

GULF MASTERS SWIM COMMITTEE MEETING

May 13, 2024 Zoom meeting 6:00 pm

APPROVED MAY 21, 2024

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

Gulf Committee Chairs present: Patrick Harrington (Coach's Chair), Andreas Lorenz (Long Distance Chair), Alana Wilson (Social Media Chair)

Team Representatives present: None

Not present: Stacey Eicks (Vice-Chair, Fitness Co-Chair), Kevin Lunsford (Sanctions), Herb Schwab (Officials), Linda Visser (Membership Coordinator, Top Ten), Jill Gellatly (College Club Swimming Liaison), Anna Bass (Diversity & Inclusion Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

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

The minutes from the 3/6/2024 meeting were approved via email on 3/10/2024 and have been posted.

1. OFFICER & CHAIR REPORTS:

- a. **Chairman** – Nicole Christensen – (see attached report) The LMSC Development Committee reports that USMS is asking all members to sign up for and engage with the Community Forums on the USMS page. Going forward, all volunteers are asked to interact on the forums to receive information, ask questions and access educational materials. A user guide created by the Communications sub-committee has been created. Also, there is a link to FAQs. All board members should have been automatically signed up for the Forum that pertains to their volunteer role.
- b. **Vice Chairman** – Stacey Eicks – no report-not present
- c. **Secretary** – Kris Wingenroth – no report
- d. **Treasurer** – Karlene Denby (see attached reports)
As of 4/30/24 we have a fund balance of \$76,593.58. Our cash balance in our checking account is \$8,333.29. The payment of the bridge fee for the College Club swimmers was the biggest expense.
- e. **Membership Coordinator and Top Ten** – Linda Visser-not present (see attached report)
As of 5/12/24, we have 754 members and 27 teams, last year at the end of May, we had 750 members and 25 teams.
Top Ten: the results for the SCY zones meet have been submitted.
- f. **Sanctions** – Kevin Lunsford- not present – The following meets have been sanctioned:
 - Shark Attack at Lake Longhorn, 6/2/24 (open water) – open for registration
 - 2024 Long Course Summer Splash (WMST), 6/29/24 – open for registration
- g. **College Club** – Jill Gellatly- not present– School is out, so there is no activity. U of Houston may have a small team.
- h. **Fitness** – Karlene Denby –
 - Gulf Swim University had 56 participants who swam 6,330 miles.
 - 55 of the 56 swimmers achieved degree levels as follows: 11 PhDs (160+ miles), 8 Masters Degrees (120-159 miles), 11 Double Majors (80-119 miles), 18 Bachelor's Degrees (40-79 miles), 7 Associates Degrees (20-39 miles)
 - For the first time, in addition to the participation award, swimmers will be awarded a swim cap with the color based upon the degree level achieved.
 - Three swimmers have participated in the event for all ten years since its inception in 2015. Two of the three will be receiving USMS backpacks which have already been purchased and received from Swim Outlet. (Karlene opted out of the award.)

- This year’s participation award is a navy tee shirt with two-color artwork by Kerry Suhr.
- Swim caps will be an ongoing award. Enough were ordered for this year and probably next year as well. This reduced the price per cap. The supply will be replenished each year going forward.
- The event social will be held at Fuzzy’s Pizza on Saturday, May 18th 2-4 p.m. All Gulf board members are invited to attend. *Secretary’s Note: due to the power outage at Fuzzy’s, the event was held as scheduled but moved to Star Pizza #1.*
- Karlene is already planning a new fitness event, a virtual swim to San Antonio, the location of Spring Nationals in 2025. One swimming mile will equal four walking miles so the swimming distance will be about 50 miles. It will run from September to the end of the year.
- i. **Coaches/Club** – Patrick Harrington – no report
- j. **Open Water/Long Distance** – Andreas Lorenz – The open water clinic may be cancelled due inadequate participation.
- k. **Diversity and Inclusion** – Anna Bass – not present - The “Water you waiting for” art car was a huge success! The car was well received by the spectators. There were lots of awesome conversations with people about learning to swim and masters swim programs. Thirty people signed up for free swim lessons with the car. For the first week of lessons, there were five people in attendance. The lessons went well and the Northside High School swimmers were excited to help. Week two brought eleven swimmers! Some people made huge steps from getting comfortable putting their face in the water to three swimmers making it across the pool for their first time. One swimmer cried she was so happy! Week three will start today. Perhaps the Gulf could have a masters event with the car to get a few summer sessions going!
- l. **Newsletter** – Karlene Denby – The Spring Chlorine Chronicles was posted on the website on May 5th and an email was sent to membership to let them know about it. The link to the newsletter was clicked on 55 times from that email. The next newsletter will come out in either August or September 2024.
- m. **Website and Emails** – Nicole Christensen –
 - Website: The website was updated to a white background color to differentiate it from the old web site that people still go to and that is still live. The old website has not been taken down because it was registered privately and requires the owner to remove. This has been requested several times to no avail.
 - Emails: Three emails have gone to Gulf only members since the last meeting in March. They have an average total open rate of 87% and an average click rate of 7.6%.
- n. **Social Media** – Alana Wilson –
 - Posts continue to go up regarding current Gulf events on the Gulf Facebook and Instagram pages.
- Spring Zones** – 229 swimmers entered from 13 LMSCs. 72 new Zone Champs Meet Records were set. Two new National records. Sessions were completed on time. The Champs meet financial report will be coming out in the future after all invoices have been received.
- o. **Officials** – Herb Schwab – no report- not present

5. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Coach-on-Deck discussion: Patrick will continue to work on this.
2. LMSC name change discussion: Deadline is June 1st to submit for this year. Rationale: Several clubs and individuals (unattached) have registered for South Texas thinking that this area is South Texas. They have said that they thought the Gulf referred to areas like Alabama. Since USMS does not mandate that clubs register in the area that they are geographically located in and does not give information to either clubs or individuals about the LMSC map, there is no way to stop this from happening. A motion to vote via email on whether to continue to pursue this was withdrawn (Karlene, Patrick). It was decided to continue discussion on this topic. The preferred choice of name was “Texas Gulf”. Kris and Nicole will continue to pursue discussions with the National Office.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

1. National Coaches Clinic: The Clinic is being held at the Houston IAH Hilton. Fees are \$325 for registration or \$300 if already a designated coach. Other expenses would be a hotel room if a coach wished to stay overnight. Coaches would fill out an application to request the subsidy. Coaches must be a Gulf LMSC member and coaching in the Gulf LMSC. A motion was made to budget \$2500 (\$250 per coach/10 coaches) for the Coach's Clinic. (Andreas, Kris) Motion approved unanimously. The amount can be increased if more than ten coaches apply.
2. Long Course Practice for all Gulf registered members. Nicole is exploring holding a long course practice at Dads Club on Sunday June 23rd from 11 to 12:30. This would be a combined Fitness and Coaches initiative if we proceed. This would be a coached practice with Gulf certified coaches on deck. The pool cost would be \$200. *Rationale: Not all Gulf swimmers have access to a long course pool to swim in. This would be the weekend before our only long course meet, which is currently the only long course meet in the zone before the Summer Zone Champs at SMU at the end of July. This is another method that we can give back to our members as well including Gulf coaches to interact with them.* It was moved that \$400 be budgeted for this event. (Kris, Karlene) Motion approved unanimously.
3. Delegates to the Annual Meeting will need to be selected at the next meeting.

7. **SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING** The next meeting will likely be the week of July 8. A doodle poll will be sent out to determine the exact date.

8. **THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:44 pm.**

UPCOMING EVENTS SCHEDULE:

2024 Pool Competitions:

Jun 20 – 24, 2024	USMS - 2024 USMS Spring Short Course Nationals, Indianapolis, IN
Jun 29, 2024	Save the Date -Summer Splash Conroe ISD Natatorium The Woodlands (Houston area)
Jul 26 – 28, 2024	South Central Zone Summer Champs (long course) SMU Dallas, TX
Aug 21 – 25, 2024	2024 USMS Summer Long Course Nationals, Mission Viejo, CA

Open Water Swims:

Jun 2, 2024	Shark Attack #1 – Grand Prix #3 – Lake Longhorn in League City, TX
Jul 14, 2024	OWS Challenge – Grand Prix #4 – Joe Pool Lake in Cedar Park, TX (Dallas area)
Oct TBA	Shark Attack #2 – Grand Prix #5 – Lake Longhorn in League City, TX

2024 USMS Events

Sep 13-15, 202	USMS Annual Meeting Virtual
Oct 18-20, 2024	USMS Relay and USMS National Coaches Clinic, Houston Marriott IAH Airport

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