

Recognition & Awards Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Name:	Recognition & Awards		
Committee Chair:	Megan Lassen		
Minutes by:	Sally Dillon	Date/time of meeting:	Jan. 28, 2020 5pm PST

Motions Passed with financial implications: none

Motions passed: none

Number of committee members present: 14	Absent: 3	Others present: 3
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Committee members present: Marcia Benjamin, Rich Burns, Nadine Day, Barbara Deshler, Sally Dillon, Jack Groselle, Dean Hawks, Megan Lassen (Chair), Charis McCarthy (Vice Chair), Ray Novitske, Beth Nymeyer, Ginger Pierson, Nancy Ridout, and Laura Val. Also present: Ed Coates (EC Liaison) and Jessica Reilly (National Office).

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Megan Lassen at 5:08 pm PST. She welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that Charis McCarthy is the new Vice Chair.

1. **Committee Overview:** The purpose is to promote awards in USMS. The committee communicates mostly by email and phone. A committee forum is available on the USMS website. Megan would like to meet by conference call every-other month so we can better stay in touch. There were no objections; the next meeting will be in March.
2. **2019 Review:** Megan asked for highlights from committee members. Ray reported that there was a delay in posting last fall's award recipients to the USMS website and that bios have not been written for the past two years. Megan has had difficulties getting a supply of bios posted and Ray offered to take on that task this year. It was noted that we have the early years for Dorothy Donnelly Service Award (DDSA) to complete and they are particularly challenging due to the length of time it's been since they received the award. The R&A Committee is responsible for posting the names of all award winners. We have provided bios for all of the Ransom J. Arthur (RJA) recipients and most of the DDSA recipients. All other awards need bios/stories written and the committees responsible for the awards need to provide the information so we can post it.
3. **2020 Goals & Initiatives**
 - a. **Increasing Nominations:** Over the past year a subcommittee discussed how to increase nominations for awards. Charis said a newsletter was intended to address this and she will continue with that concept. She also suggested that we could use social media to better promote nominations. Promotions are appearing in *Streamlines* and *Swimmer* magazine. The ad for the US Masters Nationals program missed the print deadline in 2019; they'll likely use it this year. Suggestions were made:
 - Send an email to last year's winners and nominators, asking if they could encourage nominations
 - For the DDSA award, Ray and/or Megan could look at the past 6-8 year's nominations to determine which LMSCs are underrepresented – and reach out to those LMSCsNancy noted that encouraging underrepresented LMSCs would likely produce more nominations for the Communications Award and others.
 - b. **MISHOF:** Megan mentioned a discussion with USMS President Peter Guadagni, who encouraged the nomination of a Coach for recognition. Our committee is only empowered to recommend a "contributor"; we have no control over the other awards. We need to determine the nomination deadline, and Rich offered to contact CEO Brent Rutemiller. Ray recalled that a couple of years ago, MISHOF considered new categories.

We could encourage the Hall of Fame to consider a Coach category or make the determination of a coach who qualifies for the Contributor category.

4. **Subcommittee Participation:** Megan asked everyone to let her know via email which committee/s they are interested in.
 - a. Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award: Nadine has already contacted previous nominators. The announcement has appeared in *Streamlines* (at the extreme bottom) and *Swimmer* (pg. 46). Sally will be back-up as needed.
 - b. June Krauser Communications Award: Nancy will lead the selection subcommittee again. She explained that communication is highly important for our organization and the award honors innovative and outstanding ways to communicate with members. Committee members are needed.
 - c. Club of the Year: Laura will lead the selection subcommittee again. The nomination process will be reviewed and revisions may include the allowance of photos. Committee members are needed.
 - d. Dorothy Donnelly Service Award: The R&A Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and the USMS President select the recipients.
 - e. MISHOF Nomination: Rich will lead the nomination subcommittee again. Committee members are needed; the entire committee typically votes to approve the nomination. Jack reported that he is the new USMS Liaison to ISHOF.
 - f. Local Recognition: Charis will lead this subcommittee again. She plans to launch a newsletter that will go to LMSC leaders. Committee members are needed.

Ginger suggested that our committee reach out to award winners in LMSCs and encourage them to recommend volunteers who deserve recognition. Nadine noted that we have done this in the past. Sally suggested that we contact USMS committee chairs and encourage them to nominate valuable members of their committees.

5. **Other committee work:** Megan noted that we need volunteers to work on Award recipient bios for the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm PST
