

FLORIDA LMSC Board Meeting, January 21, 2026

Chair:	Cheryl Kupan	Session #:	1
Minutes recorded by:	Zena Courtney	Vice Chair:	Kirk Clear
		Date/time of meeting:	January 21, 2026, 7:00 pm EDT

Motions Passed:

- 1) The FI LMSC Annual Meeting Minutes from October 30, 2025, were approved with edits.
- 2) The Finance Report and Committee reports were approved.
- 3) A motion to adjourn at 8:33PM EST was approved.

- 1) Motions Not Passed: None

No. of Committee members present: 10 Absent: 2 Number of other delegates present: 0

Committee members present: Cheryl Kupan/Chair, Kirk Clear/Vice Chair, Terri Goodman/Treasurer, Zena Courtney/Secretary, Scott Bay, Andy Kroupa, Anna Lea and Jim Matysek, Meegan Wilson, Ryan Kloppe

Absent: Cindi Wood, Carter Elliott

JAN 21, 2026 MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order by Cheryl at 7:00 PM EDT.

A. WELCOME & ROLL CALL (Cheryl Kupan)

Cheryl opened the meeting at 7:00PM. The meeting began with discussion of technical difficulties Kirk was experiencing with his phone's text messaging functionality, which carrier was unable to resolve. The group discussed the positive impact of the new St. Pete Masters coach, Kelly Parker-Palace, who has implemented a more interactive coaching approach. Scott Bay confirmed that his membership renewal was processed on November 3rd, and entries for the upcoming Rowdy Meet were reported to be at 312, slightly lower than last year's 374 which was rescheduled due to a hurricane incident.

Ed Coates, President of USMS was on the call. He informed the group about legal challenges in Florida and Texas, where state authorities filed suits against USMS and LMSCs, alleging deceptive trade practices and public nuisances. Ed assured that their outside counsel would handle the suits, with USMS covering costs, and emphasized that LMSC members are not personally liable. The team discussed concerns about the Open Water Nationals in Sarasota, with Ed noting that while the 20-day response window could overlap with the event, they would do everything possible to ensure its continuation. Ed also addressed issues with email forms on the LMSC website, promising to investigate and resolve the problem.

The board discussed concerns about potential legal challenges to upcoming meets, with Scott noting his involvement as meet director and the possibility of injunctions being filed. The group agreed to monitor the situation closely but remain silent for now, while preparing potential responses.

B. APPROVAL OF THE LAST MEETING'S MINUTES (Zena Courtney)

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The board reviewed the annual meeting minutes from October 2025 and approved them with several edits, including correcting spelling errors and updating dates. Motion by Kirk Clear to approve minutes with edits, second by Meegan Wilson, all in favor, none opposed. **Motion passed.**

C. FINANCE REPORT (Terri Goodman)

Terry presented the finance report, highlighting a \$12,467 increase in net worth for 2025 and a 22.1% decrease in memberships compared to 2024. The 2025 budget versus actual expenses was reviewed, along with the 2026 budget, which will be used for comparison in the next meeting. Cheryl suggested cutting the airfare budget for next year's annual meeting from \$5,000 to \$2,500 due to the virtual format, but the group decided to keep it at \$5,000 as it's only a budget and actual spending will be lower. The group also discussed changing the registered agent for the LMSC to Cheryl, as it needs to be filed by April 1st, and agreed to complete the annual conflict of interest form once Cheryl confirmed to whom it applied. Motion by Anna Lea to approve report, second by Kirk Clear, all in favor, none opposed. **Motion passed.**

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Membership (Cindi Wood)

Cheryl reported for Cindi. The membership report showed an increase in registered members from 1,672 to 1,715 compared to last year. Jim clarified that the USMS year-end 2025 figures included college club swimmers, which distorted the actual membership numbers. The USMS national registration numbers remained virtually the same between 2025 and 2026. Motion by Anna Lea to approve report, second by Terri Goodman, all in favor, none opposed. **Motion passed**

2) Awards – (Ryan Kloppe)

Ryan reported that four people have submitted nominations for the Leather Lung award, but no submissions have been received for other awards. He proposed using kickboards as an alternative to bobbleheads for awards, with a minimum order of 15 at \$24.99 each, though this would require all awards to be the same design. Kirk suggested using the Florida LMSC logo with the text "Annual Award Winner" to allow for multi-year use. The group discussed the possibility of customizing kickboards with different colors for different years, and Cheryl agreed to provide a logo for mock-ups. Kirk offered to have his friend in Melbourne explore the possibility of creating custom kickboards with plaques.

3) Coaches (Scott Bay)

Scott announced that there is an upcoming coaching clinic for Level 2 and 3 certification in Atlanta on March 1st. He noted that there was interest from several people in Orlando and Kirk offered same interest on Swim Melbourne for similar training. They agreed to reach out to Bill about organizing spring clinics, with a previous decision to cover 100% of costs but not travel expenses.

4) Official Reports (Cindi Wood)

Cheryl announced that the new officials' shirts have been ordered and may debut at the Rowdy meet. She also added that Rowdy will be the tester for the newly initiated meet stipend policy,

5) Newsletter/Webmaster (Meegan Wilson)

Meegan has updated the website, including posting reports and minutes. She updated the Clubs page and mentioned a new club called UNAT that should change its name as it's confusingly similar to "unattached," which is the acronym's actual meaning. This is being handled by the USMS office. The group also discussed whether US-14, an unregistered club, should be allowed to vote at meetings. It was decided that while they are important members, they should not be allowed to vote and should be encouraged

to join a registered club. Meegan is working on the February newsletter and requested Ryan to send information about awards.

6) Sanctions & Top Ten (Anna Lea)

Anna Lea provided a report that listed the upcoming meets for 2026, which is very similar to the meet schedule form 2025. There is a new masters meet in Jacksonville scheduled for February 7th, organized by Swim Rise Masters. Anna Lea shared the issue with pool measurements for the November 2025 Ft. Lauderdale swim meet, where USMS accepted only Sunday times due to measurement errors on Friday and Saturday. Anna Lea announced the YMCA Nationals at Sarasota this year, but still waiting on an athlete attestation waiver link to complete registration page. Board questioned if there was a transgender policy for the YMCA. Cheryl noted that she would find out.

7) Records (Jim Matysek)

Jim reported that he retired 2 days ago and has the starting info to update the LMSC records. He will update manually and investigate if an automated approach is possible.

8) Senior Games (Carter Elliott)

Kirk Clear reported that the Nationals Senior Games are in 2027 in Tulsa, Oklahoma so interested swimmers need to attend a qualifier meet and state meet in 2026 to be eligible for participation.

9) Long Distance & Open Water (Andy Kroupa)

Andy shared that the April 4-5 USMS Open Water Nationals at Nathan Benderson Park is proceeding as planned. The Board shared that the FL AG may levy an injunction on this event. Rumor has it that Big Mike has been captured and removed from the park.

A motion was made by Scott Bay to approve all Committee reports, second by Kirk Clear, all in favor, none opposed. **Motion passed.**

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Continuation of By-Laws Update (Cheryl Kupan & Kirk Clear)

Cheryl offered that she and Kirk will create a red line version of the suggested By-Laws updates. No huge changes, but Kirk and Cheryl are working to align them with other LMSCs including which Board members are elected versus appointed. Anna Lea offered that if there are only four (Chair/Vice Chair/Treasurer/Secretary) elected officers, that their appointment of other Board members could limit the voice of the rest of the membership.

2. Board membership reimbursements – Terri shared that all reimbursements requested have been fulfilled. Board members are encouraged to submit any outstanding reimbursements quickly.

3. Meet Stipend – As Rowdy will be the first meet to use the stipend payment, Jim Matysek agreed to create a reimbursement form for meet stipend payments to help streamline the process with Terry.

F. NEW BUSINESS

Cheryl highlighted the upcoming 2026 National events in our LMSC:

A, Masters YMCA Nationals in Sarasota, FL. Dates: April 16-19, 2026, Entries close: tbd

B. USMS Sprint & Long Distance Open Water Championships in Sarasota, FL. Dates: April 3-4, 2026, Entries close: March 30, 2026, or until maximum # of entrants entered. Entries currently at 65 for each event,

A motion was made by Scott Bay to adjourn, second by Kirk Clear, all in favor, no one opposed. **Motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.