

USMS Convention — Atlanta, Georgia 2016

Committee Name:	Recognition & Awards	Session #:	1
Committee Chair:	Ray Novitske	Vice Chair:	Sally Dillon
Minutes recorded by:	Ray Novitske	Date/time of meeting:	9/23/16 2:00 p.m. EDT

Actions Requiring Approval by the HOD:

1. --

Motions Passed:

1. MSA to revise the Committee Policy, (507.1.11–C–11) to allow the formal pinning of the Ransom J. Arthur Award lapel pin to take place during a House of Delegates meeting.

Number of committee members present: 12

Absent: 3

Number of other delegates present: 22

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Ray Novitske, Sally Dillon, Rich Burns, Laura Val, Cheryl Gettelfinger, Nancy Ridout, Colleen Driscoll, Megan Lassen, MJ Caswell, Chris Campbell, Tracy Grilli (ex-officio), Chris Stevenson (VP Local Operations)

Committee Members Absent: Ted Haartz, Carolyn Boak, Heather Howland

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. The Chair gave a summary of the committee's activities over the year. The committee presents three service awards, and oversees the other USMS service awards that are presented by other USMS committees. In addition, the committee has elected to take on new projects of a limited nature. We were pleased that the service awards we presented had more than one nomination this year.
2. The budget for 2017 has remained at \$960. This is the same budget amount from the past three years, because no increase is needed based on past expenses. This year's expenses total \$254.90. We are awaiting one more invoice this year.
3. Annual Service Awards reports.
 - a. RJA Award – Nadine Day received the Capt. Ransom J Arthur MD Award this year. She was presented the award during a surprise presentation in Indiana. She also traveled to the National Championship in Greensboro to receive the award in a public presentation.
 - b. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award - We recognize up to 15 individuals for their service to USMS on the local and/or national level. This year, there were 18 nominations, down from 30 or more for each of the past two years. The presentation will again be include a poem written by Hill Carrow, but will be read by Ed Tsuzuki standing in for Hill.
 - c. Club of the Year – Three clubs were nominated in the Local Club category this year, and none for the Regional category. The banner for the recipient will be presented during at a House of Delegates meeting.
 - d. June Krauser Communications Award – Laura, Rich, Cheryl, and Heather selected the recipient this year out of three nominations, up from last year. All three nominees had good ideas for communication.
 - e. Nancy Ridout was recognized this year by an award from the Women in Aquatics.
4. Committee projects reports
 - a. Increasing Nominations – Rich developed another great graphic ad for the Spring Nationals meet program, for *Swimmer* magazine and for *Streamlines*. Megan and Tracy helped send emails to LMSCs calling for service award nominations. We also elevated the visibility of the awards through the presentations at the national convention. Apparently some nominators do not receive an acknowledgement leading to some nominations slipping through the cracks. Our committee does send a message acknowledging receipt for our service awards and Ray will work with the other committees that present service awards to ensure that their nominators are notified after a nomination is received.

- b. IMSHOF – a subcommittee recommended the nomination of Tom Boak for Honor Contributor. The committee voted to approve and a nomination for Tom was prepared and submitted. Tom was selected to receive the award and will be inducted Friday night; all are invited. Nancy suggested nominating an individual from Canada next year, believing it would be good for USMS to consider the accomplishments of contributors from other FINA bodies. Ray suggested we speak with Skip Thompson, who is familiar with Canadian swimming, to suggest that Canada Masters might submit a nomination.
 - c. Service Awards at the Local Level – Several projects have been ongoing for the past few years to help recognize local service. Sally presented five products branded with USMS to be used to help local LMSCs and clubs recognize local volunteer service. An online store will be set up whereby these branded products can be purchased by local groups. Kyle Derry has provided a huge amount of support in setting the program up. The products and store will be rolled out at the convention during a HOD meeting, and will also be promoted to LMSCs through an email campaign and hopefully through the National Office Streamlines. Megan has agreed to send email messages out.
 - d. Award Recipient Web Page Bios – Cheryl, Ray, Sally authored stories for the RJA recipients' award pages on the web site and are tracking down photos as well. The History and Archives Committee has helped with information verification.
 - e. Press Releases – Rich, Laura, Megan, Cheryl wrote press releases for the award recipients this year. These will be sent out to LMSC chairs, vice-chairs, webmasters, and newsletter along with instruction and a page with suggestions for publicizing the awards at the local news media. Press releases and kits will be sent shortly after the awards are announced at the convention. The Club of the Year announcement still needs to be written.
5. The committee reviewed two items in the Committee Policy during the year. Changing the pinning of the RJA recipient from the committee meeting to the house of delegates was discussed. **MSA to change Committee Policy from the pinning of the RJA recipient at the annual committee meeting to a House of Delegates meeting.**
 6. Ranking voter tallies for the RJA Award was discussed in order to prevent run-off votes when no one nominee receives 50% of the votes in the balloting. After discussion, it was decided to make no change to the procedures in the Committee Policy.
 7. There has been no further information from the Officials Committee regarding an Officials Service award.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

1. Next year we will devote more time and effort to increasing nominations for the service awards.
2. We will request that orders for the branded volunteer appreciation merchandise be tracked to determine where the products are being used and to determine what products are being ordered.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. EDT
