

ILMSA Conference Call Meeting, 5/7/2012

Heather Howland, ILMSA Chair called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Present were: Heather Howland, ILMSA Chair; Heidi Kafka, Vice-Chair; Ruth Giles-Ott, Secretary; Phil Dodson, Treasurer; Michael McConnell Communications Chair and Webmaster; Laurel Liberty, Coaches Chair; John Traynor, Open Water and LD Chair; AJ Block, Record and Tabulations and Fitness/Health Chair; Fred Pigott, Officials/Safety Chair; and Erik VanEtten, Registrar.

Not present were: Mark Mattson, Sanctions Chair, Awards Chair; Rich Mueller, Officials Chair; Robert Zeitner, Awards Chair; and Chris Colburn, former Chair.

Agenda Items

1. Michael McConnell noted that it took 2 weeks to get the state swim meet results, and suggested that it should be possible to get the results posted as soon as the next day. Laurel Liberty pointed out that the time for results to be posted should be in the contract, and Phil Dodson confirmed that it is. In this case, the contract specified that the results be posted within 2 weeks; accordingly, the meet host complied with the contract. It appeared that there was some confusion as to where to send the results. In future contracts, that information can be included in the meet director's check list.
2. AJ Block discussed the, "I Swam a Marathon," health and fitness event, which former fitness chair Liz Kooy did in the past. A swimmer tracks their yardage or meterage, and upon completing 26.2 miles swimming, they can receive a t-shirt, swim cap, or certificate. Inventory from 2008 includes 36 caps and 20 t-shirts. Additionally, there are 50 undated t-shirts. The art work created for this event was done by a Chicago Smelt, Ron Song. Heidi Kafka offered to contact the artist and get the artwork for this year's event. The cost would be \$5 for ILMSA members, \$10 for non-ILMSA USMS members. The period for completion is June 1st to September 1st, 2012. Registration will be online.
3. Heather Howland reported on the ASCA clinic that took place this fall in Joliet. Phil Dodson was in touch with the organizer of the event, and learned people who attended were very positive about it. Approximately 30 to 40 people attended. Chicago would be a more convenient location than Joliet for many potential attendees. There will be an ASCA event around June 4th in Indianapolis. There are plans for developing an ASCAIII clinic format here in Chicago. However, completing ASCA I and II clinics is a prerequisite for attending ASCA III. Phil Dodson made a motion to actively seek an ASCA I and II clinic in the area, and to even guarantee financial success to the organizer, so that we can support an ASCA III clinic. AJ Block seconded the motion. The motion passed unopposed.
4. Laurel Liberty reported on the State Meet Task Force, which includes Laurel Liberty, Fred Pigott, Jenny Quill, Carl Saxton, and Charles Cunnick. Laurel characterized evaluating how to improve the state meet as a monumental task

- requiring reasonable goals and expectations. They have made a list of what they've heard about the state meet from swimmers, meet officials, and meet organizers. A major issue is the length of time the state swim meet takes. What do we want the state meet to look like? Phil Dodson noted that the timeline of getting bids is October. The report of the task force is scheduled to be presented to the BOD July 23rd for October bids. Phil also recommended the use of Survey Monkey to the task force.
5. Heather Howland noted that applications for the USMS convention in Greensboro, NC, are due in 2 weeks, and as of the conference call, only 2 had been received, including Heather's own application.
 6. Policy regarding Community Events. There was a discussion whether ILMSA should create a policy allowing ILMSA to promote community events that are not ILMSA sanctioned events, such as non-competitive events like Swimming Saves Lives and non-sanctioned swimming events like Swim Across America. John Traynor pointed out that this year Swim Across America, which is not a sanctioned event, conflicts with an ILMSA-sanctioned open water meet, the Central Illinois Open Water Swim. Phil Dodson noted that the purpose of the proposed policy is to encourage swimmers to give back to the larger community. Laurel Liberty said that our membership has certain expectations that ILMSA rules will apply to events we promote. She asked if we had checked with USMS's legal department to see if a change in policy is allowed. Phil Dodson said he had talked to USMS, and was told that we would be best served by coming up with our own policy on the issue. Someone noted that open water swimming is a sensitive issue, given that an ILMSA swimmer died recently in a non-sanctioned open water event. Laurel Liberty pointed out that USA Swimming could not promote Little Shoulders due to liability concerns on the part of their insurer. Phil said we would not be sanctioning or recognizing community events, only promoting them; liability for these events would fall on the event hosts. Heather Howland noted that the organizer of Swim Across America apologized for the conflict with our open water event, and promised to coordinate schedules with ILMSA in the future. Fred Pigott made a motion to table the issue, which Phil Dodson seconded. The motion carried unopposed.
 7. Phil Dodson discussed donations to ILMSA. In 2011, we had \$827 in donations. In addition, in 2011, we had a surplus of over \$10,000. We had a surplus of \$9,000 in 2010. Our organization does not need the money. Instead we could donate the money to Swimming Saves Lives, the USMS initiative to organize members to teach children how to swim as a matter of safety, or to Learn to Swim, which is the local Swimming Saves Lives initiative. The \$827 represents unrestricted donations. Laurel Liberty pointed out that we have costs we could apply these funds to, such as ILMSA awards, or a hospitality room for state meet officials. Phil Dodson moved to table the issue until our next meeting. John Traynor seconded his motion. The motion passed unopposed.

8. Phil Dodson reported that he would file ILMSA's tax return on Friday.
9. Phil Dodson reported that amending our bylaws does not require notice to members at all, contrary to what members argued at the April general membership meeting. Phil Dodson said he would call for a special meeting to vote on the bylaws.
10. Discussion of goals was tabled until our next meeting.
11. John Traynor made a motion to adjourn. Laurel Liberty seconded his motion. The motion passed unopposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.