

**United States Masters Swimming (USMS)
Delaware Valley Local Masters Swimming Committee (DV LMSC)
Minutes of Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 10, 2024**

Welcome

The annual membership meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams and called to order by Chair Jeremy Gross at 2:02pm. Folks on the call at the start of the meeting introduced themselves.

Attending: Chairperson Jeremy Gross, Vice Chair Steve Dougherty, Secretary Alex Bromley, Treasurer Joe Boris, Barbara Burke, Andrea Butchko, Courtney Ford, Dan Allen, Blake Mitchell, Laurie Hug, Denise Escher, Kristie Bruno, Dave Diehl, Dave Gladfelter, David Schneider.

Note: for ease of reference, submitted reports are linked from the report titles as listed below. In addition, they are all found in [this folder](#), which is also linked on our [LMSC website](#).

Our Chair, Jeremy Gross, put together a [PowerPoint presentation](#) to aid all attendees in following along during the meeting.

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes Review

Presented by Alex Bromley, Secretary

The minutes from our 2023 Annual Meeting to USMS, along with our Treasurer's report, were posted on the [USMS](#) website. They and committee reports were also posted on our [LMSC website](#).

Jeremy Gross motioned to accept the 2023 DV LMSC Annual Meeting minutes /S/P

Nominations/Elections - DV LMSC Board of Directors

LMSC Officers

Treasurer

Jeremy Gross nominated Joe Boris for a third term

Barbara Burke motioned to accept Joe Boris for Treasurer for a 2-year term /S/P

LMSC Committee Chairs

Official Committee

Dave Diehl stepping down. Denise Escher stepping up to take his place.

Editor/Social Media

Board members are actively pursuing appointing the first chair of this new committee.

Sanctions Chair

Tom willing to keep doing it only if no one else wants to step up and become more active. Barbara Burke stepped up to take his place.

Records

Gary Sangmeister stepping down. Dan Allen stepping up to take his place.

Old Business

- By-law revisions:
 - Treasurer Chair by-laws outdated, as noted by our Chair in 2022, and they do not accurately reflect our actual practices. For example, our by-laws state the Treasurer can't write checks. This is not the norm for all other LMSCs researched. Steve and Jeremy are working together to update these by-laws so that they are in line with other LMSCs.
 - Need to change "Registrar" to "Membership Coordinator" and update that Chair's job description
 - Dues & fees updated

New Business

- Delaware River Virtual Swim (partnered with ReSport)
 - NJ LMSC invites Metro and DV LMSCs to join event in 2025
 - How it works:
 - 330 mile virtual swim that runs from January 15 to May 15 with a rolling registration
 - Participants must be current registrants with your LMSC and can be solo or 3-4 person relays
 - Jeff Henderson, the head of ReSport, will charge each LMSC a \$50 setup and \$3/entry that each LMSC will pay
 - Each LMSC's participants will have their own color so the LMSCs will be differentiated from each other on the map.
- Proposed donation to PhilAquatics to support initiative to build world-class 50m pool in Philadelphia area

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report, detailing significant actions, decisions, or discussions made by the officers and /or Board of Directors (BOD) during the time between annual meetings is posted on our [LMSC website](#) and linked above.

- Situations reviewed and accepted/denied for relief fund policy on case-by-case basis

Jeremy motioned to accept the Secretary's Report/S/P

Treasurer's Report and **1/1/24 - 10/31/24 Financials**

Presented by Joe Boris, Treasurer

Highlights:

- DV LMSC was the Zones meet fee collector and expense payer (thus the unusually large meet fees & expenses this year)
- Cash on hand up from beginning of year until now (total ~30k)
- Main sources of income: membership fees, pool meet fees, other events
- Main expenses: pool meets
- No convention expenses (virtual)
- Portion of USMS membership fee allocated towards DV LMSC going from \$14 to \$12
 - To make up for USMS deficit
- Sanctions fee going away
- Bring back incentive to have more teams reps attend - X amount of \$ per swimmer if sent a rep to Annual Meeting
 - \$100/club if send representative, starting 2025 Annual Meeting
- Target bank balance?
- DV LMSC now registered charitable organization in State of Maryland

Jeremy Gross motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report/S/P

Secretary's Note: On October 31, 2024, Jeremy Gross and Joe Boris conducted the annual financial review as required by our By-Laws. Jeremy and Joe found the Treasurer's report and bank statements to be in order.

Social & Recognition Reports

Presented by Steve Dougherty and Jeremy Gross, Committee Co-Chairs

2023 Awards:

David Harrison Outstanding Male Swimmer Award

Winner – David Gladfelter

16 Top-10 swims, of which 3 were #1 and 4 were #2

Jeanne Merryman Outstanding Female Swimmer Award

Winner – Melinda Wolff & Barbara Burke

Melinda:

12 Top-10 swims, of which 4 were #3 and scored 42 pts at Nats

Barbara:

13 Top-10 swims, of which 2 were #2, and 2 were #3 and scored 42 pts at Nats

Henry "Barney" Hungerford Outstanding Open Water / Long Distance Swimmer Award

Winner – James Thornton

1st place – 5k ePostal

Outstanding Volunteer Support of the DV LMSC Award

Winner – Janet Jastremski

Janet served the DV LMSC in several capacities over the years. Her first role on our Board was as treasurer in 2013 where (as our meeting notes reflect) she balanced our

budget and standardized much of our financial business back in the days when the LMSC dues and operations were largely independent of the National office

Lifetime Swimming Performance Award

Winner – Tom Tulenko

Tom started swimming masters in the early 1980's at the Ambler Y with Melinda Wolff and Dick Schwem. He originally represented Valley Forge Masters which eventually became a workout group of Colonials 1776. Over the years he has achieved 28 individual USMS Top 10 times, mostly in distance freestyle events, as well as 8 relay top 10 times and has been a member of Del Val record setting relays. At certain points in his masters swimming career, Tom could be found swimming at the Ambler Y, Upper Main Line Y, Villanova, Germantown Academy, Friends Select , Greater Plymouth Community Center, and Nor Gwyn, possibly all in the same week! (This jokingly earned him the title of swim whore!) These days he no longer competes but can sometimes be found swimming (with fins) at Life Time Athletic in Fort Washington.

2024 Awards to be presented at DV Champs. No nominations were made for Zone and National awards.

Alex Bromley motioned to accept the Recognition Report/S/P

Membership Coordinator's Report

Presented by Barbara Burke, Membership Coordinator

Highlights:

- 982 members (up from 856), 26 clubs (up from 24), and 48 self-identified coaches (up from 44) registered in 2024
- DV LMSC received \$0 in donations from members during 2024 membership year
- Membership Coordinator no longer has access to the report detailing total fees paid by DV LMSC members and is therefore no longer reporting on it
- Club transfers now 3x/year (used to be 60 day waiting period)
 - Can contact Barbara or do it via email through USMS national
- DV LMSC membership breakdown by state: (as of 11/10/24)
 - CA - 2
 - DE - 63
 - FL - 2
 - HI - 1
 - IL - 1
 - MD - 8
 - MN - 1
 - NC - 1
 - NJ - 86
 - NY - 5
 - Ontario - 1
 - OR - 1
 - PA - 804
 - Queensland, Australia - 1
 - TX - 1

- VA - 2
- WA - 1

Jeremy Gross motioned to accept the Membership Coordinator's Report/S/P

Competition Report

Presented by Jeremy Gross on behalf of Geoff Meyer, Competition Chair

Highlights:

- College club swimmer bridge
 - Willing to give swimmers discounts for meet entry fees (ex. 50% coupons)
 - Dave Schneider volunteered to reach out to college club teams
- 1,439 total swimmers for 2023-2024 meet season
- Option to have nonmembers at Sanctioned meets? Additional fee for joining USMS "for the day"
 - Give it a shot, rescind policy if gets too out of hand
- Meet schedule:
 - Hershey Distance meet - Nov 17
 - La Salle - Dec 15
 - York Candy Cane Catch - Dec 22
 - Villanova - Jan 5, 2025
 - Phoenixville - Jan 12, 2025
 - SJAC - Jan 2025 (tentative)
 - Upper Perk Y - Feb 9, 2025
 - DV Champs Mar 8, 2025
 - Hershey - Apr 2025 (tentative)
 - SCY Zones - Apr 2025 (tentative)
 - Working with Georg/e Mason on finalizing pool time
 - USMS Spring Nationals (SCY) - Apr 24-27, 2025 in San Antonio, TX
- Cap DV champs at 250 people? Cap the events? 2 day meet - something to consider for future
- Zones - partner with the GMU club team? Exchange services/pool rental for donation to the team?

Steve Dougherty motioned to accept the Membership Coordinator's Report/S/P

USMS Officials Report

Presented by Jeremy Gross on behalf of Dave Diehl, Committee Chair

Highlights:

- 6 certified officials now in DV
 - 5 certified Stroke & Turn and Starter, 1 certified as Stroke & Turn
- Dave Diehl stepping down, Denise Escher as replacement
- No cost for official certifications
 - First State swim has few people interested

Jeremy Gross motioned to accept the Officials Report/S/P

Sanctions Report

Presented by Jeremy Gross on behalf of Tom Patterson, Committee Chair

Meets Sanctioned

- DV Masters Meet at Souderton High School, 11/3/2024
- Hershey Aquatic Club Masters Swim Autumnal Equinox Meet, 9/22/2024
- Hershey Meets Spring Meet, 4/7/24
- 2024 Delaware Valley LMSC SCY Championship Meet, 3/9/2024
- Delaware Valley LMSC Upper Perk Valley Y Masters Meet, 2/4/2024
- 2024 Bill Heebner Memorial Winter Freeze Masters Meet, SCM, 1/7/2024
- DV Masters Meet-LaSalle University, 12/10/2023
- DV Masters Meet at Souderton High School, 11/19/2024
- French Creek Racing Masters Swim Meet, 10/14/2024

Meets Recognized

- York Candy Cane Catch Meet, 12/22/24
- York Splash into Summer Meet, 6/2/24
- 2024 SJAC Spring Splash Masters Meet, 5/19/24
- 2024 SJAC Winter Classic Masters Meet, 1/28/24

Barbara Burke to take over for Tom. She will keep up with communication between the board and the sanctions person.

Jeremy Gross motioned to accept the Sanctions Report/S/P

Top 10 Report

Presented by Jeremy Gross, Committee Chair

Highlights:

- 2024-2025 SCY event ranking in USMS database are messed up due to nationals being late. They are not fixing this but top-10 times will be correct for the season.
 - SCY season ended on June 24 rather than on May 31 (as usual)
- For 2023 DV LMSC had the following top-10 results:
 - SCM = 87
 - LCM = 57
 - SCY = 105
- Relays still #1 uploading issue with meet results
- Want to encourage swimmers to use "One Event Fee" structure for recognized meets so that their race can be sanctioned and count for Top 10
 - Most often occurs with SCM meets
- Need to be diligent on bulkhead measurements before and after each session.

Barbara Burke motioned to accept the Top 10 Report/S/P

Records Report

Presented by Jeremy Gross on behalf of Gary Sangmeister, Committee Chair

Highlights:

- Gary stepping down, Dan Allen stepping up
- Records updated once per season when times are recorded in Top 10 database
- SCM times swum in 2024 not posted yet
- All records for which Top 10 times report is available have been posted to DV LMSC website

Jeremy Gross motioned to accept the Records Report/S/P

Website Report

Presented by Dan Allen, Webmaster

Highlights:

- Domain needs renewing this upcoming summer (expires 7/4/2025)
 - Renews every 5 years
- Hosting expires on 5/9/2026
 - Renews every 3 years
- Many facilities contacts and links are out of date

Jeremy Gross motioned to accept the Web Report/S/P

Marketing Report

Provided by Jeremy Gross on behalf of Pamela Shepard, Committee Chair

Highlights:

- 1000+ members in the DV LMSC Facebook group
 - Pamela monitors posts for selling items, delete members looking to post ads only, and keeps meet information up-to-date
- Need to focus more on reaching members who don't do meets/just swim for fun
- Trying to recruit people who go to non-sanctioned meets
 - Maybe a social event in conjunction with workouts could help this cause
- New pool/gym in Moorestown, NJ called Healthtrax (old Virtua) recently opened and is attracting new members (especially overflow from Lifetime in the area). There has been interest in a Masters team there.

Jeremy Gross motioned to accept the Marketing Report/S/P

Open Water Report

Presented by Jeremy Gross on behalf of Delia Perez, Committee Chair

Highlights:

- 2024 open water season had a lot of cancelled and rescheduled swims due to chilly temperatures or rough seas
 - Back bay and river/lake swims becoming more popular due to more predictable and favorable conditions
- Very active community

- Lots of pictures and updates available on Facebook

Alex Bromley motioned to accept the Open Water Report/S/P

Coaches Report

Presented by Dave Schneider, Committee Chair

Highlights:

- DV Coach statistics
 - Was not able to determine how many Delaware Valley swimmers identified as coaches in 2024
 - 42 Delaware Valley coaches have achieved some level of USMS coaching certification, which is an increase of 33 certified coaches over 2023:
- The 2024 Nationals Coaching Clinic was held October 18-20 in Houston. Laurie Hug attended.
- Level 1 Coach Certification class now offered as online video
- No Level 2 or 3 coaching classes in our LMSC in long time, schedule for 2025 coaches classes not up yet
- People reach out to Jeremy about putting on coaching clinics in Philadelphia area (get LMSC involved)
- DV LMSC has policy to reimburse coaches attending training
 - Reimbursed 2 coaches in 2022-2023 season

Jeremy Gross motioned to accept the Coaches Report/S/P

USMS Convention Report

Our LMSC again earned three (3) delegate spots to the convention which was held in a “hybrid” format for the third time with both online and in-person attendees. All DV LMSC delegates attended virtually. House of Delegate meetings were held September 13th through September 15th.

Delegates were Jeremy Gross, Joe Boris and Laurie Hug. Laurie also represents the DV LMSC as a member of the USMS Coaches Committee but no longer gets an automatic delegate spot.

Reports supplied by the attendees are linked below, and are posted on our website. Some highlights:

Combined report from Jeremy Gross with input from Joe Boris

USMS Coaches Report from Laurie Hug

Highlights:

- All DV attended virtually. J. Gross, L. Hug, J. Boris were the DV LMSC Delegates
 - Guy Davis elected as Colonies Zone At-Large director
 - USMS Membership will be \$75 for 2025, 2026, and 2027
 - LMSC fee distribution reduced from \$14/member to \$12 in 2025 and \$10 in 2026 and 2027. Note this will be an ~\$1,900 reduction to DV in 2025 and \$3,800 reduction in 2026 and 2027

- o College Club Swimming Bridge Membership will now be \$0 (was \$25)
 - o Pool and Open Water sanction cost is now \$0 (was \$50 and \$100). Note we have always paid this, so we will net ~\$500 as a result.
 - o A swimmer may now change clubs up to three times per year. There is no longer a 60 day waiting period after representing a club in a meet.
 - o USMS considering eliminating hard copy of swimmer magazine or charging for hard copy
- Denise Escher attended volunteer relay convention this year (Oct. 18-20)
 - Laurie Hug attended coaches convention this year (Oct. 18-20)

Alex Bromley motioned to accept the Convention Reports/S/P

Team Reports

Spring Valley YMCA – Jeremy Gross, Joe Boris

Colonials 1776 – Steve Dougherty

- Gold team - postal events, Try Masters Swimming

First State Swimming - Courtney Ford

- 14 on team, 2 went to Nationals
- Interested in recreating Regency mall model (10 lane pool) in Dover, DE
- Milford Boys & Girls Club interested in starting two
- “Host of Delaware” - 1 day, 500yd at 7 different YMCA locations (every Oct. right before registration)
 - o Open to everyone (don’t have to be YMCA member)
 - o Funds/event sponsor would be helpful
 - o Not sanctioned USMS event but still can be listed on website (YMCA insured)

Wilkes-Barre & Pittston YMCA - Andrea Butchko

- Core 4-5 people, looking to grow more people
- More Northeast PA leadership needed to help offer more practice times and grow group

FINS - Blake Marshall

- 32 members sent to DV Champs
- In process of filing for non-profit organization (501C3)

LASH

- No representative present

York YMCA

- No representative present

Central Bucks -

- No representative present

Jeremy Gross motioned to accept the Team Reports/S/P

Team/group reps and reports

(representation gleaned from those attending today's meetings) for the LMSC Board (per by-laws):

- Spring Valley Y – Jeremy Gross, Joe Boris
- 1776 – Steve Dougherty
 - Workout Group - Valley Forge Masters - Dave Schneider
- FINS – Blake Marshall
- French Creek - Kristie Bruno
- Wilkes-Barre/Pittston - Dan Allen, Andrea Butchko
- First State Swimming - Courtney Ford

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jeremy Gross at 4:16 pm /S/P

Submitted by Alex Bromley, Secretary

Electronic copy submitted to USMS National Office December 31, 2024.