

**Annual Meeting Minutes of the Florida LMSC**  
**October 17, 2009**  
**YMCA Aquatic Center, Orlando, FL**

Meegan Wilson\* (Chair) called the meeting to order at 1:53 pm. Also present were: Tom Bliss (immediate Past Chair); Meredith Moore\* (Registrar); Sue Moucha\* (Sanctions); James Stine\* (Treasurer - arrived later, around 3:30 pm); Joan Campbell (Senior Games Liaison). Clubs represented were: AQNT - Jennifer Willis\*; FACT - John Cornell\* (FACT-VAST), Florence Delaney\* (FACT-SUN), and Donald Puchalski\* (FACT-SUN); FMM - Margie Hutinger\*; SYSM - Bill Brenner\* and Fernetta Ramnath\*; SVOL - Scott Bay\*. Also present were: Pete Nickodem (FACT\_HLJ) and guests Missy Bliss, Jim Wilson, and Sylvia Peth. Voting representatives were verified (\*). [Absent were: Victor Buehler (Secretary); Jason Brauer (Newsletter Editor); Marly Wilson (Records & Top Ten); Charlie Kohnken (Officials); Marianne Bradley (Social & Awards Chair); Joe Biondi (Coaches Chair) and Representatives from Clubs not listed above. ]

- I. **Minutes:** *There being no corrections, Bill Brenner moved and Joannie Campbell seconded to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2009 meeting, which passed unanimously.*

II. **Reports of Officers and Committee Chairs**

- A. **Registrar:** Meredith Moore reported that we currently have 1744 members for 2009 which reflects a 9.7% increase over 2008. There are 50 registered clubs as well as 19 workout groups of the club FACT. In 2008 there were 39 clubs and 17 FACT workout groups. Ages ranged from 18-92 with 49% female and 51% male. While only 19% registered online in 2008, 60% registered online in 2009. New Clubs for 2009 were: BAMS (Bay Area Masters Swimming, Tampa); BDO (Blue Dolphins Masters, Oviedo); BLU (Blu Frog Team, Lake Mary); JDMT ( J. Douglas Masters Team, Lake Mary); LAS (Lakeland Area Swimming, Lakeland); MIST (Marco Island Swim Team, Marco Island); NFM (North Florida Masters, Wacissa); TMST (Triton Masters Swim Team, Tampa); TWFL (Team Windfall, Clearwater); VBM (Vero Beach Masters, Vero Beach); WPRC (Winter Park Racquet Club, Winter Park).

2010 Club registrations are currently in process. All clubs must register by October 31<sup>st</sup> so that individuals can register online by November 1<sup>st</sup>. So far, there are two new clubs for 2010: TBAM (Tampa Bay Aquatics Masters) and WOO (Wahoos of Ocala).

As of 2010, club registrars will be able to register all their swimmers online if the LMSC agrees to the requirements and collects copies of signed registrations. After discussion, the consensus was to wait until next year and revisit this topic. This way all the bugs and problems may have been worked out.

*Joannie Campbell moved and Margie Hutinger seconded to accept the Registrar's report. The motion carried.*

- B. **Verify the voting members for 2010.** Meredith passed out the current Clubs and number of members for 2009. All clubs with at least one member up to 49 members can have one voting representative at meetings. Teams with at least 99 members can have two voting representatives. Each 100 member increase above 99 equates to one more voting representative. Those clubs with more than one representative for 2010 are: FMM - 2; GSC - 2; TTM - 2; FACT - 3; SPM - 3; and SYSM - 3.

*Joannie Campbell moved and Bill Brenner seconded to accept the voting representatives for 2010. The motion carried.*

- C. **Top Ten Report** - Marly Wilson was not present. Meegan read her report. Marly is in the process

of completing the 2009 LCM season for submission to USMS. She is working to get access to the Top Times database so that she can upload meets herself, rather than having to go through the Top Times Database chair, Jeanne Seidler. She has yet to receive the proper permissions from Jim Matysek, USMS webmaster. Tom said that a swimmer was concerned that her times may not have been submitted to Marly since she could not find them in the Top Times Database. Meegan will contact Marly and make sure that the times were submitted.

*Joan Campbell moved and Bill Brenner seconded to accept the Top Ten Report. The motion carried.*

- D. **Sanctions Report** - Sue Moucha reported the following 2009 meets are sanctioned by the Florida LMSC: #149-020, Rowdy Gaines Masters Classic, October 17-18, Orlando, SCM; #149-021, Bridge the Bay, Day 1-November 15, Sarasota, SCM; #149-021, Bridge the Bay, Day 2-November 22, St. Pete, SCM; 149-022, Sr. Champs, Ft. Pierce, July 23-26, LCM. The following 2009 events have been recognized: #149-024R, Sr. Games, October 9, Jacksonville, SCY; #149-026R, Sr. Games October 25, Gainesville, SCY. The following open water events have been sanctioned: #149-023ow, Race for the Oceans, Ft. Myers, Clinic—October 10, October 11 - 5k, 1k, 4x1.25R; #149-025ow, Flavia Zappa Clinic, November 1, Tampa Bay, 24 miles. For 2010 the following have been either recognized (R) or sanctioned: #140-001R, Polk Sr. Games, February 27-28, Lakeland, SCY; #140-002R, Goodlife Games, March 20, Clearwater, LCM; #140-003, SUN Valentine's Meet, February 13-14, Clearwater, SCY; #140-004, Ocala Marlin Masters, March 6, Ocala, SCY; #140-005, Ocala Marlin Masters, May 23, LCM; #140-006, Ocala Marlin Masters, July 17, Ocala, LCM; #140-007, Ocala Marlin Masters, September 25, SCY.
1. Sue expressed the following concerns:
    1. Meet Directors are sending her incomplete meet information when requesting a sanction number.
    2. A meet director has also requested clarification as to why meets can be listed on the Dixie Zone website without sanction numbers.
    3. There have been problems in the past that a meet director will schedule a meet for a certain day and never apply for a sanction thus tying up that date so that other meet directors do not have time to apply for a meet sanction. After discussion the following points were clarified:
      - a. The Dixie Zone meet calendar is assembled at convention for the next year. Meet directors are requested to supply potential dates for their meets prior to convention. Some meets are conducted year after year and some are new. Venues for Dixie Zone Championship meets are offered and delegates vote at convention to establish them. It was determined that it was good to place these meets on the website, without official sanction numbers to allow swimmers to plan ahead for participation and to maintain dates for long running meets.
      - b. To address the problem of a potential meet, that never gets off the ground, from eliminating another meet possibility, ***Tom Bliss moved that a meet can be placed on the meet calendar with sanction pending status, however a complete sanction application must be submitted to the Sanctions Chair 45 days prior to the posted meet date. Don Puchalski seconded the motion. The motion carried.***
      - c. To clarify sanction requirements, ***Joannie Campbell moved that a Florida LMSC Sanction shall not be issued until all required documentation is submitted to the Sanctions Chair. Don Puchalski seconded the motion. The motion carried.***
      - d. Meegan stated that at the Dixie Zone meeting ***a new Dixie Zone policy was approved which prohibits meet hosts from hosting meets on the same weekend as a Dixie Zone Championship: for extenuating circumstances, the meet host must appeal to the Dixie Zone Executive Committee (comprised of the LMSC Chairs and the Dixie Zone Representative) for permission to host the meet on those conflicting dates.***
  2. Sue has returned the Performance Bond to Cocoa YMCA for the canceled meet, July 25-26.
  3. St. Pete's National Championship bid. Sue said that she gave the tape measure to Patti Nardozzi

during the summer so that she could verify the pool measurements of their SCY by LCM pool. Meegan explained that due to that measurement, St Pete had to pull their bid from USMS consideration because the pool measured short, if touch pads were used. Meegan stated that there seems to be a lot of confusion in interpreting pool measurement data. Both the Sanctions and Top Ten Chair need to verify pool measurements before issuing sanctions and submitting top ten data or record applications. This is one of the new LMSC minimum requirements. Meegan recently revised our online pool measurement form (dated 2002) and it now includes more instruction for meet directors. Since touchpads are at least a quarter of an inch thick, thus decreasing the pool length by that amount, it is important that meet directors understand the implications of these measurements. Meegan requested that Sue give her copies of all the pool certification forms for pools certified by the Florida LMSC. She plans to post a list online for all certified pools. The information will include the date of certification, and the number of touchpads, if any, that can be used during competitions. She also requested that the Florida LMSC consider purchasing a laser measurement device which will make it easier for longer pool measurements as well as pools that have to be measured more often because they have moveable bulkheads. After further discussion, **John Cornell moved and Bill Brenner seconded to purchase a laser measurement device up to \$500 expenditure. The motion carried.**

*Don Puchalski moved and Meredith Moore seconded to accept the Sanctions Report. The motion carried.*

- E. **Newsletter Report** - Jason Brauer was absent. Meegan said that Jason could not attend the meeting, but was working on the November newsletter.
- F. **Officials Chair Report** - Charlie Kohnken was absent - Meegan read his report and highlights are reported here. Charlie stated that the Officials Chair is a USMS requirement so that all LMSCs can work toward uniformity and fairness in every meet. Charlie is trying to recruit more officials and has a list of about 20 so far. Most are only available if a Masters meet does not conflict with an age group meet. Charlie feels strongly that a referee should be in place before a meet is sanctioned since one is required to conduct a meet. He also feels that the Officials chair, Florida LMSC Chair, Top Ten Chair and Sanctions Chair receive a printed copy of the sanction. Charlie contacts referees with helpful information on running meets and cannot do this if a meet referee is not listed. Meegan pointed out that there is now a listing of all Florida LMSC sanctioned and recognized events on our website with contact information. Since our last meeting a request for the name of the referee is on the official sanction as follows: *It is strongly recommended that meet directors submit the name of the head referee, 30 days prior to the meet, to the following individuals; Florida LMSC Sanctions Chair, Sue Moucha; jbmoucha@aol.com, Records/Top Ten Chair Marly Wilson; marlified@gmail.com and Official's Chair (Charles Kohnken; charleythetuna@tampabay.rr.com (727)531-0008.)* No further action was taken.
- G. **Webpage Report** - Meegan Wilson - As previously mentioned a listing with contact information about our Sanctioned and Recognized events are now posted on our website. The pool length certification form has been updated. Two more minutes have been found and added to our webpage. Also, Meredith and Meegan are working together to make registration changes to the website since Club registrations are due now and individual registrations for 2010 start on November 1st. Members can register either online or use an interactive paper form on the Florida LMSC website. Due to the daunting job of revising over 50 individual club registration forms, Meegan asked Dick Brewer if a drop down menu could be added to the interactive registration form on the website. Dick went ahead and revised the form so that now only one form will have to be revised each year. Thank you Dick! *Joan Campbell moved and Bill Brenner seconded to accept the webpage report. The motion carried.*
- H. **Senior Games Report** - Joannie Campbell attended the State Senior Games Workshop in Orlando on August 24, 2009. There was recently some confusion on whether the Senior Games meets are

sanctioned by USMS. Joannie said that the reason for this confusion is that the Florida Senior Games applies and pays for a sanction on the State level which has nothing to do with a USMS sanction. She handed out the information sheet "*Differences Between Sanctioned, Recognized, USA and FINA Events*" which is posted on our website. She also explained to those present at the workshop the reasoning behind USMS' requirement for pool measurements after the meet in pools with moveable bulkheads. In USA swimming, it is only a requirement if a record is broken and then only that lane needs to be measured. USMS requires measurements of the middle lane and two outside lanes after the meet so that results can be submitted for top ten consideration.

Joannie said that some present at the workshop asked what was the purpose of recognizing a Senior Games meet. She explained that one benefit was possibly increasing attendance, but another was the addition of qualified officiating. She explained that all state and national Senior Games are recognized. There have been occurrences in the past of someone qualifying at a local Senior Games meet that was not recognized, only to be disqualified at a state meet for a swimming infraction.

Joannie also reminded everyone that only 5 events per day can be submitted for top ten consideration and that swimmers must specify their 6th event on the sign-in form. Also that the 60 day no competition rule when an individual is switching clubs does not apply at a recognized meet unless they are swimming in a relay with other team members.

*Don Puchalski moved and Bill Brenner seconded to accept the Senior Games Liaison report. The motion carried.*

- I. **Coaches Report** - Joe Biondi was not in attendance and there was no report.

### III. Old Business

- A. **Web Proposal Revisited** - The web proposals of Ted Bradley, St Pete Digital, were posted on the Florida LMSC website. Meegan further explained each proposal so that everyone understood the implications. She stated that an important aspect of the new design is that it will make it easier for the webmaster to make additions and corrections and also allow access to other administrators to make changes as necessary. Since there were concerns about paying a webmaster, while all other positions are essentially volunteer, that portion of the proposal can be removed and still keep the full Content Management System (CMS) which will make the website user friendly. After further discussion, ***Joannie Campbell moved and Bill Brenner seconded to accept Bill Bradley's first proposal (second estimate as voted for at the July 11th meeting), minus the webmaster paid position. St. Pete Digital will be paid \$2500 for initial software, design and implementation and \$150 per month for a year, for further software development. There will also be a monthly hosting fee of \$35. The motion carried.*** Meegan will draw up another contract and send it to Bryan Kutchins and Officers and Committee chairs as well as those attending the annual meeting for their input.
- B. **Instructions for Running a Masters Meet** - Charlie Kohnken - tabled
- C. **2010 Florida LMSC Awards Banquet and Social** - Florence Delaney for Marianne Bradley. Florence read Marianne's report. Marianne and the Awards' Banquet Committee have decided to try the Sunset Grill in Clearwater again for the 2010 banquet on February 13. On the plus side, it is very close to the Long Center, has a wide variety of entrees, a full cash bar and will have less preparation and set up since it is in a public restaurant. The Florida LMSC will continue to subsidize the event and the cost will remain at \$10 per adult, \$5 per child (12 and under). Negatives from last year will be addressed. The Social will start at 4:30 pm rather than 5 pm to accommodate swimmers who get

finished earlier than others. There will be a microphone so that announcements will be clearer. Awards will be presented after dinner and before the deserts are served. The room will be arranged so that award winners can move about and pick up their awards.

- D. **Championship Meet Scheduling:** There was discussion earlier in the meeting about meet scheduling around USMS National meets. The rule book was searched at the meeting, but this rule could not be found. *After the meeting, the acting secretary searched through the USMS Rule Book (via internet search engines) and found two scheduling rules in Part 5, United States Masters Swimming, Inc.: Organization and Bylaws. The rules state:*

**502.9 LMSC Championship Meets**

***Each LMSC may conduct championship meets, but meets identified as such should not be scheduled beginning the weekend before through and including the weekend following the USMS Short Course and Long Course National Championship Meets.***

**503.5 Zone Championship Meets**

***Each zone may conduct zone championship meets that should not be scheduled from the weekend before through the weekend following the USMS Short Course and Long Course National Championship Meets.***

- E. **Newsletter discussion** tabled from last meeting: Discussion continued on whether to discontinue a paper mailed newsletter to our members. Pros are saving money for the LMSC and cons were that some members do not have internet access. The consensus was to continue with the paper newsletter, but to encourage our members who have internet access to opt out of receiving a mailed copy. Notices will be put in the newsletter and on the website. Members who have previously opted in or out, can contact Registrar, Meredith Moore to change their status at any time.
- F. **Policy Manual** - Meegan reported that she was working on a policy manual that she will present at the next meeting. She has gone through all of the minutes that are posted on our website and will post this current policy history online.
- I. **Treasurer's Report - Jim Stine** (postponed from above): Jim reported that as of September 30, 2009 the Florida LMSC had expenses of \$23,095.06 leaving a net income of \$7,739.51 with total assets of \$54,662.72. The Budget was well within range but all convention expenses have not been added yet and there will be one more newsletter for the year. It was noted that the postage was under budget by around \$1,200. Jim pointed out that postage expenses for the newsletter are now put in the newsletter budget rather than the postage budget as had been done in the past.
1. Annual Review: Jim said that Christine Swanson has volunteered to review our books for 2008. This review will be ready by our first meeting of 2010. Meegan said that our bylaws state that someone other than the treasurer shall verify the bank balances and samplings of the revenue and expense documentation. There is also a 2006 Florida LMSC policy to hire an "outside the LMSC" source to formally do a compilation of our financial records every two years. Jim said that he can easily put together information for an outside source to review and the cost will be around \$400. The consensus was that this may not be necessary. No action was taken.
  2. The 2010 Budget will be presented at the first LMSC meeting next year.

*Joannie Campbell moved and Pete Nickodem seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion carried.*

#### **IV. New Business**

- A. **2009 Convention** - All delegate convention reports are posted online and convention delegates present have provided copies of their reports. Meegan asked that each delegate contribute one

important item from convention. There was enough time to go around twice to each delegate present:

1. **Margie Hutinger** stated that (1) USMS conventions are very important for networking with other LMSCs and individuals and many important ideas can be brought back for our LMSC. (2) Masters can continue to use the new tech swimsuit for SCY competitions until FINA adopts the rule that eliminates their use in LCM competitions. One controversial aspect of this is that the SCY 2010 season has already started, so some will be able to swim and set records with the suits, while others will not.
2. **Joannie Campbell** said that (1) Executive Director Rob Butcher has renegotiated contracts and has reduced expenses for USMS. She informed the group that she has been selected to serve on the Financial Committee which was made a committee of the Board of Directors at convention this year. (2) Joannie is on a subcommittee with Barb Protzman, Jerry Clark, and Patty Nardozzi to establish guidelines for Dixie Zone Championship events in an effort to make them as uniform as possible.
3. **Bill Brenner** said that (1) bidders for USMS Nationals are told prior to convention whether or not they have been selected which saves the losing bidders money by not having to attend Convention. He said that Mesa Arizona won the SCY bid and Auburn won the bid for LCM Nationals for 2011. (2) In 2010, Orlando will host the Dixie Zone SCY Championships on March 26-28; Sarasota will host the Dixie Zone LCM Championship June 12-13, 2010 and New Orleans will host the Dixie Zone SCM Championships in December. Sarasota will also host the Dixie Zone Open Water Championship on October 2, 2010.
4. **Meegan Wilson** said that (1) USMS has developed LMSC Minimum standards and these are now posted on our website. (2) USMS is interested in chapters or workout groups of larger teams and wants to establish a yearly charge similar to Club registration. Their prime concern was being able to contact and service their members, but discussion at convention indicated that adding the "workout fee" could generate over \$22,000 for USMS. While this change in legislation failed at convention, it will return in 2010.

**B. Bylaws Change Proposal** - Meegan said that our bylaws require two signatures on all checks written. USMS only requires LMSCs to have two signatures on checks \$5,000 or higher. Jim proposed to only require two signatures on checks that are \$250 or more. This will make it easier to make small reimbursements and other billings. The members present agreed with this proposal. This bylaws change will be presented to the membership prior to our next meeting so that a vote can be taken at the meeting.

**C. National Bids** - Meegan said that at our first meeting in 2009 she had commented that she did not want clubs to bid against one another for USMS National meets. She wanted to make it clear that if a club wants to bid on a USMS National Championship they must inform the LMSC prior to bidding. There was a problem this year in that both St Pete Masters and Sarasota Y Sharks Masters bid on National Championship meets for 2011. It is not good for the Florida LMSC to have clubs bidding against one another regardless of whether they are bidding for SCY or LCM. It is highly unlikely for USMS to award both Nationals in the same LMSC for the same year. If a club plans to bid, then they will need the full support of the LMSC and its membership. This may not be the same problem for a USMS postal event since traveling is not involved, but bidders of postal events should also have the backing of the LMSC.

With no further business the members present agreed to adjourn the meeting at 4:14 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Meegan Wilson  
Acting Secretary