

**Subject: Minutes of Montgomery Ancient Mariners Annual Meeting**

**Date: 31 October 2021**

**Participants: Dave Harmon, Cathy Gainor, Nanci Sundel, Tom Denes, John McCafrey, Jeff Dubin, Todd Moses, Kate Fisken, Kara Permisohn, Sangeeta Bhargava, Jody Gan**

The 2021 annual meeting was held at the home of Cathy Gainor and Tom Denes.. We sat outside on the patio to give ourselves appropriate distancing and to enjoy the mild Halloween weather. We started with a rousing discussion of how to de-mouse a house. Ideas flew around like mouse fur. But as Tom was setting up a chair, lo and behold, there sat a mouse, which abruptly scampered off. Attendees were advised to check their pockets for stray mice. On a more cheery note, Tom noted that the Ancient Mariners are 30 years old! All this excitement before the meeting had even started.

So onto the meeting minutes:

Minutes from Prior Meeting

- A motion was made to accept the prior year's minutes. Since nobody had dug into them too deeply, we quickly approved them.

Officer Positions

- Dave Harmon finally made good on his threat to step down as President. Eight years was enough for Dave. Other resignations included Dottie Buchhagen as Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, Holly Donnelly as Secretary, and George Humbert as co-chair of Social Committee. Holy cow. This is not a good start.
- Fortunately nominations were quickly made to fill these gaping holes: Cathy Gainor as President, Tom Denes as Secretary, and Julie Goldberg as Newsletter Editor. Sadly, nobody volunteered to be Webmaster. With Cathy potentially moving on to the presidency, the Vice President slot became vacant. So, John McCaffrey was drafted—more or less willing—as a nominee.
- In addition, the following officers agreed to continue: Kate Fisken (Treasurer), Jeff Roddin (Record Keeper), Todd Moses (Registrar), Kara Permisohn (Albatross Open Meet Director), John McCaffrey (Albatross Open Entries Chair), Nanci Sundel (Social Committee Chair), and Kristin Koehler (Bulletin Board maestro).
- The following at-large board members were also nominated: Jeff Dubin, Peter Johnson, Dottie Buchhagen, Sangeeta Bhargava, Jody Gan, and Dave Harmon. (Note: Following the meeting Pam Blumenthal requested to be an At Large board member and the existing board approved.).
- The coaches are automatic board members. They are: Clay Britt, Peter Johnson, Cathy Gainor, Leon Wells, Joe Redmon, Tom Denes, Leslie Anchor, Kathy Kirmayer and Chris McPhaul.
- A motion was made to accept the nominations. It was approved.

Team Apparel

- Kara said that Tyr offers discounts for team garb through Swim Outlet. She said she would look into it and report back.

Registrations

- Todd reported that we had 162 members with ANCM so far this year. This is down from 2020, but we figured that COVID has affected our numbers.
- Since he is a statistics geek, Todd reported that the average age of our team is 54 years with an range of 18-85. Also, 72 people have been continuous members of the team since 2014.

- Of concern is that 13 people are registered with the Montgomery County masters program but not with USMS. That leaves a hole in our secondary insurance requirement. Todd will send the list to the coaches to hunt them down.
- Also, as of 1 July 2021, USMS is no longer collecting team dues. So 12 of the 31 people who joined USMS as Ancient Mainers since July have not paid the \$15 club fee. We will have to address this as people begin to register for 2022. Cathy suggested writing a note that coaches can hand out to swimmers.
- Todd mailed out all the remaining swim caps to Ancient Mainers on 25 October.

### Finances

- Kate Fiskien said that we had an excess of revenue over expenses during COVID because we had collected dues early in 2020 and had little expenses since. We have about \$20,820 in our team bank account. Kudos to Dave Harmon and Kate for bringing us through COVID in such great financial shape!

### Budget

- Dave walked us through the budget for next year.
- We will assume that we will have only 165 paid registrations in 2022.
- We will continue to buy swim caps for everyone and pay for all relays. We will also buy some new white boards since our current ones are kind of beaten.
- For the 2022 Albatross Open, we shouldn't assume that we will have the same participation we've had in the past. We also decided not to hold a post-meet social.
- We will budget for two socials. But instead of our winter holiday party, we'll have some kind of a spring event.
- We made a motion to approve a budget for next year with a surplus of \$3,400. The motion was approved.

### Newsletter

- We all agreed that the first newsletter issued last week was a huge success. Thanks to Julie Goldberg for taking this on!

### Website

- Dottie is resigning as webmaster after 24 years of great service. 24 years! Seriously? What were you doing in 1997? (p.s. Dottie also designed and built the website. Way to go, Dottie!)
- Ancient Mariner Andy Fraser has offered to transfer and host the website for \$25/mo. He would need to transfer our info to the new site. Dave Harmon has a giant spreadsheet with his analysis of some of the best web builders. He found that Duda is one option that is easy to use. We had a lively discussion of the true cost of designing a new website.
- A motion was made and approved for Dave to send an email to the team to seek website expertise as well as interest in joining a website committee. (Note: Following the meeting, Dave said his schedule didn't allow him to take this on. So this spot is now open. Any takers?)
- Another motion was made and approved to get clarity on what exactly Andy is proposing.

### Albatross Open

- Meet Director Kara reported that, because of conflicts, we need to push the meet to April 2022. We will take all COVID precautions during the meet, which could include no spectators. We also decided to forgo the post-meet social.

### Social Events

- We discussed whether we should hold the Holiday Party this coming January. The consensus was not to hold the holiday party but to rather organize an outdoor event in the spring. We will also hold our usual fall outdoor picnic.

### USMS Club Contact

- Todd volunteered to take this over from Dave. He will use the Ancient Mariner registrar email. (Note: After the meeting Dave learned that USMS will only accept a personal email as club contact.)

### **New Business**

#### Vaccine Requirements

- Sangeeta and Jody reported that they didn't feel comfortable being at practice not knowing if their heavy breathing lane mates are vaccinated. We have many new people and don't know their vaccination status. A motion was made and approved for Sangeeta and Jody to write a letter of concern to Montgomery County on behalf of the Ancient Mariner board. They will first run a draft of the letter by the board but, in any case, are authorized to send out the letter.
- We will deal later with the how to enforce a potential vaccine requirement depending on the outcome of the letter.

A motion was made to conclude the meeting. It was approved. Another successful annual meeting in the books!

Personal Note: Thanks, Dave Harmon, for leading us for eight years. The team is in super shape thanks to you!

Submitted by: Tom Denes, Secretary