

Southern Masters Swimming: Annual Meeting 12/7/24

- **Roll Call**
 - **Officers:** Aaron Schneider (General Chair), Nan Fontenot (Vice Chair) Sarah Gillen (Treasurer), Cassie Giarrusso (Secretary), Margaret Hill (Officials), Wendy Enderle (Top 10), Gordon Mese (Newsletter / Social Media), Rick Hartman (Registration)
 - **Others present:** Eric Fejka, Ron Niedrich, Ruth Niedrich, Lake Charles (2), John Wofford, Pat Arnold, Lynne Champagne, Crawfish 2 – Andrew Hilburn, Jerry Lindig
- **Approval of Minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting**
 - Rick Hartman motion to approve - carried
- Thank you to Crawfish for running SCM meet.
- **Treasurer (Sarah Gillen)**
 - Starting balance \$25,852.99 (January 1, 2024); closing balance \$26,976.03 (November 30, 2024); \$4,300.56 deposits; \$3,177.52 expenses
 - Expenses include meet fees for Crawfish and PAC meets, website, coach certification, Nationals reimbursements, and club registration
- **Registration Chair (Rick Hartman)**
 - 328 members at end of 2024; last 5 years between 369 and 328 – pretty steady; Crawfish does not require swimmers to be SMS members, unlike Riptide
 - Membership is down at national level; to be at pre-pandemic numbers is ahead of most of the country; national membership down last year around 3%; national high is 70,000 and currently at 60,000
 - Individual membership fee has gone up last 5 years; SMS will lose percentage of membership fee next year
 - Encourage members to share benefits of joining SMS as opposed to local team; local team could be changed to workout group instead of team; as SMS member, can swim on relays at nationals; starting 2025 – USMS rule change – can change teams 3x
- **Top 10 (Wendy Enderle)**
 - Will update this month and post; if any corrections, let her know; she will send to website chair (Jen Turner)
- **Officials** – nothing from Margaret Hill
- **Coaches (Aaron Schneider)**
 - Three new coaches obtained USMS certification; two obtained Level 3 certification – highest level can get through classroom alone; as an LSMC, support certification
 - Aaron Schneider is on national coaches committee – taking Vice Chair role for 2025-26 and Chairman starting in 2027
- **Newsletter / Social Media (Gordon Mese)**
 - Currently operating two pages on social media – public and private; public page is so non-members can see what we are about; private page is so we can have conversations just between us; if not connected with private page, send request to Gordon
 - extra page not in use that we may want to remove – Crawfish tech guy (Andrew) will look into it

- **Open Water / Postal (Aaron Schneider)**
 - several people did e-postals last year; SCY 1-hour swim – Stephen Kernion was national champ for 40-44 age group; 10k LCM – Aaron Schneider finished second for 50-54 age group
- **New Business:**
 - Top 10 and Records Awards for 2024
 - Award will be Tyr hoodie sweatshirt – Aaron Schneider made motion for hoodies, Rick Hartman second – motion carried
 - Wendy Enderle will re-do Top 10 and Records list for 2023 –award for 2023 is a Tyr bag with SMS logo
- **Swimmer of year for 2024** – can only win once every 5 years; Wendy will take over calculating this; need to wait on top 10 for SCM for 2024
- **Should SMS join South Central Zone and leave Southeast Zone?**
 - Advantage – SCZ could add Shreveport as a location for a meet
 - Would not create more meets for SMS to attend; may lead to more swimmers coming to SMS meets; would get more publicity within the SC Zone
 - Would involve national legislation with USMS – would need to start now b/c would have to be submitted to USMS committee in September
 - Southeast Zone would not object and USMS should not object
 - **Rick Hartman - motion to pursue moving to SC Zone provided that SC Zone will commit to doing a Top 10 listing; Wendy Enderle seconds the motion; motion carried**
 - Aaron Schneider will reach out to Jackie Merianos; Rick Hartman will circulate minutes to membership so they will know of ongoing discussion
- **Upcoming Pool Events**
 - 2025 World Aquatics Masters Championships in Singapore Aug. 7-14; running against LCM nationals
 - Shreveport Meet March 22-23, 2025 – two-day SCY meet; Saturday afternoon and Sunday mid-morning; relays and all distance events
 - Shreveport will try to resurrect LCM Masters meet in Shreveport – Wendy will look at dates with new head coach
 - SC Zone SCY champs Houston April 4-6 – if we make the move, should try to support
- Open Water events listed in Agenda; Bay St. Louis will happen again
- **LMSC Diversity and Inclusion Committee –**
 - USMS has suggested SMS create this committee – tried to identify someone to lead but were not successful
 - Rick Hartman and Nan Fontenot do not believe we should move forward with this. Crawfish already involved in teaching swim lessons to underprivileged kids.
 - Consensus is not to move forward with committee
- **USMS Grants available** – ALTS – have to go to class to be certified
- **USMS Nationals in San Antonio:**
 - Need to compile list of who is planning to attend

- Clinic at LSU – limited to attendees at Nationals; may be Saturday 4/12 or Sunday 4/13; possible combined practice Saturday afternoon and clinic on Sunday; or could do practice and clinic on same day
 - Gordon Mese will send a survey about clinic / workout
 - Housing / rooms – possible AirBnb, corporate complex with hot tub; Aaron Schneider will send notes around; if anyone has ideas, please share
 - Wendy Enderle will get two tents for SMS group in same location
 - Team Gear –LMSC will order silicone caps for national team members
- **Motion for LMSC to pay for entry fees for any meet higher than Nationals, including World Champs**
 - Margaret Hill moved, Gordon Mese and Wendy Enderle second. Motion carried.
 - Gordon moves to adjourn, Aaron Schneider second. Motion carried. Adjourned.