

Connecticut LMSC Board Meeting
August 18,2021.

Board Members Present 5:00p.m.- 6:00 p.m.: Ally Sega, Ben Wyckoff, Bill Geoghegan, Rob Duguay, Janit Romaino, Sarah King, and Sian Nimkoff.

Board Members Present 6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.: Ally Sega, Ben Wyckoff, Rob Duguay, Sarah King, Pam Moss, Jeff Sargent, Tommy St. Vincent, and Paul Epstein.

Board Members Absent: Melissa Duguay, Barb Baker, Tait Michael, and Cheryl Edison.

Meeting Agenda Outline:

1. Connecticut LMSC Annual Meeting.

- a. Meeting is planned for Saturday September 11th, 2021 from 3:00p.m.-4:00p.m. We picked this date as we would like to have an annual meeting before the first session of the House of Delegates occurs at the USMS Annual Convention on Friday September 24th, 2021.
- b. An email will be sent out two weeks in advance of our meeting on Saturday September 11th to CT- LMSC members to notify members of our annual meeting. A reminder email will be sent a week prior to the meeting. Both emails will include a link to the Zoom meeting. The first one hundred participants will be able to participate and watch the meeting live, as per zoom guidelines. The meeting will be recorded and will be published on the CT-LMSC website so that those not able to watch the meeting live will still be able to participate.
- c. Zoom does not allow reservations. We cannot allow allocated spots for board members in the zoom meeting, so our CT-LMSC annual meeting will be open as a live stream to the first one hundred participants.

2. Voting Topics for Approval By CT- LMSC Board Officers.

- a. We unanimously voted (of those present at the meeting the vote was unanimous) to extend the deadline of awarding club aid as \$1500.00 grants to masters swim clubs and workout groups within CT-LMSC to December 31st,2021. \$3,000.00 of the allocated \$15,000.00 has already been awarded to Westchester and Westport Masters Swim Clubs. CT-LMSC is looking to target Waterbury, Orange, and Hartford Masters as potential clubs and workout groups that will utilize the club aid grants.
- b. We unanimously voted (of those present at the meeting the vote was unanimous) to allocate \$5,000 from our budget for grants of \$1000 per meet to be given to facilities interested in hosting meets to offset meet costs. We are looking to restart masters swim meets in our area and are hopeful that giving a facility a grant of \$1000 would help us to utilize that facility as a meet venue and allow for partnership between that facility and CT-LMSC as a host site for a masters swim

meet. As we look to restart options masters swim meets in CT-LMSC we need to make sure that we are being mindful of registration fees and other costs to run a meet such as officials, and meet manager and timing table operators. Our board had a lengthy discussion on ways to have the CT-LMSC take on more of the responsibilities of running a meet instead of relying solely on the facility to have ownership of the meet and its operation. We also discussed that this \$1000 grant would be a one-time grant. At this point in time our focus should be on keeping programs going and providing opportunities to return to competition.

- c. We had voted previously (back in 2017) to allocate funds for a computer system and laser level/ measuring device which was never purchased. At today's CT-LMSC meeting we unanimously approved purchasing a laser measuring device. Rob found a 165 ft/50 meter measuring device for \$23 on Amazon and as a board we voted to get that measuring device purchased. The CT-LMSC board also unanimously approved purchasing a laptop and Meet manager software programs that assist in the running of a masters swim meet. We also voted to approve a Google Account for a Business or Non- Profit. Provided we obtain or 5013C USMS account number, we can apply for this account. The google account costs \$4 a month and would be paid by the LMSC. Rob and Pam will take on getting the CT- LMSC google account registered and obtaining our USMS non-profit account number.

3. State of the Connecticut LMSC.

- a. As of August 16,2021, we have 368 registered members. These registered members belong to six club and three workout groups within CT- LMSC.
- b. In 2019-2020 we had 499 Registered Members. These registered members belonged to eleven clubs and six workout groups within CT- LMSC.
- c. The total losses from the 2019-2020 season to the 2020-2021 season are a 27% decline in members, 46% decline in clubs and a 50% decline in workout groups. Ally reminded us that in talking about these losses that we are doing better as an LMSC with registered members in 2021 than we were in 2011, at which time we had 200-250 members.
- d. The question for our CT- LMSC remains: how can we get back to the number of members we saw in the 2019-2020 season and more importantly how can we retain members and programs. We discussed how we can do outreach. That it took advertising a personal touch, which included calls and emails to former members, facilities that ran masters' programs, and coaches of masters programs within our LMSC. Again, the task at hand is not only getting members back, but retaining members and programs as we move forward as an LMSC.

4. CT- LMSC Upcoming Elections.

- a. Per the CT-LMSC bylaws we hold elections every two years for Chair, Secretary, Membership Coordinator/ Registrar, and Treasurer. Our last election was held in 2019. In addition to fulfilling our bylaw to hold elections, we are looking to fill the position of Membership Coordinator/ Registrar Sian Nimkoff, who is stepping down. Sian served as our Membership Coordinator/ Registrar for eleven years.
- b. A call for nominations for Chair, Secretary, Membership Coordinator/ Registrar, and Treasurer will be made public via email and our annual meeting. Nominations will be due by October 31, 2021. The CT-LMSC will circulate the nominations and a vote will be held. In November an email will be circulated with the slate of candidates. The deadline to vote for the candidates as slated in the email is December 1st, 2021. The new CT-LMSC board members will be installed by January 1st, 2022.
- c. All nominees need to be registered members of CT- LMSC and must be nominated by two fellow members of the CT- LMSC. This includes incumbents who desire to stay in their current positions.

5. New CT- LMSC Business.

- a. Our current bank account balance is \$54,617.13. We spent \$3,000 on club aid grants, so our bank balance is \$3,000 less than it was at our previous meeting.
- b. As CT- LMSC, we want to applaud all the hard work done by Sian over her last eleven years as Membership coordinator/ Registrar. Sian does have a candidate in mind for her position, however she wants to talk to that person first and will then contact Rob after talking to that person. It was also discussed that if we had a Volunteer of the Year Award, our first recipient would be Sian.
- c. CT- LMSC took stock of swim caps and other LMSC membership items that our LMSC has to give out to members. It was discussed that we should do a reorder for swim caps in November, so that we could give them to members when they register for the 2021-2022 season. CT-LMSC also discussed ordering caps and t-shirts for those representing CT-LMSC at USMS nationals and Worlds, however members would have to pay for those caps and t-shirts themselves. Our LMSC also discussed changing the color of our current swim caps from silver to navy blue.
- d. CT- LMSC will hold a fall meeting in October. One item on the agenda in October will be our LMSC scholarship program. Ally will write up an outline on the LMSC scholarship program and present it to the CT- LMSC board at the October meeting.

- e. Resource management: It is currently extremely complicated to search for facility contacts and workout group coach contacts within our current website and previous contacts due to the ever-changing workplace environment at our practice facilities within CT- LMSC. We discussed creating a google document that contain public information on facilities, coaches, and members at those workout and club sites at facilities. However, that google document should only be accessed by the board. In thinking about creating a master list we need to make sure that we follow all best practices for privacy protection and other protocol that relates to privacy concerns for that google document. It was also discussed that once a member was no longer on the board, as this document would be accessible to board members only, their ability to access this document would be revoked.
- f. Discussion in relation to upcoming USMS annual convention: There is proposal on the floor of the House of Delegates to extend Long Course Meters Season to end on October 10th. This would be a change from the traditional season ending date of September 30th due to the postponement of Long Course Nationals to October 7th-10th, 2021. This proposal has been approved by the Rules Committee and needs a 50% majority off approving votes by voting members at the 2021 USMS Annual Meeting. Our CT- LMSC board also discussed that another proposal on the floor of the House of Delegates would be the unified fee. As an LMSC we discussed that we would favor any legislation that related to unified fees to support a stronger partnership and closer ties with USA Swimming and USA Triathlon. Regardless of what our board might collectively or personally believe about extension of Long Course Meters Season or Unified fees we all must agree that there is a value propitiation to our membership and we need to support the CT-LMSC in providing opportunities for practice, competition, and social events within our LMSC.
- g. CT- LMSC should be self-supporting. Currently within our LMSC we have three USMS certified officials. We discussed potential official candidates and developing a core of coaches, officials, and facilities to host meets within our LMSC. Within USMS there is no meet director course, however within USA Swimming there is an Administrative Official course. The Administrative official course is geared towards running the timing table and other meet timing software programs at a swim meet. CT-LMSC has a list of pools within our LMSC that are sanctionable and able to host a master swim meet. The question that remains is are pools not on that list able to be sanctionable and the answer to this question becomes a part of our outreach and identifying facilities within our \$1000 meet assistance grant program that fulfill sanctioning requirements to host a CT- LMSC masters swim meet.
- h. We discussed how we as an LMSC can provide social opportunities, clinics, and regional group workouts to our members. We discussed the opportunity to do a

swim clinic at the holidays, monthly social outings, and personal outreach to members. We specifically discussed the opportunity to promote CT- LMSC at Quassy Open Water Festival as well as providing a social opportunity to members to meet up after the open water event. Jeff Sargent volunteered to contact Dave (race director) in regards to CT-LMSC providing hospitality to the open water swimmers at the event as well as putting up a tent and banner to promote CT- LMSC at the event.

** Update to Quassy Open Water Festival Hospitality Tent: Jeff Sargent spoke with Dave Heller. Dave is okay with CT-LMSC having a hospitality area and setting up a tent at the Quassy Open Water Festival. An email was sent to all CT-LMSC board members on Monday August 23rd in relation to items needed for the CT-LMSC hospitality area at the Quassy Open Water Festival. Ben and Ally have volunteered to bring a tent, the banner, coolers, and swim caps. Ally stated that they will need help with set up of the tent. As of August 23rd, there are 60 swimmers registered for the Quassy Open Water Festival. Tommy St. Vincent sent out an email reminder to all CT-LMSC Members with a link to the event registration on August 24th.