



**MSO Townhall Meeting
2019 Ontario Masters Swimming Championship
Markham, Ontario
March 23, 2019 following the 800 Free**

The meeting was called to order.

Brigitte Zirger requested and received permission from participants to record the meeting in order to assist with producing an accurate summary.

As background, MSO's 2018 AGM took place in Nepean following the Red-Blue Meet on December 9th, 2018. MSO had committed to schedule a Townhall coincident with Provincials to expand the dialogue to as broad an audience as possible. The Townhall had no specific agenda since the AGM materials, including draft minutes, were available online. The floor was then opened to the membership for discussion and questions.

Bud Seawright, Chair of the SO Masters Committee and Jack So, member of the SO Masters Committee, were acknowledged and welcomed to the meeting.

MSO Board members introduced themselves and the floor was opened to the attendees. Points raised...

- Strong desire for MSO and SO to meet and discuss ways of working together, coexist without bickering; there is a desire to reunite masters swimming.
- Some attendees stated that it does not make sense for masters to be under SNC; as Masters is a growing sport. Some remarked that masters and age group are different and should be managed separately.
- Bud Seawright outlined the benefits of being part of SNC, noting Masters committee funding, help with organization, take advantage of staff and support, SNC database and its connection with age group.
- Brigitte Zirger noted that MSO has a long history – 30+ years incorporated; pre-incorporation goes back even further. A lot of national programs have grown from ones developed and promoted by MSO. There is a long history of results, rankings and records both for Ontario on the website and nationally in the database. MSO database records OWS, SCY and the new 800 IM in addition to the traditional FINA-recognized events.

- One swimmer remarked that MSO moved on and have done a good job. He noted that the 2018 Canadian Masters OWS Championships via LOST still has no results published in the MSC database. While the host has published all results there is no indication of who the masters were. Ridiculous.
- Jeff Holmes offered comment. He is not a member of MSO or SO specifically. He has been an official for 35 years. He has also been involved with the provincial teachers federations when two, similar federations were in conflict. Resolution took setting aside all past recriminations. Jeff feels that a blank sheet of paper is for best for Masters Swimming; use a mediator. At the end of the day is it to do what is best for all; there are Swimmers on the other side who are equally committed to do the best for masters swimming. He remarked on SO's hostile takeover of OSOA and that four years later, in spite of promises, they are still not offering the full extent of services previously available via OSOA volunteers. He felt that part of the take-over was simply the personalities involved. For masters it is time for a civil conversation. If following that, we end up where we are, then that is the way it is.
- Swimmers offered various observations on different club models
 - Integrated clubs, i.e., masters swimmers within age group clubs; age group clubs don't have the resources to dedicate to masters. In one case, the club no longer wanted to support masters and focused just on kids. They now have a new local pool with no masters team in it.
 - Too expensive and too many regulations for age group; not needed for masters; don't want masters to be dictated to by age groupers. They are different and should have equal status.
 - Other comments observed on age group and masters (integrated or separate) working together to provide officials for each other's meets; Masters swimmers are often parents of age group swimmers; parents on deck who swim should be encouraged to swim with masters.. Examples supported cooperation irrespective of structure.
- Several participants complimented the MSO board for choosing to move ahead with a complex job. Not many out there willing to help but don't be afraid to delegate. We need a visionary to help bring masters together.

Several participants commented on different governance models:

- Desire for MSC (a national body) to look like USMS which strongly supports and develops Masters swimming. There is good cooperation between USMS and US Swimming.

- Desire to see Masters swimming as an equal member at Aquatics Canada along-side SNC, Waterpolo Artistic Swimming and Diving.
- Desire to see all masters aquatics pulled together under a single Masters Aquatics organization as an equal member at Aquatics Canada.
- One participant suggested an independent report on the situation. He was informed that such a report was done in the fall 2017 and posted on the Ontario Masters (not MSO) Facebook group.

Other Comments and Questions

- What is the difference between World FINA and World Master Games?
 - You need to be registered with a FINA federation (e.g., SNC, USMS, etc.) to attend World FINA, PanAm or any event offered by a FINA Region. World Masters Games, and any Games, are corporate entities and not Federations (i.e., not a FINA member country). They are independent of FINA and you don't need to be registered with a FINA federation to attend.
- Feedback was requested for MSO's new Challenge Circuit. It was not well used and MSO would like to make it work better. The idea was to promote in-house meets to acquaint less experienced swimmers with the meet format.
- Clubs/swimmers are reminded to estimate entry times for swim meets. The No Time entries cause inefficient heat seeding and slows the pace of the meet.

The following people signed-in. Others attended without signing in.

Name	Club/Affiliation
Greg Cosby Jack So Albert Napast Michael Parker Bud Seawright Michael Artindale Dan Morken Ryan Saw Mike Heath-Eves Robb Jack Michael Olsen Hin Lim Lee Sara Naomi Gladstone Yoshi Nomura Alex Boulanger Cliff Gentle Gilles Levesque	ANC AURO/SER, SO Masters Committee AURO Burlington Masters EOMAC, Chair, SO Masters Committee Laurentian Masters Ol' Henry Masters, Kingston Nepean Masters TECH TECH TECH THOR THOR TMU TOROSwim TYMS TYMS
MSO Board Members	
Brigitte Zirger, President Jake Nesovic, Vice President Beth Carey, Treasurer Andrea Schwartz-Smith, Marketing/Communications Sue Weir, Director at Large Absent Rod Beauprie, Secretary Mike Sweny, Competition	Nepean Masters TYMS TOMS B-TRAIN TYMS Orleans Orcas Nepean Masters