

# 2024 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Virtual

Committee Name: Southeast Zone

Session #: 1

Committee Chair: Ed Saltzman

Vice Chair:

Minutes recorded by: Lisa Watson

Date/time of meeting: August 28, 2024 6:30 PM EDT

## Actions Requiring Approval by the House of Delegates:

- 1.

## Motions Passed:

- 1.

Number of committee members present: 25

Absent: 15

Number of other delegates present: 1

Committee members present: Ed Saltzman (Chair), Lisa Watson, Jay Eckert, Gordon Mese, Catherine Rust, Helen Naylor, Kirk Clear, Aaron Schneider, Craig West, Linda Irish Bostic, Mark Rubacky, Leslie Scott, Dick Brewer, Delise Coleman, Britta O’Leary, Barbara Protzman, Sonny Nguyen, Rob Copeland, Trey Taylor, Kyle Deery, Scott Dallamura, Stephanie Waninger, Jessica Reilly, John Fox, Ed Coates (USMS President)

Committee Members Absent: Scott Bay, Sara Dunn, John Dussiliere, Julie Dussiliere, Richard Hartman, Elaine Joggerst, Krostof Kertesz, Michael Laux, Clair Letendre, Carolyn Moore, Erin Sizelove, Pia Vanheyste, Roger von Jouanne, Gregory Weber, Karol Welling

## Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM EDT.

1. ROLL CALL-the list of 2024 attendees was taken.
2. APPROVAL OF 2023 minutes. MSA to approve the 2023 Southeastern Zone minutes.

### 3. ZONE REPORTS

**Zone Chair** - Ed Saltzman reported that the Southeast Zone is doing well in membership, with 93% of the 2023 total membership as of now. We are currently at 8,157 members. All LMSCs are doing well, with registration numbers between 86% and 97% of their 2023 membership numbers renewed. We can expect a membership bump during the remaining four months of this year from people registering as Year+ members.

The Southeast Zone has maintained a very robust and varied calendar of events, offering our membership numerous opportunities to participate, with (41) events listed for the 2024 calendar, (30) SCY, (8) LCM and (3) SCM. To date, (31) meets have been completed so far this year; with 3,201 swimmers participating; accounting for 14,189 splashes.

**Records Chair** – Ed Saltzman confirmed that results from all 31 meets have been received and have been processed. All SE Zone records are up to date. All USMS LCM National Championship swims for Southeast Zone swimmers have been processed. He requested that the Sanction Chair or Top Ten Chair for the Southeastern LMSC follow up on the 08/10/24 Last Chance LCM Meet held in Kingsport, TN to determine why we’ve received their results, but they do not appear in the USMS results database.

**Webmaster** - Dick Brewer reported that as of now, we have 2 meets listed on the 2025 calendar: Auburn and Kingsport. The Southeast Zone website lists sanctioned meets as well as Open Water events. Dick reminded everyone to send him their dates for next year’s meets as soon as they are set so we can post them on the calendar, so our swimmers can start planning their coming year.

### 4. LMSC REPORTS

**Florida Gold** (Barb Protzman)- This has been a slow year due to facility & official problems as well as coaching changes. With so many USA meets being held in their area, it is hard to recruit officials for Masters Meets. There have not been as many meets held this year.

**Florida** (Cheryl Kupan)- The Clearwater pool will be closed for renovation next year, so the annual Valentines Day Meet will not be held in 2025. There are 4 new Florida clubs. New meets are being held in Clairmont, Jacksonville (Bolles),

Ocala, and Tallahassee. Membership in the Florida LMSC is OK. Kirk Clear reported that Grown Up-Swimming is doing well in Florida, with good turnouts in Jacksonville and the Melbourne area.

**Georgia** (Britta O’Leary) - A new LC meet was held in Augusta this summer, with 95 swimmers attending. Augusta will also host a SCY meet in early October. In addition, a Coaches Certification clinic was held in Augusta.

Georgia Tech, the location of the annual St Nick SCM meet for many years, has increased rental fees to the point that it is now unaffordable. Many USA meets are worried about these high costs as well.

Atlanta was the original city for Grown-Up Swimming, and it did very well this summer. 500 swimmers participated in the Championship meet, held at Chastain Park. A number of swimmers have expressed interest in joining USMS.

Georgia hopes to see a significant rise in membership this coming year from cross over members from Grown-Up Swimming.

**North Carolina** (Trey Taylor) - Membership numbers are a little less this year, but there is a good meet schedule. The LMSC uses their funds to subsidize meets, social events, the North Carolina Hall of Fame, and to send coaches to the upcoming Coaches Clinic in Houston. Sonny Nguyen (Treasurer) reported that the LMSC has invested their reserves into various accounts and gotten good returns, which allows them to give back to their membership. There was a coach’s clinic held this May in Wilmington.

**South Carolina** (Leslie Scott) - The LMSC is doing ‘medium’, with struggles on the LMSC Board. The LMSC President has been absent from participation for quite a while, and there is no secretary. Leslie (Vice President) is handling the President and Secretary duties right now, but needs more volunteer help. There was 1 fewer meet held this year in SC. That particular meet was scheduled in June, but was pre-empted by SC Nationals this year. Two new coaches are starting Masters programs in Columbia, and sending several coaches to the Coaches Clinic in Houston.

**Southeastern** (Helen Naylor) - Membership is about the same this year as 2023. The LMSC should get more members as Open Water season approaches. There was a new open water event held with 100 swimmers participating. A total of 5 Open Water events are scheduled this year

**Southern** (Aaron Schneider) - Southern is now at 96% of their 2023 membership, and should get more as the year continues. There will be an Open Water event September 15<sup>th</sup> at Bay St Louis, Mississippi, as well as a 1 day SCY meet in November in New Orleans and a 1 day SCM meet in Baton Rouge in December. The LMSC is doing well financially. Funds are used to support meets, provide for travel to the USMS Relay in October as well as the Coaches Clinic.

## 5. **ZONE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Ed pointed out that it has been several years since we have had bids for Zone Championships for all 3 courses. He asked for discussion on the future of the Zone Championships. Do we want to continue them? Comments from attendees confirmed that the Zone Championships are a good incentive for increasing attendance at meets. The consensus was that we should continue to have them, and encourage interested meet directors to bid. Anyone interested in bidding should contact Ed.

**NOTE:** Following the meeting, North Carolina reached out and volunteered to host the Southeast Zone SCY Championships in conjunction with their March 29-30, 2025 North Carolina SCY Championships, in Cary, NC.

**NOTE:** Following the meeting Helen Naylor (SE) also reached out and would like to hold the Southeast Zone Open Water Championships in conjunction with one of their Open Water events (possibly Knoxville). To be discussed early next year.

## 6. **NEW POOLS**

Ed also serves on the Championship Committee and reported that Championship is always looking for new pools to host Nationals. However, there needs to be a lot of Master’s activity at that facility for a successful bid. He mentioned Huntsville as an example. John Fox noted that there is a Masters workout from 4:30-6:30 AM that is well attended by triathletes and all types of adult swimmers; but the facility itself is not interested in supporting a Master’s program.

## 7. **NEW BUSINESS**

### **SOUTHEAST ZONE AT-LARGE DIRECTOR-**

Britta O’Leary has completed her 4 year term in this position. Trey Taylor and Erika Braun, both from North Carolina, are running for this position. Erika was unable to attend this meeting (literally ‘in the air’ on a flight). Trey, who has been involved with USMS for the last 15 years, spoke briefly about his qualifications for the job and his interest in this position. The Southeast Zone approves of the qualifications of both candidates. Anyone with questions for either Erika or Trey should reach out to them via email. Ed thanked Britta for her service for the last 4 years as At-Large Director.

8. **ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATON**

All delegates were encouraged to read all the information on the Annual Meeting website for the upcoming committee and House of Delegate meetings. Britta urged everyone to attend the Rules, Legislation, and Long Distance forums to stay informed – this could end up saving time at the House of Delegate meetings if questions don't need to be asked.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM EDT.

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## **Tasks for the Upcoming Year**

1.

The meeting was adjourned at.

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