

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

**Date: Sunday, November 3, 2013**

**Place: Tom Denes & Cathy Gainor's House**

**Participants:**

- Tom Denes, Secretary
- Jeff Roddin, President
- Peter Johnson, Vice President
- Dave Harmon, Board Member
- Cathy Gainor, Board Member
- Brent Peacock, Board Member
- Debbie Kelsey, Board Member
- Dottie Buchhagen, Newsletter Editor
- Greta Ober
- George Humbert
- John McCaffrey
- Holly Donnelly
- Dave Friedland
- Nanci Sundel
- Pam Blumenthal
- Dan Blumenthal

**NOMINATION OF OFFICERS**

President Jeff Roddin's last meeting as president was marked by a huge turnout—15 people, a modern record! Jeff called the meeting to order and noted the irony of having to introduce himself to some of the folks at the meeting. Jeff said that since he doesn't train with the Ancient Mariners, he is not as connected as he needs to be to continue in his post.

Luckily, long-time ANCM Dave Harmon agreed to continue in Jeff's big footprints. Jeff has served eight years as president and the team has thrived under his tenure.

Others nominated included Nanci Sundel as Vice President, Holly Donnelly as Secretary, and Pam Blumenthal as Registrar. Current officers wishing to continue their roles were Mauricio Rezende, Treasurer; Dottie Buchhagen, Webmaster/Newsletter Editor; Jeff Roddin, Record Keeper; and Cathy Gainor, Brent Peacock, and Debbie Kelsey, At-Large Board Members. What stamina! New At Large Board Members (note that is not "large board members") nominated were: George Humbert, Jeff Dubin, Donna Minha, John McCaffrey, Tom Denes, Peter Johnson, Greta Ober, and David Friedland. And of course Jeff Roddin continues as Immediate Past President allowing him to mentor Dave Harmon and more or less keep the Ancient Mariner ship on course if necessary.

**HOLIDAY PARTY**

First things first. Our annual Holiday Party to be held on January 4th. Kathy Kirmayer, long-time ANCMer who has been dry for far too long, volunteered to host the Holiday Party for one

more year if needed. As a backup Dave Harmon offered the Washington Grove town hall which we would need to rent (\$200).

## **NEWSLETTER / WEBSITE / BULLETIN BOARD**

**Newsletter:** Dottie would like to have an assistant editor to replace the current useless one (me). She is now putting out two, not three newsletters a year but would like to get back up to three per year. We discussed doing an electronic only version but agreed that some of us oldies want the hard copy. But there is an opportunity to opt out of the mailed version if you wish.

**Website:** Dottie also masterminds the website. Our host, USMS, recently got three new servers, which caused some issues, including taking users to a different site, that Dottie had to work out with the USMS IT person. Dottie assured everyone that it didn't take them to a porn site. Now that we have our own account and are no longer under the Potomac Valley account, we can track our loyal followers and receive extensive analytics on the sites' hits. Dottie noted that in one week, our site had more than 3,100 hits from all over the world. We are suspicious of this high number. Is the NSA watching us? Dottie needs some website assistance as well, mostly upcoming events and dates. She also needs someone to upload photos or to arrange photo sharing. Greta volunteered to assist Dottie with the website. The name of our list serve will change to: ANCM@ancientmariners.org. But a big word of caution was issued for swimmers to avoid using the list serve for anything except swimming-related items.

## **FINANCES**

Jeff said that when he started his tenure as president in 2005 we had about \$15,000 in our treasury. We all agreed that that was on the high side and Jeff pledged to reduce it. He kept creating negative balances in the budget year after year, but somehow we didn't spend everything we said we would. So now we have \$19,600 in our treasury. Incoming President, Dave Harmon, who works for OMB, said he has the requisite experience to effectively run large budget deficits.

**Team Dues:** Jeff explained that in the past, we collected our club dues by subtracting club dues from the USMS dues collected by Potomac Valley. But when the system went on-line, the option was no longer available. So we set up a PayPal account and asked swimmers to pay. In the beginning, Jeff was relentlessly reminding swimmers to pay their dues. And he achieved a 90%+ success rate. (It helped that Jeff called the non-payers "deadbeats.") Recently, however, the Board said that Jeff did not have to chase people down. So he would just send a list of those who had paid hoping to guilt the non-payers into paying. But that didn't work as well and earlier this year only 58% of the ANCM swimmers had paid their club dues. But after another Jeff reminder e-mail, we ended up at 70%.

We agreed that the many payments are confusing. We understand that USMS may create a feature to allow clubs to once again collect the club dues as part of the USMS dues. It helps that there are links on the registration page of our website that allow swimmers to check to see if they are current with their dues and USMS registration. (For those with a cat-like curiosity, the website address is: <http://www.ancientmariners.org/registration.htm>)

**New Lane Lines:** Last year we contributed \$1,000 toward new lane lines at the KSAC. But technically this was a pool rental payment that we neglected to make in 2012.

**Aerator:** Nanci suggested that we purchase an aerator to cool the often steamy hot Bethesda outdoor pool. She believes it would cost only a few hundred dollars. But the Bethesda pool staff would have to take care of it and make sure it gets turned on every night. Nanci will look into this.

**Digital Clocks:** We need a digital clock in the shallow end of the KSAC to supplement the gigantic red digital clocks in the deep end. Cathy will check if they are about to do this. If they are not planning on this, we could donate toward one. (Yes, Lane 1 & 2 swimmers, some swimmers actually want clocks....). Cathy will check on the situation at the Bethesda pool as well.

**Team T-Shirts:** A few years ago we bought snazzy yellow short sleeve t-shirts to shamelessly advertise our team. We sold them below cost to encourage people to buy them. Do we want to do this again? No consensus on that.

**Towels:** Dottie will send out an e-mail to the team to see if there is interest in towels with an ANCM logo.

**Team Hats:** Back in the 1990s, we ordered a bunch of black baseball caps with our team logo. They were a big hit. Dave Harmon will look into buying more.

**Meet Relays:** Jeff reminded everyone that the team pays for any ANCM relays in any masters meet. Another freebie!

**ASCA Certification:** To encourage our coaches to get certified, Potomac Valley pays half the cost of certification. To top that off, ANCM pays the other half. So far, Lisa Wolf, Cathy Gainor, and Tom Denes have taken advantage of that and received certifications.

**Our Account:** We also discussed who can sign checks. We need to check with Mauricio. We also wondered about establishing a “secure account” that could only be withdrawn by multiple signatures as well as continuing our “operating account.”

## **ALBATROSS OPEN**

Cathy Gainor will hold a kickoff meeting in January.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Solstice Meet:** Germantown is hosting a meet for the first time. Since they have been such loyal supporters of our meet, we would like to have a GREAT showing. The meet will be held at the Germantown pool on December 7. Let's have a good turnout. Plus we can't let them win their own meet.

**USMC Summer Masters Nationals is in College Park:** Masters Nationals will be in College Park next summer (August 13-17). It is so close that there is no excuse not to attend. It is our opportunity to show the world our “right stuff.” Everyone can swim in three individual events without meeting the qualifying times, as well as unlimited relays. You will be hearing more about this.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

All of the officers nominated were elected. Our pool of hardworking officers for the next swim year are:

- President – Dave Harmon
- Vice President – Nanci Sundel
- Treasurer – Mauricio Rezende
- Secretary – Holly Donnelly
- Webmaster/Newsletter Editor – Dottie Buchhagen
- Record Keeper – Jeff Roddin
- Registrar – Pam Blumenthal
- Past President – Jeff Roddin
- At-Large Officers –Cathy Gainor, Brent Peacock, Debbie Kelsey, George Humbert, Jeff Dubin, Greta Ober, David Friedland, John McCaffrey, Peter Johnson, Donna Minha, and Tom Denes.

Hooray for all the new officers!! We are in a great position to thrive in the years ahead.

## **CONCLUSION**

There was a super-fast wrap up to the meeting because our hometown football heroes were about to take the field. (Loyal fans were apprehensive about the game, but lo and behold, RGIII upheld the family tradition of RG and RG, Jr. and led the team to victory in an exciting overtime game.)

**Our wrap up was so fast that we did not have the opportunity to thank Jeff Roddin for his many years of excellent leadership. Jeff's sense of duty and strive for perfection is truly awesome and the Ancient Mariners are the better for it.**

Submitted by: Tom Denes