

Minutes of the 2012 Annual Southern Masters Swimming Meeting

March 17, 2012 in Baton Rouge

The Annual Meeting was held following the Saturday session of the SMS/Dixie Zone SCY Championships at the Crawfish Aquatic's pool, 7150 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, La.

Nan Fontenot, outgoing SMS Chair, new Communications Chair and Coaches Chair, called the meeting to order. A total of 15 swimmers representing five SMS teams/workout groups signed the attendance sheet including Pat Arnold, Sanctions Chair, Doug Kopp, Registrar, Doug Holmes, Secretary, Vicki Buccino, Top Ten Records Chair, Rob Cambias, Treasurer, Ellen Hall, Vice Chair., Chris Frederic, 2012 Chair and Officials Chair., Tim Root, Open Water and Distance Chair, and Auditor. Absent was Barbara Aquirre, Mississippi board member-at-large, as were swimmers from most teams in Mississippi and the other Dixie Zone states. The Texas Woodlands team was well represented under Coach Tom Boak, meet director for the LCM Championship in Omaha Nebraska in July and past USMS president, who has always supported SMS meets.

Nan Fontenot thanked Shelly Ripple for her excellent presentation on the importance of warm up and cool downs at swim competitions and Terry Jaynes for the participation awards being Dixie Zone Sweatshirts and lunch of jambalaya and bread pudding. Jeff Maynor with the help of the Crawfish Aquatics club members put on a well-run meet that was highly appreciated by 74 swimmers. Nan conducted elections for each of the offices above. There were no nominations from the floor and all officers were elected unanimously. Doug Holmes and Doug Kopp were elected as delegates to attend the USMS National Convention in Greensboro, N.C. in September. Nan presented 13 men and 9 women Top Ten swimmer awards (towel hooks with initials and certificates) in between events (a good idea that should be considered for each SCY Championship), Outstanding Female SMS Swimmer, Fay Lachney, with seven USMS Top Ten places in 2011 and Doug Holmes, Outstanding Male SMS Swimmer with 24 USMS Top Ten places in 2011 and three All-American/first places in 100 fly, 200 fly, and 400 IM in 75-79 Age Group. JoPaul Steiner, age 96, received a plaque recognizing him as the founder of Louisiana Master's swimming, president 1974-80 and holder of 31 Top Ten places from 1976 to 2000.

Doug Holmes received approval of 2011 minutes as submitted to USMS National office and appears on southernmastersswimming.com under *Administration*. He repeated the motion passed in last year's annual meeting "SMS will pay to the SMS coach on the deck who attends a SMS, Dixie Zone, or USMS Championship Meet \$5 for each swimmer from their workout group who pays full meet price and swims in the meet, and an extra \$5 if this is their first master competition".

Rob Cambias gave the treasurer's report in which the positive balance continues to grow from \$18,220 in 2009, to \$24,381 in 2010, and almost \$25,000 currently. Growth is attributed to maintaining SMS membership, a \$5 increase in dues, reducing costs of three SMS Championship meets with more SMS board involvement. Tim Root and Doug Holmes reviewed the checkbook and all looked in order. The auditor, Tim Root, will be reviewing bank statements each quarter, and Rob will send each of the board members a copy of the 2011 SMS Financial statement that he submits to USMS National office at the end of April. Rob will transfer an estimated \$1000 from Ed O'Brian, former SMS treasurer, into the SMS checking account.

Doug Kopp reported that SMS registration for 2012 is already at 515 and expected to exceed 2011 membership of 607. Doug encourages all swimmers to register online, but will accept paper registrations if swimmer has no computer skills. USMS registrations were up 4% in 2011 and so were SMS registrations. The fact that almost one third of the SMS membership does not renew their membership the next year is a continuing problem. It was recommended that the coaches work diligently with the board to come up with a plan to reduce the number of swimmers dropping out each year.

Tim Root, our new Open Water/Distance Chair promoted the first SMS Open Water Swims of 1500m and 3000m in New Rhoads/False River on October 20, 2012, the 5km and 10 km Postal events to be held at Crawfish Aquatic pool (must be swum in 50 m pool) in the summer prior to the SMS LCM Championships on August 17 & 18, 2012 for those swimmers who provide a timer and lap counter. The 3000/6000 yard USMS National Postal events can be swum individually in any club's 25 yd pool. Tim also hopes to have a SMS clinic for distance pool/open water swimming.

Nan Fontenot thanked the board for their help and turned the chair over to Chris Frederick, whose first order of business was to thank Nan for her leadership, organization and dedication during her three years as SMS Chairperson with a beautiful plaque. Chris as a Crawfish Aquatics Master's Coach, a top master's swimmer in SMS and USMS meets, delegate to USMS convention, and previously Vice-chair is the perfect chairperson to replace Nan.

Under new business, Doug Holmes moved that "the Top Ten chair keep records of the best times in each individual age group for those SMS LMSC swimmers who compete(d) in the National Postal Championships for the 3000yd, 6000yd, 5km, 10km, and One Hour Swim as long as the time can be verified." Seconded and passed. He also moved that "SMS continue to pay entry fees for Southern Master's Swimmers entry fees to the USMS National Championships and pay for a SMS team dinner at those meets.

Chris assigned duties for SMS LCM Championships Meet on August 17 & 18, 2012 at UNO:

Meet Director	Janice Roth
Fruit and drinks	Janice Roth
Invitation, flyers, payments, entries, heat sheets & results.....	John Roth
Hosts	SMS officers
Flyers, publicity & Invitations on calendars & web sites etc	Nan & Chris
Responsible for getting starter, referee, judges.....	Janice
Responsible for timers, lap counters.....	Coaches, and swimmers
Responsible for catered food, and drinks at UNO pool on Sat.....	Janice and Ellen
Responsible for participation awards, and ribbons	Chris Frederic
Responsible for pool measurement and payment by SMS check.....	Rob Cambias
Responsible for greeting, registering swimmers all three days.....	Chris, Doug, Doug, Vicki, Ellen
Assemble packets with heat sheet, participation award, party info etc...	Chris and all officers
Responsible for welcome, prayer, announcements.....	Chris Frederic
Responsible for warm up music CD on Sat and Sun.....	Rob & Janice
Responsible for 15 minute devotion on Sunday AM.....	
SMS Board Meeting and Team award presentations	All board members

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Holmes