

NELMSC Minutes - Board Zoom Call
12/6/23 from 6-7:15pm

Attendees: Jason Weis, Doug Sayles, Ryan Pope, Emily Mitchell, Tara Mack, Sue Jensen, Tracy Grilli, David Grilli, Gary Girolimon, Jessie Feng, Jennifer Downing, Doug Deville, Laura Dennison, Alana Aubin (ABSENT: Kysa Crusco, Jason Eaddy, Rick Osterberg)

Jason Weis – Thanks for taking the time to join tonight. Hoping to keep to an hour. Would like to have everyone give quick updates in their areas as we close out the year and head into 2024.

Sue Jensen (WPI update) – we have 249 participants so far with registration open for a few more days (extended deadline). The 1500 filled up quickly (only 50 slots). Hoping we get to 300 swimmers. Not too much communication from Paul yet, though he did realize that his initial draft of the meet info wasn't great, and he appreciated our help. AnnaLea has been helping with swimmer responses (better than last year) too. We've been using social media to help promote the meet on our own pages.

Sue Jensen & Doug Sayles (Harvard update) – planning underway and revised the order of events from our original discussion at the Hall of Fame event (dropped Sun). We can have 230 swimmers on distance day at BSI on 3/9 from 12-8:30pm, then all day Fri 3/15 at Blodgett with warmups 9:30am and going as late as needed, and Sat 3/16 at Blodgett from 1-8pm. We'll probably oversubscribe 5%, maybe consider max # of events or having a bonus event like nationals in order to accommodate more swimmers. It's an expensive budget of ~\$40-50/person to enter + \$9-10/event, with \$7,150 to rent BSI and \$10,000/day to rent Harvard (incl. facility fee + coach admin fee). We may lose \$3,000-6,000 on the meet for 500 swimmers, could be \$50,000-60,000 total to run. Sue put \$15,000 in the budget for championship meets and we should have some savings from WPI so that will help. We're hoping to sanction the Harvard meet this month.

Laura & Emily (Para/DEI) – getting 3 dates in Jan for adaptive coaches training and Laura is talking with Emily about combining forces on coach education and thinking about webinars similar to USMS. Emily has been sending monthly updates to coaches on clinics & trainings. They both watched the USMS webinar on Code of Conduct – Laura to draft template for NELMSC website for others to adopt. US Para Olympics offers a para coaching certification course on how to train adaptive swimmers – USMS already vetted the certification and is working on rollout. Steve Moss (Berry, VT) is hosting stroke clinics including FR, FR/BK, FR/FL, and an "OutSwim" for the LGBTQ community – Donna Smyers also going to help on deck. UVM is going to host a mini meet but unclear on capacity.

Tara (Awards) – thanks to Tracy for all the crazy legwork in pulling off the awesome Hall of Fame celebration. Great that the younger audience got to hear about the NELMSC's legacy and history and will hopefully get motivated to get involved. Still working on stickers, and awards now have same nomination deadline of Aug 1 for both pool and open water (Frank Wuest).

Tracy (Hall of Fame) – restaurant was tough with bar/TV set up so will likely hunt for new location next year that's a bit more private. This was our largest event both in attendance (just under 100) and most number of inductees. Even families of legacy honorees really appreciated their moment in the spotlight. Thanks to Alana and Jessie for helping keep the website and social media sites updated – so easy to read about everyone. Just need to educate our members about where to go to submit nominations. Things won't really pick up until SCM season is over and pool All-Americans get tabulated. We're getting a bit

low on funds so tried a Giving Tuesday push for donations and will include blurb in WPI meet registration, can also have Venmo code and Hall of Fame display at meet to encourage submissions & donations. Lastly, very sad news about David Bright's passing on Thanksgiving (past NELMSC Hall of Fame Committee member and former NEM Newsletter editor for a number of years, had swum with NEM since late '70s and held 2 national relay records).

Doug Deville (pool sanctions) – 11 meets (6 recognized and 5 sanction) since June 2023 and 17 in calendar year 2023, a nice increase from last year due to covid. This might have been the busiest fall since before the pandemic with almost one meet a weekend and great feedback from swimmers. A shoutout to Sue and Kysa on their outreach to pools to encourage meets—not just championships—UVAC meet was largest ever. How can LMSC encourage/support new meets to spread out in different months or different geographies? Feb and May could use more meets on calendar as tune-ups for March meet and Nationals. NEM is proposing a new meet on May 19 at Salem Workout Club. Could we bring back the Exeter meet? Something in Berkshires? VT doesn't have enough flexibility with facilities. Doug Sayles reminded to try to avoid conflicting with April 19-21 Zone meet in VA.

Gary Girolimon (OW sanctions) – began tenure by reaching out to local race directors to try and encourage partnership with USMS and have made some progress. Swim With Mission & Against the Tide swims have now been sanctioned for 2024. Charles River & Glen Lake (my event) should be back as well, and still working on Nubble Light. Looking into small OW series where participants get embroidered hat/shirt/jacket if swimmers enter 3 of 4 or 4 of 5 sanctioned events. Will talk with Tracy about NEM Team Store and look into other sponsors to help with possible merchandise.

Jason Weis for Jason Eaddy (Top Ten) – SCM will be done in Dec 2023. USMS is looking to improve top 10 collection/records nationally and trying to streamline process for sanctioning & tabulating results. Predicting some changes by our next LMSC call.

Doug Sayles (Membership) – 666 members between year + and early bird renewals (1/3rd renewed from last year's total on 2,000). Historically we get 75% of renewals by end of Feb. Thanks to those who attended Education Weekend and to Emily for coach training promotions, expecting ~\$9,000 of the \$16,000 we budgeted to be left over from Education Weekend (could be discretionary for other needs like Harvard meet). Rhody meet was great with 365 swimmers, including 63% college club and 37% masters. Already have 20 registered clubs and 37 workout groups for 2024. Would be good to drive 1-hour swim #s (NEM will push) to encourage membership renewals, also having 100x100 on 12/31 for SAA at BSI and then Harvard and Nationals in spring.

Jessie Feng (Website) – Gary wants to create OW email group through NELMSC gmail account, otherwise website up to date. Could we somehow keep historical summary of events from prior years (archive or show in reverse chrono order)?

David Grilli (Treasurer) – just shy of \$46,000 in LMSC and \$1700 in Hall of Fame account. We have \$1700 leftover from Venmo/Rhody but are still sorting out invoices. Venmo worked for dispersing funds but not for collecting – can try for WPI and March with printed QR codes – need to avoid confusion with NEM vs NELMSC for Venmo. Doug Sayles made full use of USMS grant to subsidize video production and banners for Rhody meet and will provide small subsidies to college clubs to help with travel to meet. USMS gave all LMSC Treasurers the directive to look into receiving charitable donations – checking with state of NH whether approved.

Jennifer Downing (Secretary) – been delinquent in completing minutes from NELMSC Annual Meeting in September. Need Doug Sayles to send zoom recording/transcript and will wrap up notes asap. Also took notes tonight.

Ryan Pope (USMS Relay recap) – USMS acquired Grown-Up Swimming, essentially a summer league for adults. Mostly fitness emphasis with meets and socials.