
Recognition and Awards

Committee Members

Tara Mack, Chair; Caitlin Gagnon, Vice Chair

Rich Burns, Hill Carrow, Emily Cook, Sara Dunn, Hayley Martin, Jane Moore, Michael Moore, Beth Nymeyer, Nancy Ridout, Crystie McGrail (VPLO), Ann Marshfield, Dan Underbrink

Ex-Officio: Daniel Pauling

Introduction

“The Recognition and Awards Committee shall promote recognition of service to USMS. The committee shall review and approve proposals for all official USMS service awards and ensure that a history of all service awards is maintained. The committee shall be involved in determining method of recognition and recipient selection when appropriate. The committee shall consist of the committee chair, at least two Ransom J. Arthur Award recipients, and sufficient members to execute the committee function. The committee should include representatives from other committees that present service awards.”

This Committee oversees the following USMS Awards:

Captain Ransom J Arthur, MD (RJA)- The Capt. Ransom J. Arthur M.D. Award is U.S. Masters Swimming’s most prestigious award. It is presented annually to the person who is recognized to have done the most to further the objectives of Masters Swimming programs over an extended period of time.

Dorothy Donnelly Service Award (DDSA)- is given to those volunteers whose service stands out in its scope and its impact on the program and the USMS members who have benefited from their efforts on the local, regional, and national level. Individuals are selected based on their contributions that align with the USMS goals and objectives.

Club of the Year (COTY)- Successful USMS clubs develop programs that draw people in, support their swimmers, and set standards for other clubs to follow. Initiated in 2006, this annual award recognizes the efforts of the great clubs that embody these attributes.

Fitness Award (FIT)- Fitness Award nominee is someone who by their example both passively and actively encourages others to seek fitness through swimming as a lifestyle (competition is not required). The individual provides encouragement through social interaction in and out of the water to keep people involved in a fitness lifestyle within their swimming community.

June Krauser Communications Award (JKCA)- The June Krauser Communications Award is presented annually to a USMS-registered individual or group, whose work in communications has contributed to the growth, improvement, or success of U.S. Masters Swimming locally, regionally, or nationally.

Discussions and Projects Since Last Annual Meeting

Reviewing, updating, testing and implementing new nominations format, ultimately selecting JotForm for this year's nominations. This included updating questions and language required and optional on nomination forms. The committee tested the nominations and were able to troubleshoot before going live on May 1, 2026 with support from the national office, specifically Jessica and Meredith.

Launched and completed Social media campaign- promotion of Nominations to all USMS members, May 1st through July 1, 2026.

Launched and completed Email campaign soliciting nominations across LMSC's nationwide.

Collected and organized all completed nominations by the July 1, 2026 deadline. Sent nominations to subcommittees for review, discussion, consideration, and voting.

Subcommittees reviewed nominations and selected recipient(s) according to R&A Policies. Subcommittees completed recipient(s) process by July 26th, 2026.

Discussed process and will review successes and challenges for the 2027 nomination process. (ongoing)

Action Items

- Awards Bios- subcommittees are working on the bios for the 2026 Awards Recipients to be posted on the USMS Awards page(s).
- Collecting information on successes and items to update on JotForm nominations. Looking at possible alternatives to JotForm as needed.
- Reviewing and updating R&A Policies
- Reviewing Awards Nomination Promotion process.
- Creating 2026 Recognition video for Friday night of Annual Meeting August meeting
- Previous awards Bios (ongoing)

Agenda

1. "Roll Call"
2. Actions to be Taken:
 - a. Call to order & Welcome
 - b. VPLO Report, Crystie
 - c. Minutes (previously approved and posted)
 - d. Overview of Awards subcommittee chairs share details.
 - e. NOTE: We are not discussing recipients, just dynamics of the subcommittees
 - f. Other committee members share their experiences. Discuss how to get

- involved or how to express interest in this or any other committee.
- g. Questions or comments from guests
- h. Thank you all for joining and thank you to the committee members all your hard work on these awards and the entire process this year!
- i. Adjourn

Recognition and Awards Committee Meeting
[Sunday August 16th, 2026 7:30pm-8:30pm EST| Zoom Registration Link](#)