and received my credentials. Next, I proceeded to the USMS registration desk to obtain my delegate sticker needed for voting. At this time, I received a sticker for my credentials that stated " Help Me, I'm New". This enabled the veterans of the convention to recognize that if I looked lost or confused they knew why and would point me in the right direction or ask if I needed help. It also engaged other delegates into conversations that new delegates would find useful. Everyone started out as a new delegate. Many veterans were quick to point out what their first time at convention was like.

The first meeting was a "New Delegate" orientation. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the new delegates to the executive committee members and to each other. A brief agenda consisted of what to expect at each type of convention function, including committee meetings, workshops, presentations and the convening of the House of Delegates (HOD).

A new delegates lunch was held the first day. I was paired with Jerry Clark, a USMS Board of Director member. We discussed some of the inner workings of the USMS organization and how important a strong LMSC leads to strong individual clubs. He commented on how successful our LMSC has been. Growth in our membership has enabled our LMSC to provide better services for our swimmers. By having more members we have more teams, coaches, swim meets and a bigger volunteer base to run each level of our organization.

Several committee meetings ran at the same time and lasted up to two hours. I chose the Fitness, Coaches, Championship Meets, Rules, and the Records and Tabulation committee meetings. In each, the committee members sat at tables arranged in the center of the meeting room while the non-members or "visitors" sat against the walls. Each committee, presided over by the committee chairperson, had an agenda, much of which was discussed ahead of the convention by conference call. While the committee members were the only people allowed to vote at the meeting, visitors were encouraged to ask questions and give input.

Workshops were a very informal gathering and were presided over by a facilitator. I attended a roundtable discussion of hosting a multiple day meet and a coaches workshop. Both were a great opportunity to ask questions and to listen.

There were four separate HOD meetings, where all the delegates convene to discuss and vote on issues brought before the House. The meeting is presided over by the USMS president. A parliamentary insured Roberts Rules of Order were obeyed. Votes were held to elect members to the USMS executive committee, accept minutes of individual committee meetings, the budget for the next year, legislative issues and rules changes. Before each HOD meeting, delegates received a stack of material that would be discussed and voted on at that HOD. This includes several committee meeting reports.

After the first HOD meeting I learned to get a hold of this material as soon as possible because it is presented, discussed and voted on in rapid order. All delegates are able to voice their opinions and concerns at the meeting. The gathering was very civil and the delegates respected what each other had to say.

Each "Zone" held a separate meeting. Our Dixie Zone was presided over by Debbie Cavanaugh, our zone representative to the board. We elected her to another term, discussed our budget and voted on venues for our zone championships in 2010.

Illinois hosted a hospitality site which was open to all delegates. Delegates were treated to good food, drink and endless conversations lasting well into the night.

On the last evening, a formal dinner awards banquet was held for all the delegates from USAS. USAS consists of Masters Swimming, USA Swimming, US Synchro Swimming, USA Diving and USA Waterpolo. Speeches, awards and video presentations were given by each sports organization.

On the morning of departure a wrap-up session was held to discuss what the delegates thought of the convention. I felt this was helpful because it gave everyone, especially new delegates, the chance to share their views.

USMS values each members opinion. Since USMS has been a predominately volunteer based organization, it's leadership recognizes the need for members to share input and to encourage members to get involved at both the local and national level. Delegates were encouraged to fill out a committee request form indicating which committees they would like to be placed on. Ultimately, the USMS president is responsible for selecting committee members.

USMS is blessed with wonderful people. The volunteer leadership and the new paid staff share a common goal of providing high quality services to its members. Resources such as the USMS website and Swimmer Magazine along with a commitment to helping the local LMSCs, coaches, swim teams and swimmers remain a priority.

USMS National Convention Report from Sept. 16-20, 2009- Chicago, IL

Marianne Bradley, FACT Club Team Treasurer/Registrar & SUN Masters Chapter Treasurer/Registrar.

servng on the RECOGNITION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

The recipient of this year's Ransom Arthur Award is Julie Heather of Southern Pacific, richly deserved as she has contributed many years to the fine tuning of US Masters Swimming in all facets of its organization. The Club of the Year award was shared by Noblesville Adult Swim Club and Mission Viejo Nadadores.

A Rule Book Dedication Committee will annually select individual(s) or group(s) to be recognized with a dedication in the USMS Rule Book each year.

Club recognition for the Club of the Year will be reported on by Margie Hutinger, as she is on that committee.

I was the head of a sub-committee to create various ways that the many volunteers within the LMSC can be shown appreciation by the LMSC and their local teams. I have attached my 2009 committee report so that the other local teams can benefit from the ideas, and perhaps suggest others.

It has been discussed repeatedly that each LMSC needs to encourage their local teams to remember to nominate people or clubs for the various awards, such as Ransom Arthur Award, Club of the Year, Dorothy Donnelly Service Award, Coach of the Year, etc.

Other Meetings that I attended:

Fitness & Education: The Fitness Award for 2009 was not awarded, as no one was nominated.

The Check-Off Challenge was awarded to the Colorado Swim Dogs. This is the yearly event where each participant can swim each event anytime during the year at practice or in meets. It's just to challenge yourself to complete a particular event, no pressure! All coaches should encourage their swimmers to participate. You get a T-Shirt when you register and have all year to do it!

The Go-The-Distance fitness: This is another challenge, where on a FLOG, you can keep your daily fitness schedule online, yards swum, miles ran, and other exercise forms. You may find all of the information on: <http://www.usms.org/fitness/content/gothedistance>. Easy for everyone on the team.

Dixie Zone: Dixie Zone Championships for 2010: SCY - Orlando-March 26-27-28; LCM to Sarasota for Bumpy Jones Classic June 12 & 13, and SCM to New Orleans for December.

Registration: A huge reminder to all team coaches and registrars to encourage everyone to register for 2010 online, available after Nov. 1. Teams can now actually register a group of swimmers online and then send paper registrations to the registrar. The info on this should be available by Nov. 1, 2009. Also, if you make a mistake in registering, please correct it in the same calendar month with the LMSC registrar.....after that it becomes more of a problem. New cards will have the team logo on them if they were added when the club was registered. Swimmers will now be able to go online and update information on themselves.

Coaches: It was moved, seconded and approved to add a line item for the 2010 Coaches Committee Budget (pending approval of Finance) for \$6000 for Coaches expenses to attend the Masters Worlds in Sweden. Also approved to continue development of a new masters coaching certification curriculum.

Rules: Much ado and discussion about the swim suit issue.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES MASTERS SWIMMING
SEPTEMBER 16-SEPTEMBER 20, 2009

Over two days and many hours of work prior to and during convention, the Finance Committee analyzed and reworked the Financial Operating Guidelines (FOG) of the Corporation in order to establish the Finance Committee as a Committee of the Board of Directors. In doing this the Finance Committee attempted to maintain the integrity as the overseer of the financial performance of the organization, management of its investments, responsibility of its financial statements, risk management and compliance with regulatory requirements with final approval resting with the Board of Directors and ratification by the House of Delegates.

The Audit Committee of three non-Board members and one Board member with financial expertise and familiarity with financial statements and risk management will oversee the books of the Corporation and recommend a CPA firm for the annual audit of the organization's financial activities. They will be guided by the Manual of Accounting Procedures (MAP).

The Chair of the Finance Committee appointed by the President cannot be a member of the Board of Directors. The Committee itself (a minimum of 12 members) will consist of at least 3/4 members outside the Board of Directors and drawn from House of Delegate members with experience and knowledge of sound business practices and financial background.

A document of Financial Policy was drawn up by the Finance Committee and approved. This document covered a broad spectrum and outlined the duties of officers of the Corporation and members of the Finance Committee in their roll of overseeing the financial business of USMS.

The Finance Committee approved the Budget as submitted to us by the Executive Director with few exceptions. An item for coach's expense for the 2010 World's in Sweden was held pending knowledge of the number of participants attending and the actual costs involved since the Coaches Committee was not clear on what would be needed. It was recommended that this be an over-budget request at the time it was needed. This recommendation was overridden by the House of Delegates.

The 2009 Budget was good news thanks in great part to our Executive Director who has renegotiated contracts and saved us considerable expense throughout the move to Sarasota. We are coming in considerably under budget and with projections for next year our budgeted items amount to a deficit of approximately \$70,000. Our reserves currently run over \$2,000,000. accumulated over the past several years of conservative financial management and we hope not to have to tap these with our growing membership.

Joannie Campbell

Margie Hutinger, FL LMSC Delegate
Member - Recognition & Awards Committee

“Moving Forward” Masters Convention in Chicago, IL September 16-20, 2009

I appreciated the opportunity to participate at the US Aquatic Sports Convention as a Florida LMSC delegate. For me, the important part of convention is the people, and what I pick up in discussions at hospitality, before and after meetings and over a meal. It's always rewarding to mingle with the positive and energetic delegates beyond our LMSC. They are more than willing to share their ideas and support the efforts and talents of others. Throughout my ten years as a delegate, I have picked up numerous outstanding ideas which could improve our LMSC.

In previous years, I have always written an extensive report on my convention experience, and spent many hours putting it together. One of the items I always included was BBB (Bring Back Benefits, which was one of Tom Bliss' suggestions, many years ago). As I read over some of my old reports, I noticed that most of my suggestions have been ignored and have slid by the wayside. I felt they all had merit, were applicable to the FL LMSC and were at the very least worthy of consideration. I feel that our LMSC could benefit from what successful LMSC's are doing to remain viable in the ever-changing world of Masters swimming

Due to this apparent lack of interest in my reports, this report will not be as inclusive as in the past. My last report, 2007, was NEVER POSTED, even though I submitted it. My ideas were not presented to the membership. Why?

This in no way diminishes what I gleaned from the opportunity to participate in the convention in Chicago, and I have written about my experiences.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS I ATTENDED

FITNESS EDUCATION

Much discussion revolved around the very popular *Go The Distance* program. Overall, there are over 1000 participants. We have over 1700 members in our LMSC and 50 clubs, yet, only 41 members from 13 clubs are participating. That's only 2%! With less than 50% of USMS involved in competition, it seems to me that we are not actively reaching the greater majority of our members. Swimming is an excellent lifetime sport/activity and can be an integral part of a personal fitness program. How can we promote/publicize this aspect of Masters swimming to the other 48% of our membership? Some clubs use the GTD awards as an extension of their awards program.

The Checkoff Challenge will continue. This is an excellent opportunity for swimmers to participate in all the strokes, without the apprehension of competing in a meet. This event is open for clubs to bid on, and provide a service to USMS.

COMMUNICATIONS

Although I didn't go to this meeting (conflict with Fitness), as the previous winner of the Newsletter of the Year Award, I was chosen to serve on the judging committee (summer) for the 2009 winner. It was very interesting to read a variety of newsletters from across the country, LMSC and clubs. LMSC newsletters didn't include club news, but had articles about meets/fitness/people/summary of minutes from meetings/health/entries/calendars/etc. The majority of meets used a universal entry (similar to ours or a shorter form with five blanks for each day); many meets had men and women's events combined and swam slow to fast, not fast to slow, or a combination of the two.

HISTORY & ARCHIVES (Paul's Committee)

Volunteers will be working on sorting, itemizing and archiving USMS documents stored at the Henning Library, at the ISHOF, Ft Lauderdale, FL. It is important to keep this archival material in order and available to those who request it. It's our history.

TAKE A NEW DELEGATE TO LUNCH

This was a fun break from the ordinary. Each newbie was paired with an "old" delegate whom they didn't know. Mine was Nan, the new Chair from Southern, western part of the Dixie Zone. She was full of questions and we were able to share many ideas.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS (member)

I was on a sub-committee to determine how USMS can recognize more outstanding clubs, beyond the single Club of the Year (This year two awards were given, Mission Viejo Natadores (CA) and Noblesville Adult Swim Team (IN). We studied the USA-swimming club awards, but decided that their method wasn't applicable to USMS. We recommended that since the judging committee already has ranked the other nominations, that we give gold, silver and bronze recognition to the other nominations. This would be based on a ranking system, with points awarded. We will decide how to do this at a later date. **Sarasota Y Sharks and the Florida Maverick Masters were both nominated and ranked in the top 5.**

Another discussion was on recognizing volunteers at the LMSC level. The FL LMSC could do more to recognize the volunteers who serve "down in the trenches." Very few people are even aware of who these valuable assets are.

MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM

We heard from all eleven candidates running for office, as they had the opportunity to express why they were running for the office they chose. The audience was able to ask questions. It was very enlightening to hear their positive reasons for serving USMS. In their bios, they each had to answer several questions:

- ★ Why are you interested in this position and why are you a good candidate?
- ★ What are the major issues facing USMS now and in the future; how would you address them?
- ★ What committees and experience have you had?

LMSC COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP

This workshop was led by BOD members from COMSA, Colorado Masters Swimming. They have 2100 members and the chair announced at the onset, that they were very proud that ALL officers and appointments are volunteers. They stressed it is important to communicate to members the way they want it.

- ★ Newsletters - members like to read the paper copy, but have a choice to opt out for e-mail version.
- ★ Web site <http://www.comsa.org>. dreamweaver design. If you have someone build it, keep it simple and basic, so someone else can take it over, when needed.
- ★ Group mailing list.

RULES PROPOSALS

This was not the year for rules, but there was much discussion about the future of high tech flotation swim suits. In a close vote (8), the HOD voted on a resolution that for SCY competitions, the effective date is immediately on the date that the FINA Masters swimwear rule is adopted. Until then, tech suits are allowed in Masters competitions. Don't be in a hurry to buy a new suit. **(UPDATE:** The FINA Masters committee has recommended that the FINA Bureau, meeting in mid-January, approve its recommendation that Masters swimmers be governed by the same swimsuit rules as the elite pool swimmers.

OPEN WATER AND LONG DISTANCE

Bids were accepted for the nine National Championships. New for this year, bids were voted on by the committee in conference calls, rather than having the bidders present. This eliminates travel expenses and discouragement for those that are rejected. Hosts were chosen from the bids that were received. Money was allocated to develop more cable swims. The committee was divided into two to divide up the work load. Long Distance Committee will oversee rules and administration of these events. Open Water Committee will promote the development of open water events.

DIXIE ZONE

Deb Cavanaugh was reelected to the Chair position. She stated that this will be her last term. Zone meets were voted on. It is important for clubs that host meets to get their dates in, early, as more and more clubs are vying for dates. Delegates were encouraged to support the DZ Championship meets. A sub-committee was formed to set up guidelines for DZ Championship meets. Several clinics will be offered, hosted by Karlyn Pipes-Nielsen and Rowdy Gaines.

CHAIRMAN'S ROUNDTABLE

Interesting discussions within this group, and possibilities that would be applicable within our LMSC.

- ★ Clinics are important and several top USMS coaches are available, beyond what we have within our membership. Include ones for new swimmers, too.
- ★ The biggest obstacle is to find volunteers; Important to identify those who are willing to get involved; groom them for success. Never put them down; creates morale problems and discontent.
- ★ Successful transitions within leadership is very important; know what all officers/committees are about.
- ★ Bylaws - see what other successful LMSC's have, and work.
- ★ Awards ceremonies - important to recognize volunteers/performances/other; have a keynote speaker
- ★ Free website is available through Club Assistant; bare bones
- ★ Discount for 18-24 age group as well as for oldsters, 80 or 85 or 90+.
- ★ Very important for meet directors/scorers send in HyTek results to Jeannie Seidler, ASAP!
- ★ Term limits to encourage a broader volunteer base.

OTHER COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

- ★ I attended the post-convention evaluation session, led by the new USMS President, Michael Laux. This discussion included three questions: What did we do right? What did we do wrong? and What did we miss? I think this would be an excellent idea for a basic LMSC survey, to be included in the newsletter for the members to respond to, not just the clubs.
- ★ There has been misinformation within our LMSC about whose responsibility it is to document National and World records. I discussed this with Kathy Casey, Rules Chair, again. She directed me to the 2009 summer edition of "Streamlines," the National Office newsletter, <http://www.usms.org/admin/stream2009summer.pdf> and specifically, to her regular "Rules Column," where she answers questions about rules. **All of our meets should be linked to the USMS and World records data base**, so NO swimmer's outstanding achievements are missed.

Responsibility for Record Documentation:

- ❖ **Question:** Isn't the swimmer responsible for securing record documentation at meets and reporting or sending them to the LMSC recorder?
- ❖ **Answer:** **No, for USMS-sanctioned meets** (designated officials at the meet are responsible for completing and submitting all record documentation to the LMSC records and tabulation chair [105.3.8]); yes, for USMS-recognized meets including USA-S meets that do not have a dual sanction (it is the swimmer's responsibility [202.2, last sentence]).
- ★ **USAS convention - 9/12-19/10--Dallas, TX, Hyatt Regency Dallas, downtown**

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Hutinger
Member of the Recognition & Awards Committee

Convention 2009 Report

Charlie Kohnken

The first meeting I attended was the **House of Delegates 1 (HOD 1)** From 8:45 to 9:45. This meeting followed the agenda and the only significant development was getting the slate for the election.

After the HOD I was sidetracked for a mini meeting of the Official's committee to clarify the agenda for the Officials Committee Meeting later in the day.

I next attended the **Legislation Committee meeting**. I didn't have a copy of the agenda so I didn't know exactly what was going on. It seemed to be cut and dried as they were setting the agenda for the HOD 4

I next attended the **History and Archives meeting**. This was interesting to me since I had association with Top Ten and Registration. The committee gets a lot of info from these sources. I will check my files for any info that I might supply

Next attended the **Officials Committee**. We had a report on Officiating the past National Championships. I was interested in this because SPM had submitted a bid for a National Championship. I wanted to know what my role would be. SPM won, but had to pull their offer. I will store the info for future use. The Officials committee is preparing for minimum Standards for Officiating meets, also an Operation Manual and LMSC resources and Workshops. The committee is being re-organized and assignments are on the way. The Officials Committee's job is to assure that all meets in Master's Swimming be officiated uniformly and fairly. It's recommended that the Referee be brought on as early as possible. The Georgia LMSC will not issue a sanction until they have a referee assigned. They also discussed the possibility of depositing money and this money would be forfeited if the meet is not properly run. (similar to sanctions)

Friday 8 AM HOD 2 moved through it's agenda rapidly with no real discussions. HOD 3 items that were available were discussed. The most discussion came on minimum LMSC Standards. Although no standards were discussed what was addressed was who meets and who doesn't meet the standards and how "enforcement" will be achieved.

Rules on Friday

This meeting was where Rules committee reviews proposed Legislation changes and are acceptable to the Rules Committee. Most were and a few changes was requested Of Legislation.

One item that will have to wait until next year is solved is a situation at Nationals where a swimmer was ruled first in an event and given the gold, but the second place person was given a record. The events are timed finals, but the Ref ruled him first. There is a procedure to determine the time of a swimmer when the pad doesn't work.

HOD 3 Again we went through the agenda rather rapidly except for the election where there was a tie for the office of Vice President of Member Services. It took several ballots before we could determine a winner.

Sat. Zone meeting. There seems to be a desire to have Zone Championships. These MEETS can displace well established meets. SPM and Sarasota. With the programs running at these pools it is impossible to get dates for meets.

I believe we shouldn't establish Championship until the long time meets have set their dates. The meets that I mention have been run forever.

What would have people done if they didn't have them.

Sat Mid Morning Officiating Clinic.

Here we went over situations more or less about Masters meets. It was interesting in that I experienced some of the situations. It was a good clinic and will probably repeated next year.

HOD 4 This where the legislation changes were voted on. Many went through that the committee approved. Others went through where the committee changed them. Only four or five the committee didn't approve. These were discussed.

Finally we come to finance. My biggest problem with finance is people don't listen to what is said and just get up to talk and what they say has already been said. Another time the head of the Coaches Committee stated that he didn't want a budget increase until some board establishes what his role should be. The house doubled his budget. I had my hearing aids in.

End of report

2009 USAS CONVENTION REPORT **PATTY NARDOZZI, ST. PETE MASTERS**

Thank you to the Florida LMSC for the opportunity to attend the 2009 USAS Convention. As a new delegate my experience was at times overwhelming, but for the most part exciting, interesting and informative. My reports for each committee meeting and workshop attended are as follows:

FITNESS COMMITTEE:

This committee interested me for two reasons. First, I think fitness (as in not competing in meets) is a very important component to masters swimming. Second, I am interested in promoting this aspect of our sport to my own team. During the meeting the committee shared details of ongoing events: the 2010 Check-Off Challenge and the Go the Distance fitness log. The design for the 2010 Check-Off Challenge was well received by the committee and the audience members, and I hope our LMSC encourages all teams to offer this program to their members. Since I just recently became acquainted with Go the Distance, I really enjoyed learning a little more about the program. Some of the changes for 2010 include no longer adding paper date for members that are computer savvy, but still offering this service to members who do not own computers. Another new item for 2010 is that an e-mail will be sent to all participants reminding them to log their yardage. The committee discussed the swim cap awards and that they are considering club recognition for participating teams.

COACHES COMMITTEE:

The Coaches Committee discussed technical suits with a recommendation to follow FINA decision as of 1/1/10. The On-Deck Coaching Program at Nationals and Convention was also discussed as well as the fact that \$6500.00 was pulled from 2010 budget that had previously gone for coaching at World Championships. After extended discussion, most felt that the coaching presence at this meet was important to help our athletes while in a foreign country. It was suggested that this responsibility should include pre-meet assistance with travel coordination.

Other items discussed were the requirements for each LMSC to have a coach's chairman, on-line coaching, contributions to USMS Swimmer Magazine and coach's online newsletter.

Discussion about updating the Masters Certification through ASCA ensued. The goal of the committee is to have the updated curriculum available for the the 2010 ASCA World Clinic in Indianapolis (8/31-9/4).

Raleigh-Durham, NC area is the host for the upcoming high performance clinics. This area was selected due to its location to a multitude of prestigious research universities.

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE:

Highlights of this committee meeting were the introduction of representative for host of 2010 SCY Nationals in Atlanta and acceptance of logo design for the awards. The 2010 LCM Nationals is in Puerto Rico and is being run by USMS, not a meet host. To increase attendance at this meet, it was requested that the committee approve relaxing the qualifying standards and allow 4 non-qualifying times versus the usual 3. Winners of the 2011 bids were Mesa, AZ for SCY and Auburn, AL for LCM.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:

Registration committee was primarily for LMSC registrars, but we did get copies of the redesigned USMS cards. New fees are \$27.00 (up from \$25.00) and \$22.00 for 9/1/10-12/31/10 registration (up from \$20.00). One-event membership is increased from \$10.00 to \$12.00.

DIXIE ZONE MEETING:

Information garnered from this meeting was a reminder to make sure that times performed at USA Swimming meets or meets outside the zone be sent to Dixie Zone top ten recorder for inclusion. Dixie Zone Top 10 Patches are available for \$3.00 each. Discussion took place regarding consistency in awards for Dixie Zone Championship meets and I have been appointed to a task force to investigate awards information and make a recommendation. We voted on 2010 Dixie Zone Meet hosts and they are: SCY – Orlando (March 26-28), LCM – Sarasota (June 12-13), SCM – New Orleans (December).

WORKSHOPS:

I also attended two additional coaching discussions. One was a panel format with four coaches answering pre-determined questions. This was very informative and I learned a lot about how other clubs operate. The other was a “roundtable” discussion format with the floor asking questions and getting answers and suggestions from all present. Again, very interesting to listen to how other coaches manage their workouts, programs, etc.

Final Comments: Unless one attends the convention, you can not appreciate the amount of planning, dedication, organization and hard work that this multitude of volunteers put in. The amount of work (rules, legislation, finance, etc.) that gets done over the four days is phenomenal and it makes me proud to be a part of United States Masters Swimming. Again, thank you for the opportunity and I hope to attend again in the near future.

Convention Report - 2009

I first of all would like to thank the LMSC for sending me to the Aquatic Convention in Chicago. As a first time attendee I was amazed at the level of dedication and commitment by many of the long time volunteers.

I attended several committee meetings and round tables and gained some valuable information. I did request a committee assignment for next year so hopefully I can become more involved.

Our Dixie Zone meeting was very worthwhile. It was good to get everyone in the same room and plan our meet schedules for 2010. SYSM will be proud to hold Dixie Zone Championships in both LCM and Open Water in 2010. Our hope as a zone is to grow the importance of these championships.

Finally, it was good to get to know my fellow Florida LMSC delegates a little better and make working together more enjoyable in the future.

Rick Walker
SYSM

Convention Report - September 16-21, 2009

Meegan Wilson

(Vice Chair, History & Archives Committee, member of Legislation Committee)

As a member of the Legislation Committee, I spent much of my time in legislation meetings and proofing legislation proposals.

Convention Highlights:

- LMSC Minimum Standards have been established that all LMSCs should adhere to.
- Individual registration fees will increase \$2 (\$33 to \$35) for 2010.
- One event registration fees will increase \$2 (\$10 to \$12) for 2010.
- This was a Legislation year. Several Committees of the HOD were disbanded and some new ones were formed:
 - The Zone Committee will be replaced with the new LMSC Development Committee.
 - The Open Water and Long Distance Committee was split into two committees.
 - Disbanded Committees were: Marketing, Communications, Publications Management, and International. The Finance has become a committee of the BOD rather than the HOD..
 - USMS is reducing the number of committees of the HOD and working toward reducing the number of committee members. Their reasoning is that they have increased the number of employees and these employees will be taking over responsibilities that volunteers were doing in the past. This may be a good thing in that committees may become more efficient and volunteers will not have to work so hard. But it could be a bad thing because it decreases the diversity of the committees and the HOD in general. It also may inadvertently increase the workload on fewer volunteers. It also gives much more power to the BOD in that many decisions will no longer go through the HOD.
 - A suggested Legislation change by the BOD was to establish guidelines and fees for "Chapters" of larger clubs. Members of the HOD preferred the name "Workout Groups". The main reason that the BOD had for pursuing this was so that they could contact and service "workout groups". FACT in the Florida LMSC calls their workout groups "Chapters". These are listed on the Florida LMSC website with contact information, yet no one, as far as this delegate knows, has been contacted by the BOD for the reason of getting to know us. My interpretation is that USMS wants these "chapters" to pay a comparable fee that Clubs pay. The Florida club FACT has "Chapters" of clubs that are already registered with USMS. If this fee collecting of Chapters is allowed, then USMS will be "double dipping" by collecting twice from one Club with both club members and FACT chapter members. This piece of legislation was rejected by the Legislation Committee. It was pulled to revisit it by a member of the BOD and ultimately failed in the HOD. It is my understanding that a task force of the BOD has been assembled to investigate this further.
- New Officers were elected to the Executive Committee. See: www.USMS.org
- Mesa Arizona will host 2011 SCY Nationals and Auburn Alabama will host 2011 LCM Nationals. St Pete Masters had put a bid in for 2011 SCY Nationals and Sarasota Y Masters had bid for LCM Nationals. Due to complications the St Pete bid was withdrawn.
- Swimsuit issue: For SCY competition, USMS will adopt the FINA rule on the same date for LCM competition. This information should be posted in the USMS website soon.
- The History & Archives Committee has compiled most of the results of National competitions from the beginning of Masters swimming. These are posted on the USMS website. (<http://www.usms.org/comp/nationals.php>) Top Tens from 1972 - 1992 (compiled by John Bauman) will soon be posted on the USMS website. The USMS permanent physical archives at the Henning Library (ISHOF) are in the process of being inventoried and cataloged. Current USMS history (such as rule books, Top Ten data, and USMS publications) are not automatically being sent to the library as was assumed by the committee..