

AZLMSC Board Meeting Minutes

These minutes were approved by email vote on November 26, 2024.

November 19, 2024 (via Zoom)

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

Board Members Present: Katy James-Chairman, Liz Hobbs-Vice Chair, Marianne Rexer-Treasurer, Kathy Gallagher-Secretary, Lindsey Urbatchka-At Large, Barb Sloan-At Large, Jim Rowland-At Large, Gini Baker-At Large, Judy Gillies-Past Chair

Absent: none

Quorum present: Yes

Others present:

Doug Adamavich, AZLMSC member and representative to Relay 2024

Jeff Commings, AZLMSC member, USMS Board member

Cecilia Cummins, AZLMSC member

Kelly Harrigan, AZLMSC member, Vice-Chair elect

Samantha Martoni, AZLMSC member

Marnie Whitley, Open Water Chair

Lisa Zenhoff-Harris, Communications Committee Chair, Secretary-elect

MOTIONS PASSED

1. Motion by Marianne Rexer to reimburse the meals that Relay attendees requested. Second by Judy Gillies. Vote taken, 6 in favor. Motion passed.
2. Motion by Marianne Rexer to approve the new Board officers (Barb Sloan, Chair; Kelly Harrigan, Vice-Chair; Rome Yount, Treasurer; Lisa Zenhoff Harris, Secretary). Second by Katy James. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passed.
3. Motion by Barb Sloan to approve the State Meet bid as submitted by Phoenix Swim Club. Second by Lindsey Urbatchka. Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passed.

ACTIONS AND FOLLOW-UP

1. Lisa Zenhoff Harris will write an article about both outgoing and incoming officers, and will include an explanation of the process, considering the candidates were unopposed. She will post to Facebook and the website and send it to Katy James.
2. Katy James will send an email blast with Lisa's article attached, so it reaches people who might not see it on Facebook or the website.
3. The incoming board will appoint an At-Large board member to fill the vacancy created with Barb Sloan moving to the Chair position.

4. The incoming board will look at details related to paying for tents and relays during Nationals and determine if they want to create a policy or take any other action.
5. Kathy Gallagher will circulate the USMS annual meeting report by AZ's delegates.
6. The incoming board will figure out another storage solution for the medals that are currently in Katy James' shed.
7. As the current medal inventory will last approximately one more year, the incoming board will need to plan for future state meet awards.
8. Everyone - send names of people we might want to honor at the annual meeting to Jim Rowland, Gini Baker, or Samantha Martoni.

IMPORTANT DATES/HIGHLIGHTS:

1. SCY State Meet @ Phoenix Swim Club March 15-16, in the afternoon. (No sanction yet.)
2. Distance Meet March 1-2 (No sanction yet.)
3. Polar Bear Meet is February 1 (No sanction yet.)
4. Ron John in 2025 will be a one-day meet on a Sunday.
5. Grown Up Swimming in Phoenix metro area January/February.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Registrar Report – Katy James, Registrar

Membership is about 1,300 members, with about 500 registered for the upcoming year. This is what we would expect for this time of year.

2. Communications Report – Lisa Zenhoff Harris

The communications focus is on engagement with and inclusiveness for members, through articles on Facebook and the website. Lisa mentioned exploring email as a channel to push information out to members.

3. Treasurer Report – Marianne Rexer, Treasurer

Marianne distributed and discussed the October 15, 2024 financial report. She mentioned that we need to approve the minutes and hence the new Board officers soon, in order to transfer access to the bank accounts.

Barb and Rome are working on next year's budget. Generally, we are in good shape with our current cash situation, even with a loss two years ago, which most LMSCs had. Medals are a large expense, but we still have an inventory that should last through next year. The Ron Jon meet finances are not included in the October financial report.

Marianne requested guidance and a decision about whether to reimburse Relay attendees for meals. We don't have a clear policy, and Marianne received requests for reimbursement for meals from the Relay event. The Treasurer doesn't have the authority to determine which expenses to reimburse, so she brought it to the board for a decision.

The board discussed how to determine what expenses would be reimbursed for events such as relays and conventions. Options included reimbursement for flights only, flights and other expenses that someone might incur in attending an event (e.g. parking at the airport, baggage fees, or meals not covered during the official event) or simply providing a set amount that each attendee could spend.

The board decided not to develop a policy, and instead allow the incoming board to develop that policy.

Motion by Marianne Rexer to reimburse the meals that Relay attendees requested.

Second by Judy Gillies.

Vote taken, 6 in favor. Motion passed.

4. Secretary's Report – Kathy Gallagher

Kathy did not give a secretary's report. She will coordinate the annual USMS meeting report from the AZLMSC delegates and circulate it to the board.

Kathy clarified that our annual report to USMS was submitted by April 30, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

1. New Executive Board

In October, the AZLMSC held an election to select the 4 new officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, & Secretary). Each of the open positions had only one nominee. Because candidates were unopposed, Katy James polled board members to determine whether we needed to hold a vote or could simply appoint the new board members. Board members agreed a vote wasn't necessary.

The new officers, with a 2-year term from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026 are:

Barbara (Barb) Sloan - Chair
Kelli Harrigan – Vice Chair
Rome Yount - Treasurer
Lisa Zenhoff Harris – Secretary

Katy James remains on the board in the position of Immediate Past Chair. Current Committee Chairs remain the same.

The new board will make an appointment to fill the At-Large board position vacated with Barb Sloan becoming Chair.

Jim Rowland suggested that we need to communicate the process and outcome to our membership, because they voted, but don't know the results.

Katy James said she could send an email blast. Lisa Zenhoff Harris will be writing an article about both outgoing and incoming officers, and will include an explanation of the process, considering the candidates were unopposed.

Barb Sloan mentioned that the new board will look into how to handle this situation in the future (unopposed candidates), including looking at what USMS does or suggests and perhaps creating or modifying a policy.

Tabled Item:

We tabled discussion and decision-making on the appointment of an At-Large board member to fill the vacancy created with Barb Sloan moving to the Chair position.

Action Items:

1. Lisa Zenhoff Harris will write an article about both outgoing and incoming officers, and will include an explanation of the process, considering the candidates were unopposed. She will post to Facebook and the website and send it to Katy James.
2. Katy James will send an email blast with the article attached, to reach those people who might not see it on Facebook or the website.

Motion by Marianne Rexer to approve the new Board officers (Barb Sloan, Chair; Kelly Harrigan, Vice-Chair; Rome Yount, Treasurer; Lisa Zenhoff Harris, Secretary). Second by Katy James.

Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passed.

2. Discussion on continuing to fund AZLMSC funding relays and tents at Nationals

At a prior board meeting, we decided to pay for relays and tents at Nationals, but not to create a policy that we do it every year. Katy James reported that people really appreciated it at summer nationals. Marianne Rexer reported that the approximate costs at that meet were \$1,100 for tents and \$528 for relays (33 relays x \$16 per relay).

Tabled Item:

We tabled discussion and decision-making on this so the incoming board can look at the details more closely and determine if they want to create a policy.

3. **2024 Relay Reports** – Barb Sloan, Marnie Whitley, Doug Adamavich, Samantha Martoni
Barb Sloan submitted a bullet point report to the board. She found the event very eye-opening and informative. She made a lot of great connections and now has an LMSC Chair mentor.

Marnie Whitley reported that she went to both Relay and the USMS annual meeting. The annual meeting helped her understand how USMS functions, but she doesn't know what to do with that info relative to the AZLMSC board. She noted that Relay is more interactive and the information is different, e.g. things she can use with her team. As an example, she mentioned that when asking a question at Relay, you can get a bunch of answers from different people, so a bunch of different ideas. She picked up ideas for running open water

clinics, as competition and venues are disappearing. She is holding a “What is USMS” session with her team to give people insight into what USMS offers. She also joined a Peer to Peer group for Open Water and requested to be on the Open Water National Committee.

Doug provided a written report. He is now the regional coordinator (“adult”) for Grown Up Swimming in Arizona. This program will start in the Phoenix metro area in January or February. There will be 4-5 meets with 25s 50s, 100s, and mixed age relays. This format is a great on ramp for people who aren’t interested in or ready for other USMS competition.

Samantha expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend Relay. She found it fun, interesting, and a wealth of knowledge, and was interested to learn about all of the partnerships. Like others, she made a lot of great connections. In particular, she is interested in Grown Up Swimming, and the possibility of getting something started in southern Arizona.

4. **2024 Annual Meeting Reports** – Judy Gillies, Gini Baker, Kathy Gallagher
Judy Gillies requested to be on the Officials and Rules Committees.

Gini Baker noted that it was helpful that our AZ delegates met prior to the annual meeting to review and discuss all of the proposals, rule changes, etc. that were being voted on. This helped us better understand the proposed legislation and potential impact for our members, and feel like we were voting in the best interest of our members.

Kathy will send the collaborative report created by AZ’s annual meeting delegates.

Action Item:

Kathy will send the collaborative report created by AZ’s annual meeting delegates.

5. **2025 State Meet Bids & Award**

Phoenix Swim Club submitted the only bid to host the SCY state meet, on March 15-16, 2025. The proposed holding the meet in the afternoons, as a kids meet will be conducted in the mornings on those days. We used this format several years ago and it worked fine.

**Motion by Barb Sloan to approve the State Meet bid as submitted by Phoenix Swim Club.
Second by Lindsey Urbatchka.**

Vote taken, all in favor. Motion passed.

Action Item:

Katy James to notify Phoenix Swim Club that the bid is officially accepted.

6. **Ron John Meet Update**

Mona Plummer is expensive. While the final cost might be lower, the estimate to rent the pool going into the meet was \$18,000. With such high costs, the meet needs at least 200 swimmers to make money.

Next year Swim Devils has decided to try a new format, a one-day meet on a Sunday (when there is no competition for the pool). They will skip the longer events. It will be a long day, estimated to run from 7:30 – 5.

7. Awards

Katy has a shed full of medals that need to be re-homed, i.e. stored somewhere else. She suggested having a volunteer coordinator that also handles the awards, especially to manage the inventory for ordering and storage. She suggested that position could manage several tasks, e.g. renting tents for Nationals, storing and managing awards, coordinating relays for Nationals.

There was a lot of discussion about how to handle awards, including suggestions that we use a points system where placing points could be redeemed for merch, having awards drop shipped to recipients directly from the company after the event, meet hosts mailing awards to recipients, changing medal styles because they are the same each year. Opinions ranged from medals being desirable to medals being much less important. Some people want their medals at the meet, not later. Some people want medals that are different from year to year. Some people want something other than medals. Some people don't want medals.

Re a volunteer coordinator, Barb noted that USMS has recommendations for LMSC committees, and some of those could volunteerism with AZLMSC.

Action Item:

1. The incoming board will figure out another solution for storing the medals that are currently stored in Katy James' shed.
2. As the current medal inventory will last approximately one more year, the incoming board will need a plan for future state meets.

8. Other Meets (also under Important Dates)

Polar Bear Meet – 2/1, not sanctioned yet

Distance Meet – 3/2 & 3/3, SCY on Saturday & LCM on Sunday, will have 800 relays

Dolphins of the Desert Meet (Jeff Commings) – 9/28@ Oro Valley pool, not sanctioned yet

College Club Swimming Championships – 3/28-30 @ Skyline in Mesa, hosted by Mesa

Ron John – probably a one-day meet in November

Doug Adamavich, new Grown Up Swimming regional liaison, will be mindful of these dates when scheduling Grown Up Swimming events in the spring.

9. Other Items

Annual Meeting. There is a subcommittee working on next year's annual meeting (AZLMSC). Jim Rowland, Gini Baker, and Samantha Martoni are on that committee, and currently think it might be similar to last year when we did it during the state meet. They ask everyone to think about people who have made significant contributions and please forward those names and information to the committee so we can honor those people.

Judy mentioned that last year we sent a note to coaches requesting them to send us the names of people they wanted to honor, or to be ready to speak about them at the meeting.

Open Water. Doug Adamavich mentioned that he has a potential venue for an open water event in Lake Havasu City on Saturday October 18th.

Thank You. Katy James mentioned that it has been a great experience being Chair, and that she is glad Barb Sloan and the other officers are now taking the helm.

Action Item:

Send names of people we might want to honor at the annual meeting to Jim Rowland, Gini Baker, or Samantha Martoni.

Motion to adjourn by Judy Gillies. Second by Jim Rowland

Vote taken, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:35 pm