

Potomac Valley LMSC  
2021 Annual (fall) Meeting  
Sunday, December 5, 2021 2:00pm eastern

## Meeting Agenda

### I. INTRODUCTIONS

### II. APPROVE SPRING MEETING MINUTES

<https://pvmasters.org/admin/min21-1.pdf>

### III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Chair** – Stephanie Gauzens
- **Treasurer** – Tim Timmons
- **Secretary** – Jeff Strahota
- **Membership Coordinator** – Jeff Roddin
- **Top Ten** – Mollie Grover
- **Vice Chair/Rules** – Dave Robinson
- **Sanctions** – Stephanie Gauzens
- **Officials** – Natalie Taylor
- **Communications** – Courtney Randolph
- **Awards** – vacant
- **Fitness** – Christina West
- **Long Distance/Open Water** – Paul Grecco
- **Coaches** – Frank Marcinkowski
- **Webmaster** – Ray Novitske

### IV. OTHER AND NEW BUSINESS

- **ELECTIONS** – All positions (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary)
- **NEW:** Discussion of stipends and use of PV Funds (Tim)
- **NEW:** MD Senior Games (Gauzens)
- **NEW:** Bylaws update – 2022 project (Strahota)
- **Schedule Next (Spring) Meeting**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Chair – Stephanie Gauzens

Stephanie called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm ET.

Stephanie thanked everyone for support during the pandemic and mentioned that meets are slowly restarted. Solstice occurred yesterday and Alexandria has had their January Tropical Splash meet sanctioned.

Attendees:

ALEX – Stephanie Gauzens, Ray Novitske

ARMS – Allison Miller

ANCM – Jeff Roddin

DCAC – Christina West, Wonkee Moon, Katie Stefl

DCRP – Juliette-Marie DeSousa

DCWW – Marvin Blount

GERM – Dave Robinson

GMUP – Tim Timmons, Paul Grecco

MASH – Will Ferris

NXWV – Thomas Black

RMST – Elizabeth Weigand, Jeremey Hanford

TERR - Mollie Grover, Courtney Randolph, Natalie Taylor

## Treasurer – Tim Timmons

As of 15 Nov 21, we had a total of \$78,087.87 in our checking and savings accounts combined. (about \$20k over usual since pandemic outflows are smaller + unified fee) This is an increase of \$12,673.45 over our 1 Jan 21 balance. Our finances continue to be excellent. We've had a small amount of activity this summer and early fall, our biggest expenditure was paying for club registration renewals. We will continue to receive \$12 for each PV master's swimmer that registers with USMS on the regular membership plan. This means our projected income should easily meet our needs in at least the near future. I'll update these numbers if necessary, during our meeting.

Now is a good time to discuss/decide on how to best spend the money we've accumulated over the past couple of years and will continue to accumulate over the coming years. To that end, I propose the following for discussion/action under new business:

- At the end of each year, we take all the money donated directly to us by swimmers and donate that amount to a USMS charity.
  - We fully fund scholarships for coaches' clinics and ALTS classes.
  - We continue to pay for Club renewal registrations.
- We increase the upper limit on our Club Assistant Fee reimbursements to clubs sponsoring meets to \$750 for regular events and \$1000 for national championships.
- We run and sponsor a Long Haul meet each year and maybe expand the meet to include other events at some point.
  - We fully fund single rooms for our delegates at conventions and other national meetings.
  - We re-certify the amounts of money we pay the membership coordinator and top-ten chair each year.

Finally, I would like to continue as treasurer for another year.

**// SIGNED //**  
**TIMOTHY T. TIMMONS**  
Treasurer, PVLMS

## Secretary – Jeff Strahota

Link to draft minutes of the 2020 Spring Meeting were sent with meeting reminders for this meeting and included above. Redline comments are additions from the meeting itself.

MSA (Dave/Tim) minutes; approved via voice vote

## Membership Coordinator – Jeff Roddin

Please continue to review your club listings on the PV website (<http://pvmasters.org/newsite/index.php/clubs/>) and let Ray or I know if anything needs updating.

Attached are the final club membership statistics for 2021. Here are the final individual Membership totals (see graph below):

October 31, 2014 – 2960

October 31, 2015 – 2847

October 31, 2016 – 2830

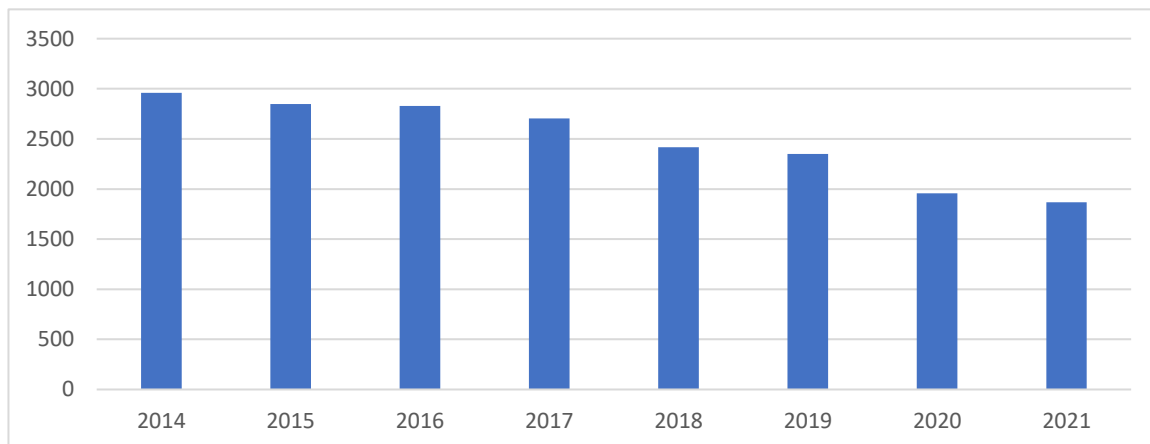
October 31, 2017 – 2704

October 31, 2018 – 2417

October 31, 2019 – 2351

October 31, 2020 – 1958

October 31, 2021 – 1868



## PV Annual Registrations

We have 29 registered 2022 clubs (vs 32 2021 clubs). The following clubs did not renew for 2022:

- Elite Rays Swim Club
- Fort Belvoir Masters (they are merging with Potomac Marlins)
- Riptide Masters (they are merging with Centreville Swim Club Masters, a Virginia LMSC Club)

Individual registration fees remain unchanged to swimmers in 2022 (\$60).

Club registration fees remain unchanged at \$60. Like last year, PV has agreed to cover the renewal costs for those clubs who submit a renewal form directly to us (as opposed to renewing online). Two clubs paid USMS directly for their renewal and 27 clubs took advantage of the free renewal offer.

This past registration year Potomac Valley swimmers donated \$4113 to the Swimming Saves Lives Foundation (SSLF) and \$397 to the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF), which is \$4510 in total donations vs \$4646 in 2020. (JRodd Note: during the middle of the year USMS indirectly phased out SSL and instead the donations go to the USA-

S foundation.) In addition to those donations, Potomac Valley swimmers donated \$1510 directly back to the Potomac Valley LMSC vs \$892 in 2020. Thus far we have not allocated the PV donations toward anything but our general operating expenses.

For the Potomac Valley LMSC donors, I send them a confirmation letter suitable to file with their taxes in the mail if they donate \$15 or more. Periodically I send emails to all donors asking if they would like a PDF or letter receipt for their donation (very few do). We are only legally required to send confirmation letters to those who donate \$250 or more (which hasn't happened yet).

Geographical breakdown of our 2021 membership by state:

- Virginia: 50%
- Maryland: 28%
- District of Columbia: 19%
- Other: 3%

## Top Ten – Mollie Grover

For 2021 SCY season, PV LMSC members participated in a few meets outside our LMSC, namely 2021 Spring Nationals in Greensboro in July. Note that the times from this meet will actually count towards the **2022 SCY** Top Ten.

The 2021 USMS House of Delegates voted to extend the 2021 LCM season to include 2021 Summer Nationals, that were held in Geneva OH in early October, which is normally at the start of a new LC Season. Thus, swims from that meet will be accounted for in upcoming 2021 LC Top Ten.

## Rules – Dave Robinson

No Report

## Sanctions – Stephanie Gauzens

We are starting to sanction local meets again.

- Germantown Solstice (Sat Dec 4)
- Alexandria's Tropical Splash (Sun Jan 30)

Sanctioning system is currently shut down at NO level. Send Stephanie sanctioning info directly so she can wrangle the current process to get meets sanctioned. This means that meets/events aren't getting automatically updated on the USMS Calendar of Events.

ANCM is planning on having Albatross, still working with facility to get a definite date.

Stephanie mentioned that she would like to hear from anyone with access to LCM facilities to contact her to try to coordinate LCM meets leading into the 2022 LCM National Championship meet in Richmond.

## Officials – Natalie Taylor

Age group teams in the area are continuing to hold meets with lingering covid protocols; Masters has started with the aforementioned events. Training for Stroke and Turn officials remains available through the USMS website. Natalie mentioned working with officials and trainers to get trainings on the calendar to help out with LCM nationals.

Ray asked if officials' credentials were getting extended due to the pandemic. Natalie was not sure, but said she would find out and let people know.

## Communications – Courtney Randolph

We are sunsetting the newsletter in favor of more modern communications on Facebook and Instagram. Please subscribe to the pages:

- <https://www.facebook.com/potomacvalleylmsc>
- <https://www.instagram.com/potomacvalleylmsc/>

Courtney thanked DCAC for always interacting with the PVLMSM account on Instagram.

## Awards – Vacant

No report; if anyone is interested, please contact the chairman.

Primary responsibility is calculating the annual SCY, SCM, LCM male and female swimmers of the year; as well as identifying and coordinating nominations of individuals for local, zone, and/or national awards. Stephanie asked for anyone who is interested in this position to send her and Jeff Strahota an email.

## Fitness – Christina West

Information on USMS Fitness events is here: <https://www.usms.org/events/fitness-events>.

Highlights include the Go the Distance (<https://www.usms.org/events/fitness-events/go-the-distance>) and Fitness Series (<https://www.usms.org/events/fitness-events/fitness-series>).

## Long Distance/Open Water – Paul Grecco

Reston and DCAC both ran open water events in the area (DCAC's sanctioned by Maryland LMSC) in September.

The 2022 USMS Open Water Nationals have been identified for all races except for the Ultra Marathon Championships. See <https://www.usms.org/events/national-championships/open-water-national-championships> for more info.

All ePostal events have been scheduled. See <https://www.usms.org/events/national-championships/epostal-national-championships> for more info.

## Coaches – Frank Marcinkowski

USMS has no planned in person coaching training for the year and has online training modules for the Level 1 & 2 classes. There will continue to be some in-person trainings offered once we can resume that.

## Webmaster – Ray Novitske

The website calendar is being updated again with local meets as they become available. Meet results have been requested from Reston Masters and DCAC for their open water swims. DCAC responded but no results were received. Reston Masters did not respond.

The website update notification email list contains 31 people. 18 of those actually opened the last email that went out 11/10. To date, no one has unsubscribed, and a few have not been added after not confirming their subscription notifications at signup.

Club contacts and workout times have been updated from coordination with Jeff Roddin. Minor tweaks and improvements continue to be made.

## New Business

### Elections

2021 does not need to be an election year. Each of the three positions below serve 2 year terms and were voted for in 2020.

## Maryland Senior Games (Gauzens)

Update on the MD Senior games that took place in early September.

Stephanie mentioned that she should not have recognized the meet in 2020 and that she rectified the situation for 2021 (which is not recognizing the meet).

Dave mentioned that he was not upset with what Stephanie did in 2021 and just does not want it to happen in 2021. Jeff said he had an issue with MSO requesting the recognition the week of the event. Stephanie stated that there is the potential for litigation from the USOPC against USMS and/or the LMSC if the event is recognized. It also violates a USMS rule to recognize the meet with Olympic in the meet name or in conjunction with the meet. Jeff mentioned that we've asked for verifiable proof of permission for MSO to use the word Olympic in their name and have yet to provide any proof. Stephanie asked if it would be worth waiting till the spring meeting to see if there is proof forthcoming and discussing this matter at that time. The general sense of the meeting attendees is that the discussion should be tabled until March.

## Bylaws Project (Strahota)

Jeff is recruiting any volunteers to work with him on a project to review (and update if necessary) our LMSC bylaws. Things like officer descriptions, officer terms, and process of calling meetings have been discussed as areas of particular interest. Please contact him if you are interested.

## Other New Business

### LMSC Donations

- Tim proposed that all monies donated to the LMSC each year get passed onto the USA Swimming Foundation with instructions to be allocated to funding adult swimming related matters. Dave seconded the motion. Ray said he personally would prefer to keep the money in the community rather than sending it out nationally. Tim amended his proposal to state that the destination of the donation would be decided upon annually, rather than always going to the USA Swimming Foundation. Stephanie mentioned that this is a standing agenda item, we don't need to vote on anything and can just do this in the order of business of the meeting.
- Stephanie mentioned working with Courtney to publicize this donation on social media accounts and possibly via email.
- Tim mentioned that this donation would be around \$1000/year. Allison proposed matching the donation from swimmers with LMSC funds.

### Scholarships

- MSA (Tim/Stephanie) to fully fund scholarships with no upper limits.
  - Tim suggested fully funding coaches clinics and ALTS instructor training (rather than the current half-funding).
  - Ray asked how many people each year typically apply for the scholarships. Tim said it's around 5 or 6 for coaches clinics and 2 or 3 for ALTS instructor training. Jeremy was concerned a lot more people would potentially be interested if it is free. Christina suggested capping each scholarship at 12 initially, since that would be well above our current yearly numbers.
  - Jeremy asked what our funds are used for normally. Tim explained that we get \$12 from individual swimmer registrations and a cut from team registrations. This means our accounts are quite flush and these ideas are trying to spend down the excess monies, in addition to the current mechanisms (sanction fees, volunteer stipends, etc.).
  - Passed via voice vote.

### Team Reimbursement for Events

- MSA (Tim/Dave) to raise reimbursement fees for events that use third party vendors for event entries.
  - These rates are currently set at \$500 for regular meets and \$750 for Zones/Nationals. Tim proposed raising the local meet reimbursement to \$750 and Zone/National meets to \$1000.
  - Passed via voice vote.

## LMSC Sponsored Swim Meet

- MSA (Stephanie/Dave) to annually run and sponsor an LMSC sponsored swim meet.
  - It could be any course (probably LCM for 2022). Discussion ensued about the difficulty of getting volunteers and that being a potential roadblock for the event.
  - Jeremy suggested establishing a policy that teams would always at least break even when hosting events. Tim mentioned that this is already a policy that has been used by a few teams in the LMSC.
  - Jeff mentioned that we've had decent success holding a Last Chance meet in years past that is scheduled after Nationals. Juliette-Marie mentioned that Hains Point is gone and that the availability of Wilson is up in the air.
  - Passed via voice vote.
- MSA (Stephanie/Dave) to hold a LCM Long Haul meet in summer of 2022.
  - Passed via voice vote.

## National Meeting Lodging

- MSA (Tim/Stephanie) to fully fund single hotel rooms at in-person national meetings.
  - Jeff mentioned that it can be fun to have a roommate and we should not require folks to be in a single room if they don't want to be. Stephanie amended her proposal to fully fund double or single rooms. The current policy requires double occupancy (which means the LMSC will only currently pay for half the rate if someone is in a single room).
  - Passed via voice vote.

## Volunteer Stipends

- Tim explained the reimbursement rates for the Membership Coordinator and Top Ten Recorder. The Membership Coordinator currently gets \$1/registered swimmer. Top Ten Recorder gets \$600/year to cover the 3 courses.
- Stephanie suggested maintaining the current rates and allowing the Membership Coordinator to do some research on how much other LMSCs give this position.

Tim also thanked the LMSC for submitting him for the Dot Donnelly award in 2021.

Stephanie suggested an additional way to spend down money. She thought it would be worthwhile having the LMSC pay for event officials rather than event hosts. She would like to do some research on what officials are paid throughout the LMSC and discuss this further at the spring meeting.

Stephanie also asked for anyone who is interested in Relay 2022 to let her know so she can assemble our delegation.

## Next Meeting – Spring?

TBD via email (likely in March)

*Meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm.*