

2006 USMS Convention Results

By **Bill Tingley, Susan Ehringer, David Burgio, Mike Lemke, Mark Gill, Robin Segnitz, Pam Luebbe, Meg Smath and Michelle Ward**

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 Gail O'Malley, WILD
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 Joanne Tingley, LAKE
 Michelle Ward, SLM

Legislation: A new rule for registering with USMS and entering a meet will take effect beginning January 1, 2007: "For knowingly providing false information, including name, date of birth, age or gender, a swimmer may lose his/her membership in USMS or be disqualified and have his/her meet results removed."

Rules: Most of the changes to the USMS rules had to do with making rules easier to find, read and understand.

- At the National Championships, competitors of the same gender may be required to swim two-to-a-lane in the freestyle distance events when that meet day is projected to last more than 12 hours.
- On the starter's command, "Take your mark," the swimmer must have one foot at the front of the block, edge of the pool (deck start) or on the wall (in water). When a swimmer does not respond promptly to the command "Take your mark," the starter shall immediately release all swimmers, upon which the swimmers may stand up, step off the blocks or leave the wall.
- All times must meet the pool length requirements (rule book article 107.2.1) in order to be official and be submitted for records and Top 10.
- A swimmer who turns 18 the day before the start of the National Championships has a procedure to enter, register and swim the National Championships. (article 104.5.4)
- Swimmers no longer have to report to a clerk of course.

—Bill Tingley

Registration: The big news during the registrar meetings was the online registration system. It looks like it will happen some time in 2007. The online system will allow new and old members to register and pay by credit card. Since the system is still in the development phase, most registrations for 2007 will be processed on paper. Even once the system becomes active, members still wishing to use pen and paper and pay by check



Kentucky delegates Pam Luebbe, David Burgio and Robin Segnitz found time to unwind in the hospitality suite at convention. Photo by Michelle Ward.

or cash will still be able to do so and submit the form to the LMSC registrar – in Kentucky that's me, Susan Ehringer.

The other news was the avoidance of a dues increase in 2007. USMS is in the process of hiring an executive director. This additional cost, along with the online registration, will force USMS to increase dues by \$5 in 2008.

Communications and Marketing: The Communications Committee unveiled its communication plan. The plan consists of descriptions of all publications, including print and electronic media. The plan outlined ways to improve on the existing publications and prepare for future innovations. The Marketing Committee refined its plan to eliminate anything that crossed the lines of the Communications Committee. The Marketing Committee will concentrate on external communications, thus allowing the Communications Committee to concentrate on internal communications.

The USMS Planner has not been distributed in the magazine and the number of planners being distributed to members continues to decrease. The Market-

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2006–07 Sanctioned Meets

- **Louisville Invitational (SCM)**
November 4–5, 2006
TYR Grand Prix Series
University of Louisville, Ralph Wright Natatorium
- **Lakeside Mile (SCM)**
Sunday, December 3, 2006
Lakeside Swim Club
- **Western Kentucky Green Gators Swim Meet (SCY)**
Sunday, January 21, 2007
Bowling Green High School, Bowling Green, Ky.
- **Cardinal Invitational (SCY)**
Sunday, February 25, 2007
University of Louisville, Ralph Wright Natatorium
Wildcat Masters Invitational (SCY)
March 24–25, 2007
University of Kentucky, Lancaster Aquatic Center
- **USMS National Championships (SCY)**
May 17–20, 2007
Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center
Federal Way, Wash.

The Rewards of Masters Swimming and the Benefits to Transplant Athletes

By David Burgio

I know I have seen, talked and swam with many of you around the pools in Kentucky. So, for just a few moments, it would be my honor to tell my transplant story and why Masters swimming has been and will remain such an integral part of my life. Briefly, I will mention a few of my many past experiences, which helped to solidify my commitment and love to one of my favorite activities.

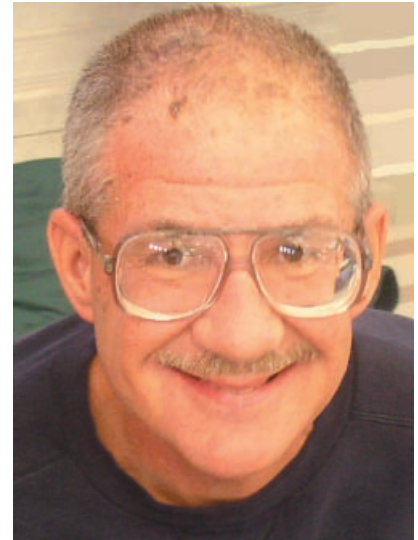
I am 63 years of age and a former hospital CEO for 34 years at two Kentucky hospitals. I received a kidney transplant on January 5, 1996, when I was 52, after two years on peritoneal dialysis—all from a hereditary condition, which I knew about since age 26. My kidney was donated through the generosity of the mother of a 25-year-old Marine sergeant who was in an automobile accident. My life mantra since then has been “I’m too blessed to be depressed”!!

For about 25 years, I was a dedicated lap swimmer. Nearly every day before going to work I would usually swim between $\frac{3}{4}$ and 1 mile. You know—up and back at the “same pace”!! But I really liked the way I felt after my swim and it became a regular part of my life. I guess you could say I was addicted to my daily chlorine fix.

Well, it was six months after my transplant before my physician would permit me to do anything strenuous, other than walk. So, I just waited and “healed,” but I couldn’t wait to get back into the water after 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years—July 1996 was the date I was allowed back in the water. Now I was happy again—my kidney was functioning fine and I could fully resume my life. By the way, I remember my physician saying that my swimming background helped to keep me healthy while on dialysis waiting for my transplant.

Soon after July 1996, I began to hear from transplant colleagues and receive information on both the United States and the World Transplant Games. The U.S. Games are held in the even-numbered years, the most recent (2006) being held in Louisville at the U of L pool. And the World Games are held in the odd years, the most recent being in London, Ontario, Canada, last summer.

I decided I wanted to attend the 1998 U.S. Games in Columbus, Ohio, in June—my first Transplant Games. However, I also knew that I needed, as Emeril Lagasse says, to “kick it up a notch”—i.e., my swimming. I’d been to swim meets with my children before, but I had never participated in one myself. I soon heard about the Wildcat Masters meet in Lexington in the



David Burgio. Photo by Bob Adams.

spring of 1998. So I called Meg Smath (meet director) to ask a few questions. I remember her telling me that it was a fun event in which to participate, and I would likely meet many great people. She sounded so positive I knew I would be missing something if I did not attend. She was right. Thanks Meg! That was my very first Masters meet. Incidentally, at the 1999 Wildcat meet I remember meeting another kidney transplant swimmer from Tennessee, who I had seen at the 1998 U.S. Games. Small world, isn’t it?

Since then I make every effort to attend as many Kentucky swim meets as I can, oftentimes with my wife. I have had the pleasure to converse with swimmers who just missed the U.S. Olympic Team by a few hundredths of a second to those who just want to maintain their weight. I remember one year at a Swim-Louisville meet, standing at the blocks for the 100m free. Approaching the starting block next to mine was an “older” man in a full body suit who was “limping.” At the 50m turn we were about even but he reached the touchpad before me. Before we exited the water he turned to me and said that was one of the best races he had. I smiled back and said it was a good race for me too and I was happy he also had a good race.

I also remember one of the past years at a Lakeside meet there was a swimmer in a wheelchair. I was impressed that everyone was so accommodating to him and seemed to go out of their way to be so courteous

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XI FINA World Masters Championships

By Tita Arnold

SKY at FINA Masters World Games, August 3–11, 2006. Sixteen SKY swimmers went to Stanford University for the Masters World Championships: Tita Arnold, Cindy Ciampa, Tracy Elton, Mark Gill, Cork Haberek, Steve Hellmann, Robert Holmes, Janice Kregor, Alexandra Nieto, Manuel Nieto, Sandra Marlowe, Robin Segnitz, Keith Shepherd, Meg Smath, Leslie Weeter, and Wilk West. The meet had 5,300 swimmers for competitive swimming; then add the water polo, synchro and diving for a total of 7,200 entered athletes.

A fantastic staff and incredible venue welcomed us to sunny California. At check-in we were required to have an accredited photo ID made to hang around our necks, which allowed us entry on deck and, of course, to compete. Security was strict, but amiable, by the Stanford football team.

Over 5,000 swimmers from 74 countries came to swim in the speed competition, have fun and trade everything from caps to suits to T-shirts.

What I remember vividly is how every SKY swimmer made an effort to watch and cheer each other's swimming. We all had bright green T-shirts with a map of the U.S., highlighting the state of Kentucky, with a line leading to Stanford. These were so cool—because when competing you could always see that sea of green. Sandra Marlowe was the designer—thank you Sandra.

Many swimmers were bi- and quad-lingual. Unfortunately, some Argentinian boys didn't think Manuel Nieto understood Spanish. Oh my, what an error in their judgment to criticize a SKY men's relay in his presence. Revenge was sweet—as the older SKY relay dusted the boys from Argentina.

Mark Gill was fabulous as an announcer ... may have missed his true calling in life.

The heat became fierce, but we all survived, drank Jamba Juice and laughed a lot.

World, SKY and personal records fell, and Kentucky swimmers stood out. Relaxation was shooting pictures of Gary Hall Jr., the Italian

men's team or debating which country had the best-looking athletes.

We all wore our game faces pre-race, but the whole experience was fun and exhausting in a good way.

Kentucky honors these SKY swimmers who came home with medals:

Alexandra Nieto, 30-34, 200 Free, 9th, 2:18.04; 200 IM, 10th, 2:40.23; 100 back, 7th, 1:16.25; 50 back, 8th, 34.87; 400 free, 7th, 4:52.05

Manuel Nieto, 25-29, 7th, 800 free (9:24.10); 200 fly, 5th, 2:20.54

Leslie Weeter, 25-29, 200 breast, 8th, 3:06.95; 200 fly, 7th, 2:44.11

Cindy Ciampa, 45-49, 200 fly, 10th, 2:57.54

Tita Arnold, 65-69, 800 free, 8th, 14.15.86; 400 free, 9th, 7:00.80

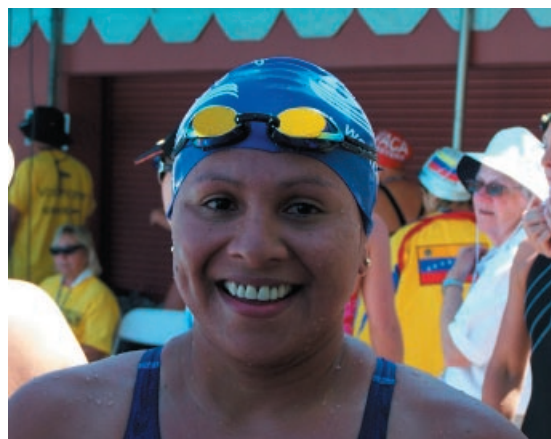
Congratulations to all 16 SKY swimmers who made the trip to California and participated in the FINA World Masters Championships—Kentucky is proud of each of you!!!!



Swim Kentucky made its presence known at the World Championships, both with our banner, and by cheering for our teammates. This and all photos on this page by Meg Smath.



Cindy Ciampa on her way to 10th place in the 200 fly.



Alexandra Nieto was happy about medaling in all five of her events

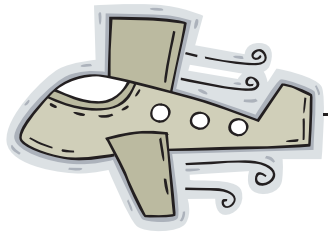


Our women's free relay (l-r): Leslie Weeter, Tracy Elton, Tita Arnold, Robin Segnitz.



Our men's relay shows off their guns (l-r): Manuel Nieto, Steve Hellmann, Wilco West and Cork Haberek.





SKY Writings

Kentucky Senior Games

Kentucky Senior Games held qualifications for the 2007 National Senior Games in Lexington, Sunday September 24, and the following SKY swimmers participated with excellent swims. Notification of qualifiers will be announced at a later date. By age group: *50-54*: Sarajane Doty, Mary Graves, Wendy Medley, Gail O'Malley, Meg Smath, Karen Wunderlin, Charles Frank, Jim Grubbs, Jim Keller. *55-59*: Diane Bellafronto, Marilyn Blaske-Hull, Anne Huntington, Janet Scheeline, Frank Diebold, Jim Goodwin, Denny Hamilton, Larry Hunt, Tom Mester, Bill Tingley, Ted Wathen. *60-64*: Vicki Catlin, Linda Hubbuch, Susan Paris, Jodi Rowatt, Woody Axton, Stan Bearden, David Burgio, George Dodge, Tom Finnegan, John Graham, Steve Hellmann, Glenn Hubbuch, Glenn Reed, Bill Sturm. *65-69*: Susan Bradley-Cox, Ralph Johanson, Marty O'Toole. *75-79*: Mary Jane Mullins. *80-84*: Matt Flanagan. *90-94*: Dorothy Riordan.

Lakeside Masters. Congratulations to **Debbie Utz** for being chosen to the *Courier-Journal* Forum Fellows Class of 2006! She, along with 14 others, will participate for two-week stints in the editorial board's daily content meeting. Debbie has been an early childhood education teacher for 32 years and a devoted Masters swimmer with Lakeside for over 10 years.

Also, congratulations to **Joanne Tingley**, who received the Mayor's Good Neighbor Award in the 8th District for her work restructuring the bylaws of the Belknap Neighborhood Association. Lakeside Swim Club is in the 8th District and Joanne has been a resident and member since 1956. Joanne has been an active member of Lakeside Masters since its inception in 1981.

Ted Wathen will have a photo exhibition titled "An Olmstead Vision at Artemisia." Artemisia is located at 620 East Market Street in Louisville, and the exhibition will run August 31–October 31.

Carroll Mackin was spotlighted in the *Courier-Journal* newspaper on September 4th for his business, The Great Northern Manufacturing

Company. The company specializes in aluminum, stainless steel trim and copper roofing nails.

Craig Pickering was spotlighted in the *Courier-Journal* newspaper on July 9 on his training program as he prepared for the Gay Games to be held in Chicago, Illinois.

That's all for now—Mary Graves

Wildcat Masters. Two Wildcat Masters qualified for the International Triathlon Union World Championships in Lausanne, Switzerland, in September 2006. Susan Bradley Cox, 65-69, first in her age group, and George Van Meter, 50-54, fifth in his age group. The qualifying event was held at Smithville Lake, Kansas City, Mo., July 8, 2006. The triathlon distances are 1.5k swim, 40k bike and 10k run. *Way to go, Susan and George! Kentucky is proud of you!*

—Meg Smath

SwimLouisville Masters. **Leslie Weeter** and **Michelle Keyes** participated in the Danskin Women's Triathlon in Pleasant Prairie, Wisc. The following is a short piece that Michelle was nice enough to send me.

"Leslie and I had a great time at the Danskins

Women's Triathlon in Pleasant Prairie, Wisc. Four years ago, I did Danskins as my first triathlon, loved it and have been going back every summer. This year I convinced Leslie and four other friends to compete. Danskins is great for both newbie and seasoned triathletes—there are always a couple pros that show up. The bike course is mostly flat with some rolling hills (and sometimes headwind like this year—hello, 'Windy City!'). The swim is in a manmade lake, which is part of the Pleasant Prairie Rec Plex (an awesome and enormous fitness complex complete with ice rink) and the run is around the lake, so it's very spectator friendly. One of the best things about Danskins is the feeling of comradeship you experience with all the other women—very high encouragement. At 4,200 women, it's one of the best and biggest sprint triathlons around. Danskins has events all over the country and each one is very well executed and lots of fun. Hope some of you women 'tri' one next year!"

What Michelle failed to mention is that she finished fifth overall and third in her group (12

elite), while Leslie finish 67th overall and ninth in her group (400th in her age group).

Closer to home, Swim-Louisville had good representation at the Louisville stop of the Tri-America series. The most outstanding result was our own **Beth "the Bethinator" Hoyle**, who was the first woman overall at the international distance. Also of note, **Leslie Weeter** won her age group in the sprint division, **Charles Franke** won his age group in the international division, **Jim Grubbs** was a member of a winning men's relay team, and **Anne Huntington** and **Diane Bellafronto** were members on a winning women's relay team. The paper had it wrong about Anne and Diane's team, but I don't care, they are winners in my book!

Patrick Schmidt competed in another Ironman, this time at Lake Placid. He finished under 13 hours, thanks in part to an outstanding swim. Just shows you what "occasional training" at the Frankfort Avenue Beer Depot can do for you!

Whew!

—Tom Mester 

and helpful—including both getting him in and out of the water. I did not start swimming the backstroke and butterfly until 2000. So, it's always "fun for me" during the 100m backstroke event, that Bill Tingley, with his "NT entry," and I are placed in the same heat. You know the "rest of the story."

Well that's a lot of dialogue to tell you that since my first Masters meet I have been to five U.S. Transplant Games and three World Transplant Games. I have met so many great swimmers from all over the world. I remember when I was in Budapest, Hungary, in 1999 at the World Games I was honored to meet a former Hungarian Olympic swimmer who also had a kidney transplant. He had his kidney for 13 years then. Needless to say, he was by far the best swimmer in his age group. I hope to be able to go to Bangkok, Thailand, in September 2007 for the next World Transplant Games.

My continued participation in Masters swimming has been the catalyst in motivating me to become a USMS swim official, as well as a representative to the KY-LMSC, representing the Wildcat Masters team. As a Kentucky delegate, I attended my first USMS convention this year—what an experience. In addition to those, but in the transplant arena, I am currently the chair of the Patient Affairs Committee for the United

Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) in Richmond, Va. I am also the treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee for the Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA) in Louisville, Ky. UNOS is the organization, contracted with the federal government, that controls organ allocation in the United States, and KODA is the organization that allocates organs in Kentucky.

My doctor continues to tell me that swimming is one of the best activities possible for me. AND, there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that a major part of the continued success of both my kidney transplant, as well as the health I have enjoyed to date since my transplant, has been my involvement and participation in Masters swimming. The collegiality and the enjoyment of being with and getting to know other swimmers at the meets is the icing on the cake.

If you haven't done so already, I hope you will consider signing the back of your driver's license, as well as tell your family that you would consent to organ donation if that is your decision. It may just be that the swimmer in the lane next to you is there because of the selfless act of someone like you deciding that "Organ Donation Save Lives."

Thanks for your ear. See you at the pool!! 🏊



How many Kentucky delegates can you fit in the backseat of Bill Tingley's car? It was a tight fit, but David Burgio wasn't complaining! Photo by Michelle Ward.

—"Convention Results," *Continued from page 1*

ing Committee is working on a new design to make the Planner more appealing to new swimmers, fitness swimmers and long distance swimmers. If you would like a Planner, contact Susan at kyregistrar@insightbb.com. Planners will be available for shipping costs only.

—Susan Ehringer

Finance Committee: This committee met a total of more than six hours spanning three days. Highlights:

- A loss of \$50,000 to \$80,000 is projected for the XI FINA Masters Championships.
- New addition to FOG (Financial Operating Guidelines)—USMS reserves the right to inspect all financial records of any LMSC upon reasonable notice to the LMSC.
- Current assets: \$1.7 million cash and \$1.1 million in CDs.
- ACTION: \$5 dues increase. Passed by the House of Delegates for the year 2008.

A budget of \$50,000 for new club development was passed by the HOD, but there will be no distribution until after task force recommendations are made.

Planning Committee: This committee met for 1 ½ hours and discussed a Local Development and Assistance Program.

Sports Medicine, Health and Safety Committee: The medical and safety folks touted the success of the Sports Medicine Lecture Series at the World Championships. New strategy for lecture series on Web—subcommittee appointed.

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2007 Registration

Yes, November 1 is the opening of the 2007 USMS registration year! You will find the 2007 registration form in this mailing of *Kentucky Waves*. Remember: your present 2006 USMS card expires on December 31, 2006! Please be kind to your registrar and mail your 2007 registration plus check to Susan before Christmas! Address any questions to Susan Ehringer, kyregistrar@insightbb.com.

The Kentucky meet schedule is on page 2 of this newsletter, plus information and entry forms for the SCM and SCY meets and the 30 Minute Fitness Challenge are included with this issue.



The convention was all just a blur for Mike Lemke! Photo by Michelle Ward.



Mark Gill and Meg Smath apparently cracked under the pressure of their duties as officers. Photo by Michelle Ward.



Mike Lemke, Bill Tingley and Dave Burgio cleaned up nicely for the Aquatic Awards Banquet. Photo by Michelle Ward.

—David Burgio

For anyone who is new to Masters swimming, the country is divided into zones, and Kentucky is part of the Great Lakes Zone, along with Indiana, Ohio, Lake Erie (in northern Ohio), Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and Allegheny Mountain (Western Pennsylvania). We have, as of this month, 4,669 registered members in our zone (of about 44,000 nationally), and 509 of you are in Kentucky. The Great Lakes Zone was well represented with awards, three people receiving National Service Awards and YMCA Indy SwimFit being awarded the first ever Club of the Year award. Also, SwimLouisville Masters team has been awarded the 3000/6000 postal swim for 2008. The Great Lakes Zone decided that we should be targeting younger swimmers for membership, especially those swimmers of college age or newly out of college. We have allocated the sum of \$1,000 to be used to help discount original registration fees for new USMS members in the 18-24 age range. Each Local Masters Swimming Committee (including Kentucky) will receive enough to help defray a small part of the registration for up to 25 new swimmers (think of it as a \$5 off coupon for new members). Please spread the word!

Contact me at mcl@bluegrass.net

—Mike Lemke

The annual USMS convention is a combination of reports about work performed during the previous year and planning new projects for the coming year. USMS celebrated successes such as the FINA World Championships and the first year under our new governance structure. In the upcoming year, there are many new projects on the horizon.

At this convention, we recognized that for USMS to continue to grow, we must continue to build our infrastructure. To that end, Past President Jim Miller and I are leading a task force that will determine our information technology staffing needs for the coming years. By increasing our staff capabilities, we plan to increase the services that we can offer to our members through a variety of premium programs.

Another exciting initiative that will start this year is a club development program. This program seeks to help support swim clubs around the country. It is our goal to increase membership by fostering a stronger system of clubs. Also in the area of club development, the USMS Endowment Fund awarded grants to seven clubs to help them expand their existing program. This marks the first time the fund has given grants for this purpose.

This was the first year that the Club of the Year award was given. Congratulations to our neighbors up the road, Indy SwimFit, who were chosen for this honor. In 2008, SwimLouisville Masters will be the host of the National 3k/6k postal championship. The 2008 Short Course Nationals will be at the University of Texas–Austin and the Long Course Nationals will take place at Mount Hood Community College in Gresham, Ore.

As I start my second year as vice president of member services, I will continue to work with the Championship, Coaches, Communications, Editorial, History and Archives, and Recognition and Awards Committees.

At last year's convention, we approved the creation of the position of executive director for USMS. After a year of interviewing, the Board of Directors approved the selection of a candidate and we are now negotiating with this person. We hope by the time this newsletter reaches you, USMS will be able to announce it has its first executive director.

—Mark Gill

The *Championship Committee* approved the championship bids that were voted on in the House of Delegates. The 2008 Short Course National Championship

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ships – Austin, Texas. The 2008 Long Course National Championships – Mount Hood, Oregon.

Concern was expressed by the organizing committee of the 2007 Short Course Nationals at Federal Way, Wash., regarding a potentially low turnout and the possibility that their meet may lose money since they are paying such an enormous pool rental fee. The Championship Committee approved and the House of Delegates voted to increase the meet surcharge by \$5. In addition, the national qualifying times were relaxed to Top 10 + 15% for 50 and 100 yard events in an effort to increase attendance.

The Championship Committee and the House of Delegates approved the national qualifying times for the 2007 Long Course Nationals at The Woodlands, Texas. They are as follows: fifth place of Top 10 + 13% for all events 400 meters or longer; fifth place of Top 10 + 15% for all 200 meter events; and fifth place of Top 10 + 17% for all 50 and 100 meter events. Age groups 85 years and older will not have national qualifying times.

In addition, a graduated meet registration fee for the 2007 Long Course Nationals at The Woodlands, Texas, was approved by both the Championship Committee and the House of Delegates in order to encourage swimmers to enter earlier. It will be as follows: \$40 for entering seven weeks or longer prior to the meet; \$45 for entering between seven and five weeks prior to the meet; and \$80 for entering between five and four weeks prior to the meet.

The *International Committee* and the House of Delegates voted to promote Masters swimming internationally by extending invitations to the USMS convention to Masters representatives from other countries. Foreign Masters representatives would be able to observe how our national governing body functions and would be able to take many ideas home to their countries.

The *Long Distance Committee* and the House of Delegates approved the 2008 Long Distance National Championship bids.

Open water bids were awarded as follows:

- 6 + Mile – Clemson
- 3 – 6 Mile – Central Oregon Masters
- 1 Mile – Connecticut Masters
- 2 Mile Cable – Virginia Masters
- 1 – 3 Mile – Wisconsin Masters

Postal bids were awarded as follows:

- One Hour Postal – YMCA Indy SwimFit
- 3000 – 6000 – SwimLouisville Masters
- 5K – 10K – Central Oregon Masters

—Robin Segnitz

I attended the *Registration* meetings along with Susan Ehringer, our Kentucky individual registrar. Sometime

in the very near future we will all be able to register to be a United States Masters Swimmer online! WOW!

During the *Records and Tabulation Committee* we discussed extending a waiver to accommodate the National Senior Games (SCY, June 27–July 2, 2007, in Louisville) meet results in the Top 10 for 2007 because the cut-off date for short course yards Top 10 is prior to the meet. Unfortunately, it did not get out of committee. Your times will count toward the following year. So swim fast all those over 50!

For those of you who are lucky enough to attend meets outside of the United States, we want to remind you that it is your responsibility to get your own times submitted for Top 10 purposes. You should submit results to our LMSC Top 10 recorder.

Officials - we need them to run our meets. USMS relies heavily on USA Swimming officials to work our national meets. A subcommittee was appointed to revise the policies and procedures for certification of USMS officials through our LMSCs. A program was developed two years ago to allow LMSCs to certify their own officials, but no process was put in place to roll out this program. Even though our LMSC usually doesn't have problems finding officials, it would be great to have a program to develop some extras.

What fun not being the new kid on the block!

—Pam Luebbe

Like Mark Gill, this was my first convention as an officer of the corporation. As secretary, I spent the entire convention taking minutes (and lugging my laptop and printer from meeting room to meeting room). So this convention was entirely different from the previous 16 I have attended. I really had tunnel vision—if it didn't happen during a House of Delegates or Board of Directors meeting, I didn't know about it until I read the committee meeting minutes after convention was over!

But I can report on the actions of the Board of Directors. The Board is the policy-making arm of the organization, and therefore spent a lot of its time reviewing and approving policies. In an effort to become a more professional organization, we will begin to offer benefits to our employees, so the Board approved a paid time-off policy, as well as a benefits policy. As Mark mentioned, we also initiated several task forces, all designed to

improve member benefits. We also approved a confidentiality policy, which basically states that "disclosure of confidential information is limited to authorized



Michelle Ward managed to get some pool time in at the convention.

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Senior Games

Swimming for ages 50 and over

Contact Bill Tingley
(btingley@insightbb.com)

National Senior Games
June 22–July 8, 2007
Ralph Wright
Natatorium
University of Louisville
Louisville, Ky.
Contact: www.louisvilleky.gov
Metro Parks
Phone: 502/456-8186

Kentucky Waves

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persons and authorized business purposes." This means, for example, that USMS has a legitimate need to know a swimmer's birthdate, for registration purposes, but we will not make that information publicly available. And the Board also recognized disciplinary actions taken by USA Swimming.

One of the hot topics at the convention was the results of the member survey that USMS conducted in the spring. Some of you may have been asked to participate. The survey confirmed some of our long-held beliefs, but also yielded some surprising results. The survey will be used to tailor the content of *USMS Swimmer* magazine to our members' preferences, and also to help clubs and coaches with recruitment and retention. If you're interested in reading about the survey results, go to www.usms.org/admin/surveys.

—Meg Smath 