

See our newsletters, present and past and lots of other good information on our website:
<http://www.floridalmsc.org>



**Jillian Wilkins
FL LMSC Chair**



Hello Swim Family!

My name is Jillian Wilkins and I have the pleasure of being elected to the Chair position of the Florida LMSC.

First of all I wanted to share just a little about myself.

Swimming has been a HUGE part of my life since I was a little girl. I spent many afternoons with my Grandfather in the pool. I would race him back and forth daily, before I knew it my mom has me on the swim team! During the next 14 years of my swimming life I was lucky enough to be a state champion, ACC Champion, NCAA All American and Olympic Trials qualifier.

After the 2004 Olympic Trials I started a swim school in Orlando, which is where I get to share my love of the water with little ones daily! While my swim school was growing I was trying to stay in shape in any other way than swimming. I found my way back into the water in 2012. That year I competed in USMS Nationals and placed first in the 50, 100 and 200 Breaststroke events!!!

Honestly, the reason I went to Nationals was to go see what this "Masters Swimming" was all about and I ended up finding my home. Since that meet I have been involved in USMS and volunteering on both the National and LMSC levels. I have had the pleasure of serving on the USMS coaches and championship committees and locally as our LMSC's vice chair.

Over the next two years, I would like to continue with the work Bob Jennings has done making us a stronger organization. With his leadership we have come a

long way over the past four years and I would like to continue for us to grow together! My goal, as chair, is to be the best representation of you at the national level, to add value to a USMS and FL LMSC memberships, and to build the Masters Swimming by promoting it locally, especially to the younger generations.

Also, my life does not end on the pool deck. I have been blessed with my husband of eight years and two boys who are 4 and 1!

Thank you all for taking the time to read this. I look forward to working with and sharing my love of the water with you!



2018 Florida LMSC Board Elections Results

Congratulations to our Current Officers

Elected Board Position	Current Officer
Chair	Jillian Wilkins
Treasurer	Nancy Kryka
Secretary	Cheryl Kupan
Registrar	Meredith Moore
Top Ten Recorder	Anna Lea Matysek
Sanctions	Anna Lea Matysek
Newsletter Editor	Sheila Carpenter-van Dijk
Vice Chair	Bob Jennings
Appointed Board Committee Position	Position is appointed by the Chair
Officials	John King
Coaches	Scott Bay
Senior Games Liaison	To be appointed
Social and Awards	Erin Condon
Fitness	Daphne English-Bazenas
Long Distance	David Miner
Webmaster	Meegan Wilson

We have eight elected Florida LMSC Board positions which are voted on every two years. All Florida LMSC members are welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings and run or volunteer for a position.

Meetings will be posted on our website:

<http://www.floridalmssc.org/contacts/boarddocs/>

The Florida LMSC Chair appoints the Appointed Board Positions.



NOMINATIONS PLEASE!

Erin Condon, FL LMSC Awards Chair

Each year, the Florida LMSC recognizes our swimmers, coaches, and volunteers with the following awards:



Sue Moucha Overcoming Adversity Award

This award recognizes a FL LMSC Masters swimmer who has overcome adversity and provides inspiration to others while pursuing swimming.

Florida LMSC Coaches Award

This award honors coaches who have exhibited outstanding devotion to Masters coaching in the Florida LMSC.

Florida LMSC Service Award

This award honors those members for outstanding past and present service to the Florida LMSC.

Club Service Award

This award honors members of individual clubs for outstanding service to their club, past and present, in the promotion of Masters Swimming. One person from each Club can be nominated each year.

Leather Lung

This award is meant to encourage swimmers to participate in meets and events, regardless of their speed or ranking, and recognizes them for their personal accomplishments. The award promotes versatility and fitness for swimmers and provides additional motivation to participate in events.

Criteria

The swimmer must be a registered Florida LMSC swimmer, must swim all events in USMS-sanctioned or USMS-recognized events, and must complete ALL 18 events in SCY or SCM, or ALL 17 events in LCM, or ALL five USMS Postal Championships during a single season. The only splits permitted are leadoff swims on relays. A swimmer may receive more than one Leather Lung Award per year.

If you know someone deserving of one of these awards, please let us know!

Nominations are open now, and are due by December 31, 2018.

Awards will be presented in February, at our annual awards luncheon, held at the conclusion of the Saturday session of the Clearwater Valentine's meet.

Winners will be determined in early January, and will be personally invited to the awards luncheon, along with their nominators.

Please note:

Nominations for the Sue Moucha Overcoming Adversity Award should be sent to Sue Moucha at jbmoucha@aol.com.

All other nominations should be sent to Awards Chair, Erin Condon at erin@gatorswimclub.com.

Please visit our website (<http://www.floridalmc.org/awards/>) for more information.



FL LMSC Registrar Update

From your FL LMSC Registrar, Meredith Moore

As of October 31, 2018, we have 2353 swimmers registered in the FL LMSC for 2018. (November 1, 2017 - October 31, 2018)

That represents about a 4% decrease over 2017's final October figure of 2434. USMS National Registrations are down about 6% in 2018.

- *1,616 were registered in 2017 (68%)

- *244 were registered anytime between 1999-2017 (10%)

- *514 were brand new members (22%)

In 2018, less swimmers renewed their membership from the previous year 2017 (92% renewals). However, we had more brand new registrations than in 2017 (9% more new members)

54% are male, 46% are female.

Almost all registrations were done online.

This year, Late Season Registrations began on July 1st. So far, the FL LMSC has had 242 registrations (July 1 - Oct 10). 134 (55%) opted for the "End of Year" plus 2019 membership and 108 (45%) opted for just the End of Year membership.

We had 8 swimmers Transfer into the FL LMSC this year.

We had a total of 67 Clubs registered in 2018; 69 Clubs in 2017.

We had many new Clubs register this year:

BBWM	Brevard Blue Whales	Palm Bay
BTC	Team Bodyfeed	Cape Coral
CCWC	Cape Coral Wellness Ctr	Cape Coral
CMF	Coastal Masters	Fernandina Beach
HCTY	Haines City Tritons	Winter Haven
LHMS	Loggerhead Masters Swimming	Jacksonville
MVER	Montverde Masters	Montverde
PCSC	Palm Coast Swimming Club	Palm Coast
SRQ	SRQ Masters Swimming	Sarasota
SRQ	SRQ Unagi	Sarasota
SWFL	Swimspire Florida	St Augustine
USC	United Swim Club	Tallahassee

Our 10 largest clubs in 2017 were:

UC14 - 505 members

SYSM - 339 members

SPM - 258 members

FACT - 121 members

YCFM - 111 members

CAM - 76 members

GSC - 76 members

T2NM - 62 members

HLJ - 55 members

SRQM - 51 members

We had 2 active Workout Groups of FACT: CLCF (Clearwater) and VASF (The Villages)

2019 swimmer registration began on November 1st. Clubs must be registered in order for swimmers to register for a particular Club. We have around 50 Clubs that still needed to register for 2019. Also, a Parent Club must register before any Workout Group can register with a parent Club.

I look forward to working to working with our Board, the FL LMSC, USMS and our Club Reps and swimmers in 2019. Thank you all again for all your support and the opportunity to be your FL LMSC Registrar. Happy Laps, Meredith Moore

Please check www.dixiezone.org website for upcoming pool and open water events.

-Happy Laps, Meredith



2018 Convention Hospitality



The USMS annual meeting was in Jacksonville, FL this past September 26-29. When a convention falls in a LMSC's jurisdiction, the LMSC is responsible for manning the Hospitality Suite and supplying food for the convention delegates, at USMS's expense. They are also asked to supply a social, at the LMSC's expense. The Hospitality Suite is very important for the delegates to grab a bite to eat during their

busy schedule and also a place to connect with other delegates.



This was the 6th time that the convention has been held in the Florida LMSC since the first one was held in 1996. It will be held in Jacksonville again in 2020 – USMS's 50th Anniversary.

Special thanks to all our convention hospitality volunteers. Seven of our volunteers were local from Jacksonville. In alphabetical order, thanks to Scott Bay, Steve Butler, Joannie Campbell, John Conlon, Margaret Dodson, Jack and Laura Groselle, Bob Jennings, Penny Knutzen, Cheryl Kupan, David Miner, Peter Nickodem, Doug and Maggie Rowe, Jillian Wilkins, David Wilson, and Meegan Wilson. The Florida LMSC could not have done this time consuming job without

your help!!!! Jessica Reilly, Senior Director of USMS Membership Acquisition & Services, was very helpful setting up the Einstein Bagel and Hyatt hotel pizza deliveries and obtaining the room



We opted to have a “Let’s Flamingle Dessert Social” which was well received. Thanks to the Florida delegates for donating home baked and store bought desserts for the social. See up there, Dave Wilson’s awesome competition cakes.



NEWS FROM FACT

Joannie Campbell



Seems ages since we swam the Pan American Games, which were well covered in the August LMSC newsletter. Several of us took off for Jacksonville two weeks later for the USMS National Convention which our LMSC hosted for the umpteenth time. Leaves us all exhausted and before we knew it we were competing again in Orlando at the Rowdy Gaines Meet having to deal with hurricanes in between and during in parts of Florida and the southeast.

In spite of all the conflicts we had a good showing but things did not go smoothly. We had 16 relays entered and THEN hurricanes in Jacksonville and floods in North Carolina caused Betty Lorenzi’s absence – and two potential World Records – we will try next time!! Gail Grossman had a serious dog bite and had to withdraw; Pat Tullman had a door shut on her toe; and our normal problems with the “boys” – hitting the lane lines not paying attention to their own races!! The meet was too warm as Florida’s summer seemed to hang on and the sessions stretched into the evening – providing anxious



swimmers. In spite of all these difficulties Ed Graves, John Corse, John Cornell and William Zani managed to set a National Record in the 200m Free Relay!! Broke our own record set in 2014. They missed the 200m Medley Relay record by 3 seconds earlier in the meet and vowed they would not do that again!! Bill was especially pleased – his first

National Record!! Our team, in spite of several scratches, placed 3rd in the Regional Team Division – Congratulations to all. This is always a very competitive large meet.

This month we made a stab at the Shark Tank in Sarasota. Not many of us but it was a small meet mostly Sarasota participants, but fun. Barb McNulty, Martha Henderson and I improved our times and battled the elements – a 13 mph wind as we stood on the starting blocks. Martha and I had a chance to swim the 1500m.

We expect to have a good showing at the State Senior Games in Clearwater December 1 – 2. This is the qualifying meet for the National Senior Games in Albuquerque June 14 to 25th. I'm planning on making the trip this time – haven't been in a few years but chance to visit my baby brother in Midland, TX.

Registration for FACT and associated workout groups was open as of November 1st. The Valentine's Meet February 9-10 is in the works. USMS Nationals this year are out west. Watch your Dixie Zone calendar for dates and places. The Good Life Games annual senior meet Long Course is on the calendar for March 9th. The Clearwater Masters group have a Benefit Swim for the Pinellas County Special Olympics from 1 to 3 pm New Year's Day – always a good way to start off the New Year.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and great swimming in 2019!!

Please keep up to date with all the news on our website: www.factmasters.org



The Florida LMSC is sorry to report another of our swimmers has passed on to that great big swimming pool in the sky. We lost our Legendary Masters Swimmer, Tiger Holmes, on November 28 at the age of 97. Look for Tiger's tribute next issue from Joannie Campbell.

---editor



Tribute to Margie Hutinger

by Meegan Wilson



A maverick is defined as *“Being independent in thought and action or exhibiting such independence.”* Margie was a maverick, she was life itself. She will be missed.

This is very sad news. On October 7, 2018 Margie Hutinger died of a myocardial infarction while on a cruise with one of her best friends in Rhodes, Greece. She was taking a walk on the island when it happened. The island is known for the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Colossus was a giant statue almost as tall as the Statue of Liberty that was built for their sun god Helios celebrating a fight for their freedom and independence in 305 BC. It was built between 292-280 BC, but was demolished 60 years later due to an earthquake. Visiting this site must have been on Margie's bucket list.



Margie's son, Chuck, said “Margie always had a wonderful sense of humor. When I received a copy of the death certificate, it was in Greek. I can see Margie looking at me with a twinkle in her eye and saying ‘See Chuck, it's still all Greek to you!’”

Margie was a fixture in the Florida LMSC for 8 years serving as the Florida LMSC Records and Top Ten Chair from 1999 through 2006. Chuck assisted Margie computer skills during this time. In 2007 she received the Florida LMSC Service award for her service and dedication.

Margie attended the USMS convention for the first time as a delegate in 1999. She served on several USMS committees since then - the Records and Tabulation Committee from 2000 – 2007, the Fitness Committee from 2003-2007, the Recognition and Awards Committee from 2008 – 2013, and the History and Archives Committee from 2015-2017.

In 2003 she received the USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Award. Margie and Paul Hutinger received the USMS Fitness Award that same year by promoting a “virtual swim series” as a motivational tool to encourage swimmers to get fit.

If we delve a little into her background, we will find that Margie's mother, Frieda Ruder Moser, was born in Hugsweier, Germany and moved to the United States, to Kidron, Ohio, in 1925. She married Glenn Moser, the youngest son of the family she worked for as a housekeeper in 1927. They had three children, Clare (Clarence), Art (Arthur Glenn) and Margie (Margaret Ann). Margie was the youngest, born in 1940.

Margie graduated from Dalton High School in Dalton, Ohio and received a scholarship to attend Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where she met her first husband, Allan Gene Simsic.

They were married in 1966 and had three children, Ann, Matthew and Michael. She was a swim mom taking her children to swim meets and finally decided that she wanted to swim and compete herself. She joined Wisconsin Masters in 1987 at the age of 47 and in 1988 she received her first National Top Ten finish, 10th place in the 100 breaststroke in the 45-49 age group. She became a member of Lincoln Masters, Illinois in 1991 and then transferred to St. Pete Masters on January 1, 1992.

Margie Simsic met Paul Hutinger at a swim meet in 1989 in Wisconsin. On May 16, 1993 they were married on the North Shore pool deck in St. Petersburg, Florida with Judge Robert Beach presiding. It was a second marriage for both of them. They were devoted to each other for over 20 years. Paul Hutinger was still competing at the age of 89 when he died of skin cancer in 2014.

Margie was one of the charter members of the Florida Maverick Masters (FMM), founded on December 26, 1996. She and Paul were the leaders and true motivators of FMM. They were the glue that binds a club together. In 2000 she was awarded "Maverick of the Month". She served as secretary, treasurer, registrar and co-newsletter editor with Paul. The Maverick Lane Lines received the USMS/TYR Newsletter of the Year Award in 2008.



In 1999 she ran the USMS 3000/6000 Postal Championship. Her motto on the final results read, "The meek may inherit the earth... but they'll never rule the water." Margie ran two more USMS National postal events, the 1 Hour Postal Championships in 2002 and 2007 and Chuck volunteered his help for both events. Chuck received the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award in 2007 for his continual volunteer efforts. In 2011 Margie received the Florida LMSC Club Service Award for all the work she did for the Florida Maverick Masters.

Since her Top Ten finish in 1988 Margie had received 10 more National Top Ten individual finishes and 81 National Top Ten relay finishes with five of those in 1st place receiving All

American recognition.

In 2010, Margie completed another item on her bucket list – a triathlon when she turned 70. She completed the Meet and Mighty Triathlon in a time of 59 minutes, 30 seconds and finished second in her age group!



Shark Bites
By Jan Miller

https://www.teamunify.com/TabGeneric.jsp?tabid_=204931&team=flsysst

During this summer our open water swimmers had a challenge due to the red tide and toxins in the local waters. However, that didn't hold them back from participating in various destination swims. Coach Daphne Elliott along with Shark members Bambi Bowman Burgess, Jeannie Zappe and Julie Krosnowski Tafuto traveled to Bermuda to participate in the 28th Annual Bermuda Round the Sound Swim. Here's a swim that offers a variety of distances from 800m, 2k, 4k, 7.25k and 10k. A distance for everyone. We hear this was a great place for a destination swim event.

Another Shark member Tommy Schwartz participated in the 9th Annual Swim the Suck in Chattanooga, TN, placing 5th overall. This is a 10-mile swim down the Tennessee River Gorge.

We also want to congratulate Matt Russell our teammate, Shark Master and pro triathlete who was severely injured last year in Hawaii during the 2017 Ironman World Championships. After a long rehab and recovery Matt participated in the 2018 Kona Ironman World Championships placing 5th in the Pro Men's Division. Way to go Matt!



Congrats to our Sharks who went down to Islamorada for the Swim for Alligator Light! Solo swimmer Peter Boers was AWESOME in 5:02:11 (that's 8 miles, yes, 8). Coaches David Miner and Daphne Elliott, and Dani Miner and Jeff Elliott placed 5th in the four-person mixed relay division in a 4:10:47. The relay team of Melissa Varlas, Rick Walker, Danielle Chance, and Laura Hamel WON the four-person mixed relay overall in a time of 3:33:46. GO SHARKS!

On October 12, 13th and 14th, Shark teammates traveled to Orlando to participate in the 10th Annual Rowdy Gaines Classic. This is always a fun event and Rowdy, a great supporter of USMS, is always on deck to chat.



On Tuesday, October 30th Coach Daphne Elliott held the annual Halloween workout. Members of the Sharks were asked to show up in a costume you could swim in, now that was a challenge. Workouts

were done using props like small pumpkins, gourds and plastic pumpkins filled with water. Sets included closed fist freestyle holding a pumpkin, relays holding gourds and kick sets balancing pumpkins on kick boards or on the top of your head. Truly a fun night at the pool.



St. Pete Masters

<http://stpetemasters.org/>



From Coach Gary Bastie: Lessons from Pan Ams

Since SPM made its presence known at the recent Pan Am Games by setting records and garnering a number of medals and great swims, I thought it might be interesting to offer some lessons. The reason is, with about

1800 participants, you get time to think- and that's what I did. Here are a few thoughts that came up with waiting for the heats to progress. Obviously, the winners and better swimmers gained all of the medals. What I noticed however, is that they held their strokes and races together, thus making it look easy. They didn't seem to struggle and that's how our swimmers looked. Long hours of practicing good technique certainly paid off.

I also noticed that the better swimmers maximized each pull. While the slower swimmers used a quicker stroke count, the better swimmers needed fewer strokes due to greater efficiency. While it's not as easy as that, it was obvious who'd worked on being efficient and who didn't.

Good starts and turns made the difference between starting and staying ahead or having to play catch up. I watched swimmers fall back, only to have to swim faster in order to keep up. We did a great job as a team and a number of our swimmers either gained on each turn, were first place after the initial break-out, or both.

Aggressive swimming was the order of the day. For instance, I've heard it said that you can tell how well someone's going to do by their first few strokes. If aggressive, that's how they'll swim the race. If laid back, well then... A number of our swimmers (and they know who they are), took out their races



aggressively and posted best times! As I said, many had their best times, at least in the past many years. I think they practiced and arrived with this attitude. It was their strategy. It's like the old adage, if you believe you'll do poorly, you'll become a self-fulfilling prophesy but, if you expect to do well, you probably will.

Adjustments were another issue. When things go wrong (and they are bound to), it's how we handle it from there. One of our own had such an opportunity, Sharon Steinmann. During the 400 free, she began losing her cap. Although that kept her from seeing clearly and (you know how thick Sharon's hair is), she kept going and recorded a good time and, she placed and medaled. She refused to let a potentially race-stopping event get to her so, she continued to have a good race. Not only that, Sharon kept having good performances thereafter.

Our other swimmers did equally well. We all know that Charlotte, Peter, Bob, Johannah, Steve, Dawn, Paula, and others have had surgeries, pain, rehab, and other obstacles and yet, still performed well. Each set a good example for the rest of us where persevering often means to just keep going as best you can. Not only did we cheer for one another, so did the rest of the spectators. It was great to see excited kids, running along the pool deck, and yelling "Go Mom!" or "Go Grandpa!". I especially enjoyed all the support each time an older swimmer finished... maybe because I'm becoming one of them.

And, speaking of our older swimmers, they are who the rest of us are becoming. Since there's no way to stop the aging process, I think our senior members did a great job and inspired the rest of us. For instance, there was "just add water" 96 yr. old William Lamb and several others. Some would push a walker up to the starting area, get helped onto the blocks, and then set records. On the SPM side, Bob Beach crushed the 800 record (by 2 minutes!) and he's at the top of his age group, not the bottom. He also broke the old 400 free record and I was proud to be on relays with he, Peter, and each of the others. Then, there was Rob's mom. She set a butterfly record and made us Floridians proud. I also saw Pete Betzer catch and/or pass everyone at the end his 200 back.

All in all, I was proud to coach SPM at the Pan Ams. You each inspired me in some way and I think you did the same for the rest of the team. Thanks to everyone who made it happen, from Cheryl and crew, to each person who had a small part in making for a memorable Pan Am's. It will be difficult to reach such a height in the future but we owe it to ourselves to at least try.



Tsunami News
By Holly Neumann

Sarasota Tsunami Masters swimmer Mark Usher surpassed his 2018 goal of 500,000 yards on Nov. 8, despite having lost several weeks in the pool due to illness and injury early in the year. He's just one of the team's recent success stories. Some highlights:

Tsunami Masters added a lunch-hour practice in November, the only noon Masters workout in the area, and now has 12 practices a week with a USMS-certified coach on deck. The club's roster has grown by nearly a third in recent months, thanks to the efforts of an energized coaching staff, an increased social media presence, triathlete outreach, and real-life social events like pizza nights on the first Monday of every month. Sarasota Tsunami also is a proud recipient of a USMS Swimming Saves Lives Foundation grant for 2019. The club's adult learn-to-swim program, led by certified ALTS instructor and coach Jeff Waddle, was launched in September and has served 20 adults so far. Several graduates have tried out the Masters practices, too. With the grant, the program intends to reach even more adults with affordably-priced swim lessons, helping to reduce adult-drowning risk in the community.



Tsunami swimmers Usher, David Tucker, and Ray Morton participated in the Shark Tank SCM meet. It was Morton's first swim meet at age 77. Usher recorded best times in all four of his events, no doubt thanks to all those practice yards. David Tucker (left) and Ray Morton await their races and Mark Usher tries to stay warm ahead of his swims at the Shark Tank meet in Sarasota on Nov. 3.



VILLAGES AQUATIC SWIM TEAM

VAST News

Mary Rose Rowan

Happy Holidays to All. Most of us retired folks on the VAST team are always “on holiday” but this time of the year brings many special celebrations. We hope you enjoy, and are thankful for, all of the activities in the coming weeks.



Two members of VAST traveled to St. George Utah to participate in the Huntsman World Games. Kathy Tittle and Jeanne Hackett participated in this SCM competition. Kathy earned 4th place in the 100 fly and 400 free and 3rd in the 400 IM. Jeanne won the 200 free and was 2nd in the 50 and 3rd in 100 free. She added to her collection of medals and records for breaststroke by earning 1st place in the 50,100 and 200 events !

We are proud and happy for them but their athletic prowess does not end with swimming.

Jeanne played on the softball team that won first place in her age group. Kathy coached/managed two different age group teams that did well in this large, very competitive tournament.

All of the swimmers on our team benefit from knowing these disciplined, versatile athletes who encourage and inspire us.

Our swimmers are now looking forward to the Florida State Senior Games. This is one of largest gatherings of senior athletes in our state. Swimming events take place at the Long Center in Clearwater on December 1-2. Our coaches have been diligent in working with us and many of the VAST swimmers hope to qualify for the National Senior Games. This year the Nationals will be held in June, in Albuquerque New Mexico. Both of these events are always fun. In Clearwater, we will be able to meet old friends and make new ones. Albuquerque may prove to be a unique and interesting place to visit, as well as providing the opportunity to be reacquainted with swimmers from around the country.

We who are “older athletes” are constantly aware of the many benefits that result from swimming; to socialize with kind and interesting people who are swimmers, to discover new parts of the state and country and to maintain health through this enjoyable sport.

We who swim with VAST wish everyone a healthy, happy 2019.



Upcoming Events

❖ Swim Around Lido Key, April 27, 2019

<https://www.swimwithoutlimits.com/event-information/>

Registration is open now.

❖ For more swims- pool events as well as open water, go to
www.dixiezone.org



Entry Forms are now available for the next Tampa Bay Marathon Swim

The next Tampa Bay Marathon Swim will be on April 20, 2019. Visit www.DistanceMatters.com to see video, pictures, and entry information. – Ron



The next Tampa Bay Marathon Swim will be on Saturday, April 20, 2019. This 24 mile ultra-distance marathon swim race starts at the Sunshine Skyway Bridge and ends on the Courtney Campbell Causeway in Tampa in a race that covers the entire length of Tampa Bay. The event is held each year to celebrate Earth Day and the revitalization of Florida's largest estuary. It is one of the world's longest marathon swimming races, and is a part of the Grand Slam of Open Water Marathon Swimming, which also includes The English Channel, Manhattan Island, and the Catalina Island marathon swims.

Since the 24 Mile Tampa Bay Marathon Swim was first staged in 1998, it has drawn competitors from across the United States, from Great Britain, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Australia, Ireland, Japan, Switzerland, Baliwick of Jersey, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Germany, India, Canada, and the Cayman Islands. The race is one of the world's longest marathon swims and held annually in April, in celebration of Earth Day.

Swimming on a calm day, going the length of Tampa Bay in less than 10 hours is an amazing feat. At last year's Tampa Bay Marathon Swim a 50-year-old woman, **Karen Zemlin** from Plymouth, Minnesota was able to battle choppy waves and a 15 knot wind to win the event in an incredible 9 hours, 55 minutes. Water Temperature was a very comfortable 75F/24C, but the easterly winds measured 15 knots for the start at 7:08am. The swimmers fought through a moderate chop of 1 to 2 feet until noontime. The winds fell to about 8 knots in the afternoon so the waves were less daunting by the time they reached the Gandy Bridge. The late-afternoon seabreeze stirred winds and caused isolated thunderstorms as the last swimmer reached the finish at 7:36pm.

Since the 24 Mile Tampa Bay Marathon Swim was first staged in 1998, it has drawn competitors from across the United States, from Great Britain, Guatemala, Italy, Mexico, Australia, Ireland, Japan, Switzerland, Baliwick of Jersey, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Germany, India, Canada, and the Cayman Islands. The race is one of the world's longest marathon swims, and is held annually in April, in celebration of Earth Day.

For more information, contact:
The Tampa Bay Marathon Swim
Distance Matters, Inc.
Ron Collins, Race Director
PO Box 18004
Clearwater, FL 33762-9998
727.531.7999 | www.DistanceMatters.com
Email: Collins@TampaBay.rr.com

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THE NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sheila Carpenter-van Dijk

Please send newsletter articles to Me
IN WORD FORMAT PLEASE!
(sheilacv@verizon.net or fishtail@usms.org)

**PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR TEAM NAME
IN THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL**

If you have questions about format, or content, be sure to ask me!

The next newsletter is scheduled to be on the web (<http://floridalmcsc.org>) and in your inbox in February, 2019, so I'll need your articles by **January 15, 2019!**

★★

Your Current Florida LMSC Board of Directors

(* Elected positions)

***Chair**, Jillian Wilkins, wilkins.jilliananne@gmail.com; ***Vice Chair**, Bob Jennings,
guman1953@yahoo.com; ***Treasurer**, Nancy Kryka, nkryka@gmail.com;

***Secretary**, Cheryl Kupan, ckupan@gmail.com; ***Registrar**, Meredith Moore, MAMoo49@aol.com;

***Records & Top 10**, Anna Lea Matysek, kugrad@yahoo.com;

***Newsletter Editor**, Sheila Carpenter-van Dijk, fishtail@usms.org or sheilacv@verizon.net;

***Sanctions**, Anna Lea Matysek, kugrad@yahoo.com; **Senior Games Liaison: To be appointed**
Long Distance, David Miner, dminer02@gmail.com;

Official's Chair, John King, john@kingllc.com; **Coaches Chair**, Scott Bay, scottbay@usms.org;

Fitness, Connie Greb, kgreb@netzero.net;

Social & Awards Chair, Erin Condon, erin@gatorswimclub.com; Webmaster, Meegan Wilson, meegan@kodhaus.com; Safety Chair, Patty Nardozzi, pnardozzi@hotmail.com

★★

5-7-5

Happy Holidays
stay safe, be happy swim more,
we deserve the best.

--Sheila Carpenter-vandijk, SPM