

July 27, 2020

Fellow Swimmers, Board Members and Volunteers:

I hope you are continuing to stay healthy and safe during the pandemic. Swim can be hard to come by for many of us. Many of the events the LMSC planned or planned to support this year are already cancelled. Hopefully you have found other ways of maintaining fitness until access to swimmable water is available.

We were unable to hold an annual membership meeting during our normal period of March and April. I normally give a presentation at that meeting about the membership/club numbers, LMSC finances, events over the past year and goals for the upcoming season. Mass gatherings appear to be a long way off in the current environment we all live in. My hope is this communication fills the gap until we can all meet in the future.

In lieu of a membership meeting the Inland Northwest LMSC Board of Managers met on April 26 to approve the 2019 annual meeting minutes to stay in compliance with their submission to the National Office and to select two delegates to serve on the House of Delegates for the USMS Annual Meeting to be held virtually this fall.

Membership

We are currently at 277 members and 10 clubs. This is down from end of 2019 total of 342 members and same number of clubs. Our status is better than expected given our current environment. A large number of swimmers join during the summer months to participate in workouts with the Spokane Sturgeons at Witter Pool. It is unlikely those members will join this year, nor should we expect anyone to join USMS until pools in the LMSC open to group workouts.

Events

The LMSC sanctioned two pool swim meets this past season. The first was held by Kroc Masters Club in Coeur d'Alene in February. The LMSC Champs meet planned for March in Moscow was cancelled due to stay at home orders and pool closures. A swimposium was in works as part of the annual meeting but postponed for lack of volunteers and the pandemic.

It could be some time before USMS sanctioned events can be held within both the LMSC boundaries and outside.

Fees

The LMSC Board of Managers voted in October to adopt the USMS "Unified" membership fee before the start of registration for the 2020 year. The fee is an increase in fees over previous years. Previously the LMSC Board voted to subsidize the individual membership fee that had kept individual costs around \$50 in years past.

The unified fee concept is key to initiatives such as multi-year memberships, combined memberships (USA Swimming, USA Triathlon, etc.), and 365-day rolling memberships vs. renewals every November.

Volunteer of the Year

When the website failed to reflect updates after the annual renewal last fall of the hosting platform, the Board determined we should go with a secure website. With this change, Dave Cabrey determined an acceptable platform for hosting the website and transferred the information on the existing website to the new website, made other needed updates, and dealt with issues that occurred such as when members were not automatically redirected to the new website. This new website was a significant undertaking, yet critical so the LMSC could provide ongoing information to its members. Dave made it happen in spite of the demands on his time of work and family.

Model Master of Year

Robert Heath has come to our LMSC from Pacific LMSC in California. He has taken on expanding Masters Swimming in Spokane. Rob has started with the Spokane Club Masters with the goal of growing membership of the team and participation in swimming events. He is very active as a volunteer at the national level as a member of the championship committee responsible for organizing guidance on national championship meets and reviewing bids from potential hosts. In future, we hope to harness some of his energy as a board member or officer.

Future Plans

Until we are able to travel regularly and meet in larger groups for events, the LMSC Board goals will be simple: support clubs and swimmers to best of our ability. Clubs will be the center of gravity for providing service to our members.

To that end the LMSC should provide the best possible training and education to our coaches at the club level. We have some organic capability to provide some training within our LMSC borders. Additionally, the board will explore making small, tailored clinics to our members on a traveling type basis. The idea would be to restrict attendance to the maximum allowed within local governing public health restrictions.

A big thank you is owed to the board members I serve with and those club representatives who work hard to provide services to our members. None of the events held and sanctioned by the LMSC occur without support of dedicated volunteers. Thank them when you have a chance to see them on deck in future.

Hopefully, we all get a chance to participate in our favorite sport and chosen form of fitness soon. Stay healthy, and safe until we can all meet together again.

Matthew Bronson

Inland NW LMSC Chair