

GULF MASTERS SWIM COMMITTEE MEETING APPROVED 10-10-2024

Oct. 7, 2024 In-person meeting @ La Madeleine in the Carillon 6:30 pm

Gulf Officers present: Nicole Christensen (Chair, Communications-Webmaster), Karlene Denby (Treasurer, Communications Chair/Newsletter, Fitness Co-Chair), Kris Wingenroth (Secretary)

Gulf Committee Chairs present: Linda Visser (Membership Coordinator, Top Ten), Patrick Harrington (Coach's Chair), Andreas Lorenz (Long Distance Chair), Kevin Lunsford (Sanctions)

Team Representatives present: None

Not present: Stacey Eicks (Vice-Chair, Fitness Co-Chair), Alana Wilson (Social Media Chair), Herb Schwab (Officials), Jill Gellatly (College Club Swimming Liaison), Anna Bass (Diversity & Inclusion Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm.

Nicole welcomed attendees. All members present are certified to vote.

The minutes from the 5/13/2024 meeting were approved via email on 5/21/2024 and have been posted.

1. OFFICER & CHAIR REPORTS:

- a. **Chairman** – Nicole Christensen – In the September USMS Annual Meeting, the HOD voted to eliminate sanction fees for pool and open water events. College Club Swimming bridge fees were also eliminated. The membership fee for 2025 was raised to \$75 (up \$5) for individuals and clubs. The membership plus fee was raised to \$125 (up \$10). Starting in 2025, the fee going back from USMS to the LMSC will be reduced from \$14 per member to \$12 per member.
Several Gulf members received USMS awards: Kevin Lunsford: Dorothy Donnelly Service Award, Karlene Denby: Fitness Award, Anna Bass: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award. Congratulations to our wonderful Gulf LMSC volunteers.
Grown Up Swimming is expanding and will hopefully start growing in the Houston area.
A new USMS product, Lane Mate, will be launched soon. It is a monthly or yearly subscription that will be offered to non-members. It will include fitness logs, the workout library, online content, a unique streamline issue, and video stroke analysis. It does not provide USMS membership or the ability to swim in USMS sanctioned events.
USMS will begin offering video stroke analysis to both Lane Mate subscribers and USMS members. Additional technological advances continue to be made on the USMS website.
- b. **Vice Chairman** – Stacey Eicks – no report
- c. **Secretary** – Kris Wingenroth – no report
- d. **Treasurer** – Karlene Denby
As of 9/30/24 we have a fund balance of \$76,620.24. Our cash balance in our checking account is \$7172.29 and we have \$63,842.34 in CDs.
- e. **Membership Coordinator and Top Ten** – Linda Visser
As of 10/02/24, we have 903 members and 28 teams. Last year at the end of October, we had 897 members and 25 teams.
Top Ten: The results for the First Time for Everything Meet have been uploaded. There were 50 swimmers. The results for the TEST Fall Opener Meet will be uploaded soon. There were 32 swimmers.
- f. **Sanctions** – Kevin Lunsford - The following meets have been sanctioned:
 - First Time for Everything Meet, 9/23/24
 - Texas Elite Fall Opener, 9/29/24
 - Shark Attack at Lake Longhorn, 10/13/24 (open water) – open for registration
 - Sabine Weiser November Classic, 11/9-10/24 (SCM) – open for registration

- Sweetheart Swim 2025, 02/16/2025 (SCY)

Kevin is reviewing the measured pools database for the pools in the Gulf LMSC in order to assist meet directors requesting sanctions for facilities that have not recently hosted a meet. He is also organizing material to send to meet directors so they better understand the sanctioning process. He also suggests that we may wish to give more publicity to the SMOG grant program which has not been utilized for several years.

g. **College Club** – Jill Gellatly- not present– No report.

h. **Fitness** – Karlene Denby –

The 2025 Fall Fitness event began on Oct. 1st. It is a Virtual Swim to San Antonio (68 swimming miles) to be completed between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31st. The event currently has 29 entrants. Participation awards will be given to all participants. It has not yet been determined if there will be a post event social.

i. **Coaches/Club** – Patrick Harrington – The Coach on Deck program has been suspended for now. Patrick believes that in order to foster “coaches’ cohesion” we have to set up methods to contact them in ALL ways. He suggests a bulk text message program be used. Patrick’s priority is to build a team with the Gulf coaches by forming an organized coaches committee that can share information and coaching techniques, etc. After that, the Coach on Deck program could be reintroduced more successfully. Patrick will look into a trial for a mass text message program.

j. **Open Water/Long Distance** – Andreas Lorenz – Seven swimmers participated in the 5000/10,000 Virtual swim. Their rankings included 1 national champion, 5 second placed finishes, and 1 seventh place finish. The 3000/6000 Virtual swim was held on 10/6/24 at Kingwood Park High School. Coach John Dissinger arranged for pool access at no cost to the Gulf. Andreas would like to get the 2025 events on the calendar sooner and offer more creative incentives for people to participate.

2025 Virtual Championships: The Gulf will offer events for all three swims: the 1 Hour (1/25/25 @ Dads & TBA @ Kingwood Park HS), the 5000/10,000 (likely on June 7) and the 3000/6000 (beginning of Oct.). Possibly the Gulf could offer an unofficial event, such as a relay of 5 people swimming 2000 each.

Open water clinics: Andreas is searching for ideas on how to attract swimmers to this type of clinic.

Other possible events: Possibly open water group swims could be held at Lake Longhorn or Lake Conroe or an outing to Austin held. Possibly an Open Water Clinic for experienced and novice racers could be held.

Budget request: Andreas would like to make a 2025 budget request of \$150 for food, drink and participation awards for each of the three Virtual Swims. This is a total request for \$450.

k. **Diversity and Inclusion** – Anna Bass – not present – no report.

l. **Newsletter** – Karlene Denby – The Summer Newsletter has been posted.

m. **Website and Emails** – Nicole Christensen – no report

n. **Social media** – Alana Wilson – not present - no report

o. **Officials** – Herb Schwab – not present - no report

2. SOUTH CENTRAL ZONE REPORT:

a. The 2025 Grand Prix Open Water Series events will be announced during the final 2024 event, Shark Attack, Oct. 13. New swim events have been added.

b. The bids for the Spring Zone Champs meets are being collected and will be voted on by the USMS Annual Meeting zone delegates. A bid is being presented by the W.W. Emmons Natatorium in Houston (Spring Branch ISD).

c. Nominations for the 2024 Jesse Coon Award should be made ASAP.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Nicole reminded everyone that they should be subscribed to the USMS forums.

2. The website analytics is an ongoing project that has been pushed aside for the time being.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion was made to allocate up to \$105 for replacement t-shirts for the Gulf Swim University virtual swim. (Karlene, Kevin) Motion passed unanimously.
2. A motion was made to make a donation of \$100 each to SHAC and Kingwood Park HS for use of their pools for the virtual championship swims. (Karlene, Kevin) Motion passed unanimously. (Note: Kingwood Park has subsequently declined to accept a donation for their pool use.)
3. It was discussed that we may want to survey our members, either formally or informally, to ask them what services or events they would like the Gulf to provide for them.
4. Thanksgiving Day Swim: Dads Club has confirmed that the Gulf can use their pool again at the same cost as last year. The swim will be from 8:30-10:30 am on 11/28/24.
5. Elections: This is an election year. All officer positions have incumbents eligible for an additional two-year term of service. A notice of the Annual Meeting and Election slate will be posted to our membership.
6. Budget: Karlene presented a draft of a preliminary budget for 2025. A few adjustments were made. The budget will be presented for further review and final approval early in 2025.
7. Annual Meeting: The date for the Annual meeting has been tentatively set for Saturday Dec. 7th, to be held at Nicole's house. Board members should be thinking of ways to encourage member attendance at the meeting. Although mostly a social meeting, elections will be held.
5. **SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING** The next meeting, the Annual Meeting, will tentatively be held: Dec. 7th at Nicole's house.
6. **THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 8:40 pm.**

UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE:

Pool Competitions:

Nov 9-10, 2024	Sabine Weiser SCM Classic (Gulf)
Jan. 24, 2025	First Chance LC Invitational (Arkansas)
Jan. 24-25, 2025	Arkansas Masters SCM Invitational (Arkansas)
Feb 16, 2025	Sweetheart Swim SCY (Gulf)
Mar. 8, 2025	March Madness (Gulf)
Jun. 1, 2025	Graham Johnston Invitational (Gulf)

Open Water Swims:

Oct. 13, 2024	Shark Attack #2 – Grand Prix #5 – Lake Longhorn in League City, TX
Apr. 13, 2025	Lake Longhorn Round Up – 2025 Grand Prix #1 – League City, TX

2024 USMS Events

Oct 18-20, 2024	USMS Relay and USMS National Coaches Clinic, Houston Marriott IAH Airport
-----------------	---

2025 National and World Competitions:

Apr 24 – 27, 2025	2025 USMS Spring Short Course Nationals San Antonio, TX
July 24 – Aug 4, 2025	2025 Senior Games (specific swim days unknown at this time) Des Moines, IA

July 26 – Aug 14, 2025 2025 World Aquatics Masters Championship Singapore

Aug 6 – 10, 2025 2025 USMS Summer Long Course Nationals Federal Way, WA