

**MESI Board of Directors
Monday April 13th 2020
via Zoom**

Mission: Create opportunities and provide resources to promote excellence in Maine swimming.

Vision: Maine Swimming: You CAN get there from here!.

Core Values: Sportsmanship, Excellence, Leadership, Fun

Present: Kristy Barry, Maddie Buck, Marcel Da Ponte, Trevor Edmunds, Keli Gillespie, Holly Hatch, Stacy Kennard, Matt Montgomery, Jay Morissette, Zack Mullin. Brim Peabody, Betsy Perron, Taylor Rogers, Mike Schmidt, John Smith, Nicole Viele, Jim Willis, TJ Willis, Carrie Wood-Peabody.

Guest: Ali Bragg, Emma Farnham, Mary Ellen Tynan

Mission, Vision and core values read.

Secretary's Report

Motion by Taylor Rogers, second by Jay Morissette to accept the February 3rd corrected minutes.

Motion passes unanimously

Motion by Taylor Rogers, second by Jay Morissette to accept the April 5th minutes.

Motion passes unanimously.

Elizabeth Beisel Clinic update

The 14 and under All-star Clinic will take place on April 26th from 1 to 2:00. Twenty five athletes have signed up out of a possible 219. Mary Ellen may not have all of the individual emails. If coaches think someone may not have received an email, please send their address to Mary Ellen. Elizabeth will lead a motivational conversation. There will be no cost to Maine Swimming for this event.

Senior Recognition Update

Mary Ellen Tynan emailed the head coaches to gather names of graduating seniors. Some coaches have yet to respond.

Financial Report

MESI currently has \$156,841.55 in the bank. Stacy Kennard will send out checks for athlete sectional reimbursements.

Holly Hatch and Brim Peabody will meet this week to discuss options or financial assistance to Maine Swimming teams. Taylor Rogers suggested looking into Sierra Nevada and Maryland LSC's to see how they propose supporting teams that will lose income from summer meets.

Holly will schedule a Finance Committee meeting for the week of April 20th.

Crisis Management Committee Update

Reminder - clubs should exhaust all local, state, and national options for financial support before turning to MESI or USA swimming for assistance.

Any meets offered this summer will be regional. USA Swimming is likely not to offer any national or sectional level meets over the summer.

Athletes will try to stay in touch with each other through social media. Mary Ellen Tynan is looking into the possibility of getting a Mail Chimp account for regular email updates.

There will be a coach's virtual get together on Thursday April 16th at 7 p.m.

USA Swimming is offering free mental health support to coaches.

Volunteer of the Year

Nominees are TJ Willis, Marcy Scharf and Jen Delmonte.

Per voting via online chat to Mary Ellen Tynan, the Volunteer of the Year for 2019-2020 is Jen Delmonte.

Mary Ellen Tynan will announce the Volunteer Of The Year Award this week.

Coach of the Year

Mary Ellen has received some nominations for Coach of the Year. Nominations are open until April 18th.

Discussion: Some confusion surrounding the policy that was created earlier in 2019 for the process of selecting the Coach of the Year. Mary Ellen was able to find it in the minutes, though it is not listed in the current Policies and Procedures. This policy may not go into effect until the 2020 season. For this year, we need to clarify how we would like to select the COY and ACOY.

Clarification of previous vote to appoint the Coaches' Rep, Senior Chair, Age Group Chair, Technical Planning Chair, Senior Athlete Representative, Junior Athlete Representative and one alternate member to serve on the Coach of the Year selection committee. We will need at least one alternative, maybe more, depending on who is nominated for the award.

Motion by Taylor Rogers, second by Jay Morissette to appoint Betsy Perron as an alternate.

Mike asks if this is the forum to choose an alternate? Do we need a list of alternates if several members of the committee will need to recuse themselves. Jim suggests one more alternate.

Jim suggests tabling discussion until next week after nominations close.

Motion by Holly Hatch, second by Taylor Rogers to table the discussion until the 4/20/20 meeting.

Motion passes unanimously.

Senior Zoom Event

Mike Schmidt would like to put something together for the high school aged swimmers and is considering a college recruiting forum. He would like to invite all of the Maine college coaches and high school aged swimmers to participate.

John Smith asked the athletes at the meeting what other topics might interest them. They agreed that the college conversation was appealing and T J Willis suggested offering a college swimming forum on an annual basis. The Athlete Representatives will conduct a poll of senior-level swimmers to find out what topics might interest them in addition to college swimming.

Senior Recognition

Applications for the senior scholarship are due April 14th.

When asked, the Athlete Reps felt that senior recognition via Instagram would be more appropriate than posting on the website.

The athletes will put together a format for senior recognition this week, and then they will collect biographical information from the graduating seniors and post on Instagram.

Athlete Committee Proposal

TJ Willis met with the Governance Committee to work out a proposal (see below) for making changes to the Athlete Committee structure. A new Athlete Committee format would require changes in the bylaws and the policies and procedures.

Proposed MESI BYLAW Changes:

Board of Directors - vote to recommend amendment to House of Delegates

House of Delegates - vote to amend MESI Bylaws (must be approved by 2/3 of members present and voting)

ATHLETE AT-LARGE HOUSE MEMBERS - A sufficient number of athletes to ensure that Athlete Members constitute at least 20% of the voting membership of the House of Delegates

...shall be recommended by the Senior Athlete Representative to be appointed by the General

Chair with advice and consent of the Board of Directors...

7.4 STANDING COMMITTEES & COORDINATORS

.1 ATHLETES COMMITTEE -

A. CHAIR - The Senior Athlete Representative or his/her designee shall be the chair of the committee.

B. MEMBERS - The Athletes Committee shall consist of the Athlete Representatives, the Athlete At-Large Board Members, and the Athlete At-Large House Members. *...and five (5) additional athletes.*

C. DUTIES - The Athletes' Committee shall have general charge of the business and affairs of the Athletes of MESI, and shall undertake such activities (a) delegated to it by the Board of Directors or the General Chair or (b) undertaken by the Committee as being in the best interests of the Athlete Members, MESI, USA Swimming and the sport of swimming.

Motion by Marcel DaPonte, second by Taylor Rogers to send the bylaw change proposal to the HOD.

Motion passes unanimously

Proposed MESI POLICIES & PROCEDURES Changes

Board of Directors - vote to amend MESI Policies & Procedures (must be approved by majority of members present and voting)

ATHLETE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In addition to the Senior Athlete Representative, Junior Athlete Representative, and Athlete At-Large Board Members, five (5) additional athletes shall be selected annually to serve on the Athletes Committee.

At the time of selection, the athletes must (a) be an athlete member in good standing; (b) be at least a sophomore in high school by the end of the school year or at least 16 years of age, (c) be currently competing, or have competed within the three (3) immediately preceding years, in the

program of swimming conducted by MESI or another LSC; and (d) have his or her place of permanent residence in the Territory and expect to reside therein throughout at least the first half of the term (other than periods of enrollment in an institution of higher education).

The selection shall be made through an application process and shall be conducted by the Senior Athlete Representative, Junior Athlete Representative, Athlete At-Large Board Members, and Senior Vice Chair. Athletes must submit an application via the MESI website. Written notice shall be given to all eligible athletes at least 1 week prior to the application deadline.

Athletes will serve a one-year term, beginning on May 1st immediately following their selection.

Motion by Taylor Rogers, second by Holly Hatch to accept the proposed policy and procedures for the Athlete Committee.

Discussion: the new policy clarifies the selection of the Athlete Committee using language recommended by USA Swimming.

Motion passes unanimously.

The Athlete Committee may move ahead, operating under these proposals.

DEI Report

Postponed until April 20th

Motion by Taylor Rogers, second by Marcel Da Ponte to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Perron, MESI Secretary on April 17, 2020