

Present: Tom Bliss, Meegan Wilson, Margie Huting, Joan Campbell, Harold Ferris, Victor Buehler, Don Puchalski, Peter Nickodem, Paul Huting, Charles Kohnken, Sue Moucha, Jeffery Demlow, Bill Pillmore, Dana Neeshe

The meeting was called to order at 1:23 by chair Tom Bliss. He then informed the group that the delegates to the national convention would not be discussing their full reports during this meeting as he expected there would not be sufficient time available. He said that they would instead share one item of significance each, when we got to that topic on the agenda. They did have their full written reports available. Tom then thanked Meegan and Victor for their efforts manning the hospitality room at the convention. Meegan contributed a great deal of time and effort organizing and decorating the room. Victor provided his truck and his full time through the duration of the convention. Meegan and Victor both voiced their appreciation and recognition to the time and effort of all the volunteers especially Doug Messineo who made arrangements to get the zone meeting lunches to the convention and was available most evenings. We then turned our attention to the agenda.

#### **Review of the meeting minutes from July 7, 2004: Victor Buehler**

Margie pointed out missing information from her report of that meeting. The wording needs to be added to reflect that, "It is the responsibility of each individual swimmer attending meets outside our LMSC to get the results of their swims to her."

Those present at this meeting that were at the last meeting attempted to help Victor figure out the identity of the blond hair gentleman who was present at that meeting from SWIM Florida with Dean Mitcheson. He had failed to sign in. Alas, no one knew.

Tom reviewed those positions that are appointed by him. They include safety, official, fitness, and coach. We acknowledged that at that meeting he did indeed appoint Gertie Perry to the Fitness position.

Tom introduced Jeffery Demlow.

Motion made to accept the minutes with corrections and additions, seconded, and passed at 1:31 PM.

#### **Report of the Officers**

##### **A. Treasurer's Report: Meegan Wilson**

###### *Financial report for 2004*

Meegan passed around a hard copy of year-to-date revenues and expenses. As of September 30, 2004, gross income was \$37,922.53 and total expenses were \$35,768.47, showing an excess of revenues over expenses of \$2,154.06. Total fund balance (including CD, savings and checking accounts) is \$32,820.90. Meegan pointed out that we had no listing of expenses for all the work that Dick Brewer does on our website. She stated that she has asked him in the past for a bill but he is resistant to providing one as he does it as part of his work as webmaster for the Dixie Zone. Whether or not they pay him is unknown to us. We all agreed that we want to pay him something even if he is uncooperative with providing a bill. **A motion was made to this effect: "Dick Brewer be reimbursed retroactive for all expenses that he has contributed annually to the creation/additions/improvements and maintenance of our website since he took over."** The motion was seconded and passed at 1:46 PM, as was the motion to accept Meegan's report.

###### *Convention (hospitality room and zone lunches)*

Meegan explained the costs of both and we briefly reviewed some of the logistical problems encountered with the delivery of the lunches. Meegan shared her concern with the cost of meals at convention, the grumbling she overheard from delegates from other parts of the country. She noted again that the USMS does not pay its people anything to compensate them for meals. We discussed what might be a reasonable subsidy and that next year's convention site will be more expensive to eat at than this year's. We noted that at the convention, the delegates are there for five days and four nights. While the hospitality room is available (but not everyone can get to it when they are hungry and the food gets old fast), few have cars, sometimes the local LMSC's chair takes his/her delegates to dinner, it is a royal hassle to get delegates to save their receipts and send them to the treasurer for reimbursement, and at the last meeting we passed a motion not to provide any money for this last reason.

**Motion made:** *We will provide a flat \$50.00 to each delegate at the next convention as a subsidy to their cost of getting meals.* Motion seconded and passed at 1:55 PM. This report was then concluded and accepted.

###### *Budget*

Meegan instructed everyone to look on the flip side of the annual report for this year's report on revenues and expenses as the compare to the anticipated budget and last year at this point in time. We noted that we were able to keep well below budget because we did not have to pay airfare to get our delegates to the convention; however, this budget amount of \$4,000 is probably too small for next year because of the increases in gas prices since it was established. It was pointed out during the discussion that the airfare will be considerably higher when the convention is next held on the West Coast of the country. We then took a break to eat some free pasta. While eating, we decided to increase the convention budget for 2005 by \$500.00. This report was then accepted at 2:05 PM.

##### **B. Registrar's Report: Tom and Margie**

Tom informed us of Pat Tullman's concern that the cost of the newsletter is increasing and we may want to increase the budget for it. We discussed the growing number of people not getting hard copies any longer and that as this trend continues and the cost of

making and mailing hard copies dwindle, one cost may cover the other. A second concern Tom attributed to Pat in her absence is the need for us to get together more frequently throughout the year. We discussed the wisdom of not attempting a meeting at the Valentine meet because that is when and where we do our annual awards dinner. Victor mentioned that Michael Heather hosts their annual meeting at his home and he provides an outlandish meal for everyone, usually a barbecue. Tom responded that this is a consideration if people are willing to travel to the Space Coast on Saturday afternoon. We then discussed the possibility of having additional meetings via email. We discussed at least being able to discuss a particular topic or issue this way and reaching meaningful conclusions. We also discussed at least preparing for the current schedule of meetings in this manner. Lastly, we discussed the vast job associated with the position and that Pat may be getting worn out by it. We discussed the need for an Assistant Registrar. No motions made. Report accepted at 2:28 PM.

At a later date, Pat provided the following: "Since I wasn't there, I can only respond or add to the registrar's report. First and foremost, I am not worn out by the post. As of today, I have registered 900 members for '05. My real problem stems from my love of travel, which often involves several weeks away from mail and computer. Good news... more new swimmers and at this date we are ahead of last year's registration pace."

#### **C. Top Ten Report: Margie Huting**

Margie passed out hard copies of her report and then pretty much covered everything listed. One issue discussed again is getting individuals to send in their results from meets outside our LMSC. Margie stated that it can be done several ways: by making a photocopy of the computer results the individual gets, or making a copy of the meet results, either of which can be mailed to her. Another method is to email to her the website location or just notice of the meet results and she will get them from that website. However, she must be informed of everyone who attended the meet and she would certainly appreciate a list, if more than one person of each event they swam. She said that Holmes Lumber is very good about this. Tom suggested she get something submitted for the next newsletter.

We then discussed another rather disturbing problem: meet directors not getting meet results to her within a reasonable deadline even with numerous prompting and the, one particular offender's results were full of errors. Margie expressed significant exasperation and requested clarification on our policy. At this point in time, we have no standing policy. It was suggested that we include in the sanctions packet a deadline of "number of days, and a warning that if the deadline is not met, they could either forfeit their sanction the following year or be fined. This information will go into the next newsletter so that all swimmers will be aware of the director's responsibilities at our sanctioned meets.

Margie and the group also discussed the issue of some relay organizers at meets still not understanding that a person cannot swim for FACT and their home club in the same meet. It is one or the other. Tom recommended to her to put a notice of this information as a reminder into the next newsletter. Report accepted at 2:28 PM>

#### **D. Sanctions Report: Charlie Kohnken**

Charlie informed that he had sanctioned eleven events since April, one postal, two open water events, six meets, and two others (Gainesville and Polk Co Senior games meets).

Tom started a discussion from his experience at the convention and being chastised for our LMSC sanctioning meets the same weekends as our neighbor LMSC scheduled meets and this not being either courteous nor responsible on our part because it may, or has drawn people away from their meets. He requests that we be proactive and not sanction meets requested when we know a neighbor LMSC already has one sanctioned and posted on the Dixie Zone website. Margie informed that this was a hot topic at the zone meeting during convention. We discussed the numerous variables that directors are faced with when working on scheduling a Masters meet. Tom requested that we encourage the meet directors to decide on dates ASAP in the sanction packets and that we get the dates of our meets posted ASAP so that other meet directors in other LMSC's will have this information readily available. He also again encouraged us to be responsible when we sanction meets. Report accepted at 2:37 PM.

#### **E. Senior Games Recognition: Joan Campbell**

Joan passed out her hard copy report which was short and self-explanatory. The Gainesville games are on October 24, 2004, Sanford is not interested in sponsoring a meet again this year, Sarasota Life said they will contact us via Deb Walker if they have their meet which doesn't look very promising because of hurricane damage, Ocala has a meet at the end of this month at a public pool, and the state meet will be at The Villages on December 5-6, 2004. Report accepted at 2:42 PM.

#### **F. Newsletter Report: Gertie Perry**

Gertie wasn't present. She did however inform Tom that she was extending the deadline for the next newsletter to October 12. Tom encouraged everyone to get his or her information to her by then. The no report was over at 2:43 PM.

#### **G. Web Page Report: Dick Brewer**

Dick was not present either, but he provided Tom with a verbal report. "The web is there." Everyone laughed and acknowledged that this is accurate. This no report was done with at 2:44 PM.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Annual Audit Review: Meegan Wilson**

Meegan recapped all that had transpired at the last meeting with Bret Hamlin and that he was going to attempt to get Mike Halifax to do the actual audit. So there is no news. This no news report was done at 2:47 PM.

### **B. Officials Chair Presentation: Tom Bliss**

Tom introduced Jeffery Demlow as his recent appointment to this position and shared his many qualifications. He then requested that Jeffery share some personal information. Jeffery did so and was very well received.

We then discussed a problem that sometimes occurs at meets. Events going too fast and swimmer(s) not being able to get sufficient rest between events, especially at the smaller meets. Jeff advised that when this occurs for the swimmer to immediately notify the official and request a 5 or 10 minute break in the meet. This information should be, if not already in the sanctions packet.

### **C. Awards Banquet: Joan Campbell**

Joan provided a menu option for everyone to review. We decided to keep the cost at \$16 a head even though their projected cost appeared to be \$10.50. Being democratic in culture, we hotly debated and then voted on the following choices: Salad-fresh green salad w/dressing, Two entrees--chicken parmesan and vegetable lasagna, potato/rice option-- broccoli almandine, and lastly, because of the culinary experts present advised to choose the vegetable according to color and potential appearance vs. anticipated taste, and no single expert knew for certain what all is contained in the five listed available "blends," we decided to leave it up to the chef's choice. Report completed and accepted at 3:06 PM.

## **New Business**

### **A. Orlando 2004 National Convention Reports: Delegates and Officers**

Tom advised we skip presentations from each delegate but requested everyone to read the delegates' reports that were handed out.

### **B. Nominating Committee/Elections: Tom Bliss and committee**

Tom reviewed the pertinent bylaws identifying who is appointed and who is elected. This involved identifying which positions are the "executive committee" positions. He then handed the discussion over to the nominating committee.

Joan stated that there were no nominations for any of the elected positions except the sanctions position and the two nominees are Sue Moucha and Charlie Kohnken. She listed all the current position holders by name and that each had agreed to run again. From the record, they were chairman Tom Bliss, secretary Victor Buehler, treasurer Meegan Wilson, registrar Pat Tullman, newsletter editor Gertie Perry, and top ten recorder Margie Huting. She then opened nominations to the floor and none were forthcoming.

Tom suggested that both Sue and Charlie tell everyone a little about themselves and their qualifications for the position so that we could make an informed decision in our voting. Charlie went first not because he was rude but because he was closer to picking a number between one and ten than Tom had hidden behind his back. Charlie told us about his prior experience and then Sue did hers.

Tom then thanked both and mentioned that no matter how the vote went, there were still vacant appointment positions available and encouraged them to think about taking one of the positions if he or she should not win the vote.

We then voted on the sanctions position via written secret ballot method. The tally was Sue 7 votes, Charlie 5 votes. Sue was elected.

Joan (the nomination committee) then requested a show of hands style voting to confirm the existing people in their respective positions and all were reelected for another two-year term.

Meegan advised that the new term does not start until January 1, 2005. Charlie agreed to help Sue with the transition between then and the first of the year. Charlie agreed to fulfill his responsibilities until the transition was complete and/or the first of the new year. This was finished at 3:32 PM.

### **C. Policy and Procedure: Tom Bliss**

Tom informed the group that Dick Brewer had suggested we develop a policy to review or develop changing how we want to do business and go about it by identifying at least one topic per meeting. It was suggested that we might be able to do this via email also. It was suggested that we might have to tweak our bylaws to do this, specifically to conduct business via email in addition to our three or four meetings a year. Tom suggested that the first item we address is the issue regarding sanctioning our meets with respect to meets being held in our neighboring LMSC on the same dates. We discussed and debated some of the variables involved. It was decided without a motion that this be the first topic we tackle for a new policy or change in the bylaws. Tom requested a list of everyone we wanted to have participate in the discussion before we get started. Someone immediately suggested we include members of the Gold Coast, Southeast, and Georgia LMSCs.

Joan mentioned that Joe Biondi could not attend this meeting and that because of the hurricanes his triathlete swim clinic was cancelled until a later date.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:47 PM.