

# USMS Convention—Atlanta, Ga. 2008

<b>Committee Name: Fitness Education</b>	<b>Session #: 1</b>	<b>Report #: 1</b>
<b>Committee Chair: Marcia Anziano</b>	<b>Vice Chair: Linda Schoenberger</b>	
<b>Minutes recorded by: Greta van Meeteren</b>	<b>Date/time of meeting: 9/25/08, 10:30 – 11:30 AM</b>	

## Action Items:

1. MSA \$5,000 budget adjustment for the development of the online entry of swim distances to eliminate the manual input of data each month. See #4 and #6 below.
2. MSA \$3,000 budget adjustment to purchase awards for the GTD. History shows this to be revenue neutral. See #7 below.

**Number of committee members present: 8**      **Absent: 12**      **Number of other delegates present: 40**

**Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Marcia Anziano, Linda Schoenberger, Greta van Meeteren, Morgan Edwards, Tom Mester, Michelle Ward, Raena Latina, Donna Schubkegel**

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM

1. All present committee members were introduced.
2. The check-off challenge for 2008 has gone well. Raena reported that all of the T-shirts were sold – slightly over 500 in all. The program is a success and has been growing. 2008 has seen the largest participation yet. Members from 38 states participated in it. These swimmers will receive an Email reminding them to participate again next year.
3. John Grzeszczak presented the Hammerhead Aquatics' bid to host the 2009 check-off challenge. The T-shirt design was presented and accepted with the understanding that a small design will be added to a sleeve for an open water event of the swimmer's choice. This design will be forwarded to the committee for approval. Also, the shirt will have "United States Masters Swimming" added to the design.
4. Mary Sweat gave a presentation on the work involved in the "Go the Distance" event. Essentially she has developed this program into what it is right now with 582 people participating to date and it is still growing. The event is very popular with many non-competitive swimmers as well as with the more advanced swimmers. Participants submit distance swum per month to the event coordinator for tracking and compilation of the results. Mary showed all the different kinds of software she uses to create all of the reports and graphs she makes available to members. This task takes her around 30 hours of work every month, of which 20 hours are needed in the first 5 days of the month to input the participant data. Due to the use of "homegrown" software, it is next to impossible to split up this task. The results are published on the USMS Web site.
5. Along with the results there is a "tidbits" section. In this, Linda Schoenberger writes a "fitness tip of the month", and besides that are stories from randomly picked "GTD swimmers of the month." Mary initially Emails them to ask for their participation, after they accept, Greta van Meeteren sends them an "interview" letter, to help them write the stories. This has been going very well.
6. In order to facilitate the gathering of results and putting them into reports, it would be important to have an on-line tracking system in a "members only" part of the USMS Web site. This is where participants can log their yardage daily if they choose to do so. Jim Matysek, who joined the later part of the meeting, explained that this is in his "top ten" priorities list. At the suggestion of Michael Heather, a motion was put forth and accepted that the committee will ask the USMS organization for funding of \$5,000 for this project, in case outside help is needed with this. Jim announced that he can get this program on line for the start of 2009.
7. Mary Sweat is also paying up front for the awards that are available for purchase to GTD swimmers. She eventually gets reimbursed because people buy the awards (caps, patches, personalized awards) from her. A motion was put forth and accepted that the committee will request a working budget of \$3,000 from the USMS organization to this end.
8. Michael Heather suggested having the GTD logo trademarked, so that it cannot be stolen by anyone else. Raena offered Mary help with this.

One of the very fun parts of this program is Mary's personal contact with the participants. A manner in which this can be continued will be studied. Mary will be given access to the Website to gather information about people's progress.

The object remains for this event to be a "no entry fee" event that breaks even.

9. Several suggestions were made on enhancing the various fitness events. One of the things that could be combined with "Go the Distance" would be the "virtual swim" program which is now extinct. A sub-committee of Donna Schubkegel and Greta van Meeteren will study further how to approach this and report back.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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