

## International Relations Activity & Convention Report

### 2024 USAAS Convention

Tempe, Arizona

Submitted by International Relations Committee Chair Betty Hazle

September 12, 2024

With the new World Aquatics rules approved in October 2022, many changes and updates have occurred throughout the year. Below is a recap of the IR activities since the 2023 convention.

#### I. **Loss of a Valued Member – Judy McGowan**

No one would have been more proud of our Teams and our sport this summer, than Judy McGowan. This past March we suddenly lost our beloved member, leader, mentor and one could call a legend in our sport. Judy's passion for the USA and involvement and influence in Artistic Swimming has influenced so many of our lives directly and indirectly. We will truly all miss her so much!

#### II. **2024 Club Option Program**

Club options were awarded to the following clubs:

- **Westside Artistic Swimming**: Splashquatics International Invitational Competition, Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 9-11, 2024. Approved 3 Intermediate Solos & 1 Intermediate Duet. (no judge required)
- **Coral Springs Aquacades**: Splashquatics International Invitational Competition, Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 9-11, 2024. Approved 12 Solos, 5 Duets/Trios and 1 Team. (no judge required)
- **Ohio Coralinas Synchrono**: CARIFTA Championship, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, March 28-April 1, 2024. Approved 5 Solos (Tech/Free), 2 Duets (Tech/Free), 1 Team. (Eugenia Gillan, Kim Kohut, Kimmy Lurenz and Becky Meitin approved to attend)
- **Coral Springs Aquacades**: CARIFTA Championship, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, March 28-April 1, 2024. Approved 3 Solos, 1 Duet, 1 Team. (Eugenia Gillan, Kim Kohut, Kimmy Lurenz and Becky Meitin approved to attend)
- **Charlottesville Swans**: CARIFTA Championship, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, March 28-April 1, 2024. Approved 2 Solos, 1 Duet. (Eugenia Gillan, Kim Kohut, Kimmy Lurenz and Becky Meitin approved to attend)
- **DC Synchronmasters**: Canadian Masters Championship, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, May 10-12, 2024. Approved 1 Tech Duet, 2 Free Duets, 2 Free Trios, 1 Team (Tech/Free) and 1 Combo. (no judge required)
- **Redwood Empire Synchrono**: Canadian Masters Championship, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, May 10-12, 2024. Approved 1 Solo (no judge required)
- **Santa Clara Artistic Swimming**: 23<sup>rd</sup> Primorje Synchrono Cup, Rijeka, Croatia, June 20-23, 2024. Approved 3 Tech Solos, 2 Free Solos, 3 Tech Duets, 2 Free Duets, 1 Team (Tech/Free), 1 Mixed Free Duet, and 1 Male Free Solo in Junior category. Approved 3 Free Solos, 1 Tech Solo, 1 Tech Duet, 1 Team (Tech/Free) in Senior category. Approved 1 Acro in Junior/Senior category. (Eugenia Gillian approved as a judge/ unable to attend due to last minute injury)
- **New Canaan YMCA Aquianas**: XIII Hungarian Open, held in Budapest, Hungary, June 28-30, 2024. Approved 2 Solos, 3 Duets, 1 Team, 1 Free Combination in Youth category. Approved 2 Tech Solo, 3 Free Solos, 1 Tech Duet, 3 Free Duets, 2 Tech Teams, 1 Free Team and 1 Acro in Junior category. (Krista Karwosky approved as a judge.)
- **MAC Synchrono**: PanAm Aquatics Masters Championships, held in Couva, Trinidad & Tobago, July 16-29, 2024. Approved 4 Solos, 2 Duets and 1 Team. (Shari Darst & Eugenia Gillan selected by PAQ to attend as judges.)
- **Nevada Desert Mermaids**: PanAm Aquatics Masters Championships, held in Couva, Trinidad & Tobago, July 16-29, 2024. Approved 1 Solo and 1 Duet (Tech/Free). (Shari Darst & Eugenia Gillan selected by PAQ to attend as judges.)

- **Blue Legend:** PanAm Championships, held in Lima, PER, Aug 18-22, 2024. Approved 12&U Club Option Solo, Duet, Mixed Duet, Team and Free Combination. (Heidi Lurenz attended as the shared club option judge)
- **LaMirada Aquabelles:** PanAm Championships, held in Lima, PER, Aug 18-22, 2024. Approved Event Winner 12&U Solo, Youth Solo, Youth Duet and Youth Team. (no judge required/USAAS funded Judge Sheila McNabb and Technical Controller Ludi Stsepaniuk.)
- **Houston Synchro Stars:** PanAm Championships, held in Lima, PER, Aug 18-22, 2024. Approved Event Winner Youth Male Solo and Junior Free Mixed Duet. (no judge required/USAAS funded Judge Sheila McNabb and Technical Controller Ludi Stsepaniuk.)
- **Scottsdale Synchro:** PanAm Championships, held in Lima, PER, Aug 18-22, 2024. Approved Event Winner Senior Tech Solo, Senior Free Duet, Senior Tech/Free Team and Club Option Youth Solo. (Heidi Lurenz attended as the shared club option judge)
- **Jasper Shen (Unaffiliated):** PanAm Championships, held in Lima, PER, Aug 18-22, 2024. Approved Event Winner 12&U Male Solo. (no judge required/USAAS funded Judge Sheila McNabb and Technical Controller Ludi Stsepaniuk.)
- **Santa Clara Artistic Swimming:** PanAm Championships, held in Lima, PER, Aug 18-22, 2024. Approved Event Winner Youth Mixed Duet and Club Option 1 Youth Solo and 1 Youth Male Solo. (Heidi Lurenz attended as the shared club option judge)
- **Seattle Synchro:** PanAm Championships, held in Lima, PER, Aug 18-22, 2024. Approved Event Winner 12&U Duet. (no judge required/USAAS funded Judge Sheila McNabb and Technical Controller Ludi Stsepaniuk.)
- **Pacific Waves Synchro:** PanAm Championships, held in Lima, PER, Aug 18-22, 2024. Approved Event Winner Senior Tech Duet. (no judge required/USAAS funded Judge Sheila McNabb and Technical Controller Ludi Stsepaniuk.)
- **The Lakes Mermaids:** PanAm Championships, held in Lima, PER, Aug 18-22, 2024. Approved Club Option 3 Youth Solos, 3 Youth Duets, 1 Youth Team and 1 Youth Free Combination and 1 Junior Tech Solo. (Heidi Lurenz attended as the shared club option judge)
- **Arizona Desert Dolphins:** PanAm Championships, held in Lima, PER, Aug 18-22, 2024. Approved Club Option Senior Mixed Duet (Tech/ Free). (Heidi Lurenz attended as the shared club option judge)
- **Bay Area Synchro:** France AWD World Championships, Chalons en Champagne, France, Aug 13-15, 2024. Approved 5 Solos. (no judge required/ paid host penalty for not bringing judge)

### III. 2024 Private Invitations for Clubs to Attend Competitions – none requested

### IV. International Judge Exposure

Since the 2023 convention, I am happy to report that almost all of the 14 AQUA/PAQ judges have attended at least one international competition. In addition, former AQUA judges have been active as evaluators, volunteers and served in other key roles. This was only possible due to the support of the USOPC, USAAS, our National Teams, our Club Teams, our Club Option Teams and personal resources. The following current and former AQUA/PAQ judges were selected/ approved to attend international competitions in 2024.

- **Victoria Anderson** – no Judge activity
- **Shari Darst** – PAQ Masters Championships (TTO)
- **Eugenia Gillan** – CARIFTA Championships (FL); Primorje Synchro Cup (CRO) (unable to attend); PAQ Masters Championships (TTO); PAQ Championships (PER); volunteer at AQUA World Junior Championships (PER)
- **Irene Hawes** – AQUA World Masters Championships (QAT) Evaluator; European Youth Championships (GRE) Evaluator
- **Betty Hazle** – Olympic Games (FRA) AQUA TASC member
- **Krista Karwosky** – Hungarian Open (HUN)

- **Erin King** – AQUA World Cup # 3 (CAN)
- **Kimberly Kohut** – CARIFTA Championships (FL); AQUA World Cup Super Final (HUN)
- **Shannon Korpela** – Argentina open (Nov 2023), no Judge activity in 2024
- **Debbie Latchford** – AQUA World Junior Championship (PER)
- **Linda Loehndorf** – no Evaluator activity (attended trainings only)
- **Heidi Lurenz** – PAQ Championships (PER)
- **Svetlana Malinovskaya** – AQUA World Cup # 3 (CAN)-practice judge
- **Christine McMaster-Shah** – PAQ Championship (PER)
- **Sheila McNabb** – Argentina Open (Nov 2023); PAQ Championships (PER)
- **Cheryl Russell** – AQUA World Cup # 2 (FRA); Olympic Games (FRA)

Evaluations are slowly being sent to our judges due to short staffing in the AQUA office. It was announced that the plan moving forward is for the evaluations to be available in the GMS.

In addition, 2 of our USA judges volunteered to attend the CARIFTA Championship held in Florida in March. **Becky Meitin** and **Kimmy Lurenz** joined Eugenia and Kim in assisting with the running of the event.

#### V. **2024 International Assignments – selected by AQUA / Pan Am Aquatics / LEN**

AQUA, Pan Am Aquatics and LEN selected the following individuals for the below assignments in 2024. Once again, please join me in congratulating the following individuals on their assignments:

- **Irene Hawes** – Evaluator at AQUA World Masters Championship, Doha, QAT, Feb 2024; Evaluator at European Youth Championships, Athens, GRE, May 2024
- **Betty Hazle** – AQUA TASC member at the Olympic Games, Paris, FRA, August, 2024
- **Svetlana Malinovskaya** – AQUA Technical Controller at AQUA World Championships, Doha, QAT, Feb 2024
- **Bill May** – AQUA Guest at the Olympic Games; AQUA Technical Controller at AQUA World Junior Championship, Lima, PER, August 2024
- **Cheryl Russell** – Judge at the Olympic Games, Paris, FRA, August 2024

***Congratulations again to Irene, Betty, Svetlana, Bill and Cheryl on their assignments!***

#### VI. **AQUA/PAQ Judge & Evaluator retirements** – Shari Darst, Eugenia Gillian, Irene Hawes, Shannon Korpela, Linda Loehndorf

It is with great sadness that we must say goodbye once again to AQUA “A” judges, **Shari Darst** and **Shannon Korpela** and AQUA “G” judge, **Eugenia Gillan**. At the end of 2023, all of them reached the mandatory retirement age imposed by AQUA. Miraculously and to everyone’s surprise, AQUA extended their eligibility for another year! This year joining them in mandatory retirement is AQUA “A” judge **Irene Hawes**. These 4 experienced judges will be missed as we will no longer see their familiar faces in the judge’s chair at international events.

In addition, we anticipated losing **Linda Loehndorf** as an AQUA Evaluator last year as she reached the mandatory retirement age for Evaluators (even though the current Evaluator list expires at the end of 2024). She however remained on the list and attended trainings and was available to evaluate, if selected.

On behalf of USA Artistic Swimming, the IR committee, AQUA/Pan Am Aquatic judges, athletes and coaches, I wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Shari, Eugenia, Irene, Shannon and Linda for their continued dedication and service to international judging for so many years as an AQUA and PAQ judge/ evaluator.

***Thank you so much Shari, Eugenia, Irene, Shannon and Linda for your many years of service!***

In addition, the AQUA Evaluator list will expire at the end of 2024 and AQUA will seek new nominations from each Federation. Not knowing if changes will be introduced, we can only hope that Irene Hawes will be interested and continue serving as an AQUA Evaluator. Since the new scoring system was put into place, she was the 1<sup>st</sup> evaluator in 2023 to evaluate under the new system at the World Cup in Markham, Canada. Following that event, she has served with other evaluators in tweaking the system, and designing and conducting Evaluator seminars and testing.

She has served as an Evaluator since 2016, educating many judges around the world in a kind and thoughtful way, encouraging judges throughout their journey. On behalf of USA Artistic Swimming, the IR committee, AQUA/PanAm Aquatic judges, athletes and coaches, I wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Irene for her continued dedication and service to international judging for the past 8 years as an AQUA Evaluator.

***Thank you so much Irene for your many years of service!***

#### **VII. Future Changes to AQUA Competition Rules**

It was announced in January 2024, that changes were made to the Constitution and Competition Regulations. Amongst those changes, was a new method to making changes to the Competition regulations. In the past, a Technical Congress was held at the World Championships following the Olympic Games and Federations were allowed to submit rule changes. Those changes were reviewed by the appropriate technical committees and the Bureau prior to the Congress and deemed either approved or rejected. During the World Championships, each Federation was invited to send 2 representatives to the Technical Congress to vote on the amendments.

Moving forward, rule changes can be submitted at any time on a form to the AQUA office. The AQUA Sports Department will review and consider the proposal with the appropriate technical committee. Following that review, the proposal will be submitted to the Bureau for determination. Implementation of any approved change will be determined by the Bureau. Publications of the Competition Regulations will occur each year on June 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **VIII. PanAm Aquatics Artistic Swimming Technical Committee and Athlete Committee Members**

In December 2023, the PanAm Aquatics Executive Committee announced the members of the Artistic Swimming Technical Committee for the next quadrennial 2023-2027. Our 2 nominated members were **Chris Leahy** and **Tammy McGregor**. The committee consists of 12 members, two from each of the 5 zones + 2 athlete representatives. Tammy will serve as the Vice Chairman and Chris will be a member.

In addition, in April 2024, the PanAm Aquatics Executive Committee announced the members of the newly created PAQ Athletes Committee. This committee will consist of 17 members representing all disciplines with 3 from Artistic Swimming, 2 from Diving, 1 from Masters, 3 from Open Water, 5 from Swimming, and 3 from Water Polo. Alia Atkinson (JAM) and Tony Ervin (USA) will serve as the athlete members to the PAQ Executive and Tony Ervin is the liaison to the Executive Committee. USAAS is proud to have 2 of the 3 Artistic Swimming representatives with **Bill May** and **Natalia Vega** appointed to the PAQ Athletes Committee.

***Congratulations to Chris, Bill, Tammy and Natalia on your appointments!***

#### **IX. AQUA Judge Nomination/ Promotion / Judge Pathway / Testing / new ROC**

At the 2023 convention, the IRC approved the application of **Victoria Anderson** to be added to the 2024 PanAm Aquatics Judges List. Her name was submitted to PanAm Aquatics along with the renewal of all of our AQUA judges in November.

In early October, AQUA announced **Kimberly Kohut** had been promoted to AQUA “A” Judge status. Kim has waited patiently for this promotion to come through!

In January, we received an email from the AQUA office with information regarding a new structure for training and education of AQUA officials. This new structure will be based on individual progression and will comprise of three levels: bronze, silver and gold. The 3 main pillars of this structure will be Certification, Evaluations and Experience. If a judge does not comply with the criteria of evaluations, certification and online test, they may have to start the training procedures from the Development stages independently of their current status. Upon further follow-up with the AQUA office, this new structure is being developed for all disciplines and more information will be announced hopefully prior to the end of the year. No specific timeline has been provided for implementation.

In August, PanAm Aquatics announced an online test for PanAm Judges on the current list who had not yet taken or passed the most recent AQUA Certification Test. Our 2 PanAm Aquatic Judges, **Victoria Anderson and Christine McMaster-Shah** have not had an opportunity to attend a Certification school yet, so they both took the test and passed with flying colors!

In September, Victoria and Christine will be attending the AQUA Advanced Judges School in Montreal, Canada. Once they pass the test provided at the end of the school, and provide AQUA with proof of 60 hours of judging, they will be ready for the AQUA Certification Judges School. The Certification School is the last step needed to be eligible to be nominated to the AQUA Judges List.

AQUA has a new committee of 3 individuals based on the recent changes to the AQUA Constitution. The members of the Artistic Swimming Referees, Officials and Starters Committee (ROC) include Fumiko Asahara (JPN) and Livia Gut La Ragione (SUI) and Gabriela Viglino (ARG). The new ROC Committees for each sport discipline (per the Constitution Section 6.5) responsibilities shall be as follows:

- a) to evaluate and make recommendations to the Bureau in relation with candidates, proposed by National Federations, for the title of international referee, starter or judge;*
- b) to report to the Bureau in relation with the qualifications of any person recommended as an international referee, judge, or starter and to report periodically on the continued qualifications of referees, judges, or starters on the existing list;*
- c) to propose rosters for officials, subject to the approval of the Bureau; and*
- d) to work with the World Aquatics Development Department on the establishment and implementation of training, education and evaluation standards to be used in conjunction with the appointment of any international referee, starter or judge.*

*The members of the Referees, Officials and Starters Committee shall be independent from the Technical Committee of each sport and their work shall be overseen by an employee designated by the World Aquatics Office.*

### ***Congratulations to Victoria, Kimberly and Christine McMaster-Shah!***

#### **X. International Bids – PAQ Duet and Mixed Duet Camp – November 2024**

In July, USAAS announced the joint venture with PanAm Aquatics, the U.S. Performance Center, U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee to host a PanAm Artistic Swimming Duet and Mixed Duet Camp in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dates are from Nov 5-10, 2024 for all PAQ coaches and duets. Funding support will be provided by the U.S. Performance Center and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee to reduce training expenses for all swimmers.

Camp coaches will include Andrea Fuentes, Megan Azebu, Bill May, and additional international coaches to be named.

It will be held simultaneously with the Coaches College and All-Star Camp.

## **XI. Technical Controllers – selected by AQUA and PAQ**

Our 2 AQUA trained Technical Controllers were selected to competitions this year.

- Svetlana Malinovskaya – World Aquatic Championships in Doha, QAT
- Bill May – AQUA World Junior Championships in Lima, PER

In March, AQUA announced a new training course for Synchro Technical Controllers only. Each Federation was allowed to nominate up to 3 individuals. Participants that passed the test would be considered as World Aquatic AS World Cup STCs for 2024 only. Our Federation nominated:

- Megan Loehndorf
- Tammy McGregor
- Ludivine “Ludi” Stsepaniuk

All 3 passed the course and were available to attend any World Cup, if selected. Unfortunately none of them were requested by AQUA.

However, Megan’s training came in handy when PanAm Aquatics needed last minute additional Technical Controllers for the PanAm Championship in Lima, Peru. She was available and approved to attend, joining Ludi Stsepaniuk, our PAQ approved TC for the event!

No other information has been shared by AQUA or PAQ regarding further training of Technical Controllers at this time.

***Congratulations to Megan, Svetlana, Bill, Tammy and Ludi on your selection and training!***

## **XII. Pan Am Aquatic Events – Congresses/ PanAm Championships**

PanAm Aquatics held an Extraordinary Congress virtually on August 24, 2023 (full report in the 2023 IR report). The purpose of the Congress was to review and approve revisions to the PAQ Constitution, updating it to align with the new AQUA Constitution. The new constitution now organizes our Continent into 5 zones, with our zone now being Zone 4. In addition, it calls for all committees and executive member nominations to have representatives of each gender (1 female and 1 male). The rotation for officers between the zones is no longer in place and the President may be in office a maximum of 2-4 year terms.

An Ordinary Congress followed in October 2023 held during the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. Members of the Executive Committee were requested to self-nominate themselves for the positions of President and Secretary General. The new President of PanAm Aquatics is Maureen Croes (ARU) reelected for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term and Lisa Schott (CAN) for Secretary General.

In February at the AQUA World Championships, in Doha (QAT), a PAQ Extraordinary Congress was held to select the nine candidates to represent the Americas on the World Aquatics Bureau for the 2025-2029 quadrennial. PAQ President Maureen Croes will be the next World Aquatics Vice President, Dale Neuburger (USA) and Cheryl Gibson (CAN) plus representatives from Argentina and Dominican Republic were all elected as continental representatives from the Americas. In addition, representatives from Paraguay, Colombia, Trinidad & Tobago and Honduras were nominated to participate in the World At Large election to be held at the 2025 World Aquatics Congress in Singapore during the World AQUA Championships.

The PanAm Championships were once again held in 2024. The Peruvian Federation was the host and held the event in Lima, PER in August. Our Junior National Team attended in preparation for the AQUA Junior Worlds to be held in the same facility the following week as well as 10 USA clubs that

participated as champions from our recent US Championships and club options. USA participants included AQUA judges Eugenia Gillan, Sheila McNabb, and Heidi Lurenz, PAQ Judge Christine McMaster-Shah, Chris Leahy (PAQ TASC member), Ludi Stsepaniuk (PAQ Technical Controller) and Megan Loehndorf (AQUA Synchro Technical Controller). PAQ Vice Chair, Tammy McGregor attended as the Head Coach of our Junior National Team.

### **XIII. National & International Awards – USAS / ISHOF**

At the Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile, Greg Eggert, USAS Vice President, presented the USAS Max Ritter Award to our own Ginny Jasontek! The award is the highest honor awarded by USAS to an individual who has made significant impact in aquatic sports internationally promoting goodwill as well as advancing the sport. It was presented at a dinner in front of the judges, controllers, PAQ officers and many of her friends. Such a great honor for such a deserving individual.

#### ***Congratulations again to Ginny for such a great honor!***

The International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) has scheduled their 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Hall of Fame Induction ceremony and ISHOF Aquatic Awards ceremony for the weekend of Oct 4-5, 2024 in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The Masters MISHOF Honoree Induction (Class of 2023), ISHOF Aquatic Awards and ISHOF Specialty Awards will be held on Friday, Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and the ISHOF Honoree Induction Ceremony, Al Schoenfield Media Award and ISHOF Gold Medallion Award will be presented on Saturday, Oct 5<sup>th</sup>. Both ceremonies will be held at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort.

It is with great pleasure to announce the following individuals from Artistic Swimming who will receive awards during this prestigious weekend as follows:

Honor Synchronized / Artistic Swimmer: **Virginie Dedieu (FRA)**  
Honor Masters Artistic Swimming (Class of 2023): **Lizzi Jakobsen (deceased) (USA)**  
2024 ISHOF Aquatic Awards for Synchronized Swimming: **Sandra Roberts (CAN)**

#### ***Congratulations to Virginie, Lizzi and Sandy Roberts!***

### **XIV. Succession Plan Continues**

The IR succession subcommittee was established in 2013 and consisted of Charlotte Davis, Betty Hazle, Ginny Jasontek, Judy McGowan and Barbara McNamee. The role of the subcommittee was to develop an overall succession plan with assigned mentors for interested persons for the FINA/AQUA and UANA/PAQ Technical committee positions.

In 2017, the positions within United States Aquatic Sports were added to the list for possible succession plan development.

This year the IR succession subcommittee has continued to expand to include the current international experts consisting of Irene Hawes, Bill May, Tammy McGregor and Denise Shively. The subcommittee continues to help encourage individuals to participate in various areas of our sport and assign mentors to help prepare them for an assignment / selection.

A zoom call was held in October 2022 of the IR succession subcommittee to discuss a strategy moving forward. It was decided to expand the list of positions to include the International Relations committee, International Relations Chair, Vice President Olympic International, and International Judge or Technical Controller in order to continue to encourage growth and interest in these additional international positions. A tentative list of new candidates was discussed.

From April – June, the IRC Chair consulted with various leaders to create a list of individuals to send a special invitation to become more involved in the international arena.

Following this convention, the IR succession subcommittee will review the list of interested persons and assign new mentors to be a part of the Succession Plan. The IR succession subcommittee will also discuss deletions to the list of those individuals already assigned a position or no longer interested.

Many individuals have been appointed positions and the IR committee needs to continue to develop talented and interested persons for positions within and outside of our organization.

The following individuals are currently included in the succession program and have been assigned mentors. In addition, many have been selected or held AQUA, PAQ or USAS positions.

| <b><u>Candidate (alpha order)</u></b> | <b><u>Mentor</u></b> | <b><u>Assignment</u></b>                 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| Maggie Downey                         | TBD                  |  |
| Betty Hazle                           | Ginny Jasontek       | PAQ TASC (former)/AQUA TASC member       |
| Krista Karwosky                       | Charlotte Davis      | AQUA Judge                               |
| Mariya Koroleva                       | TBD                  |  |
| Linda Loehndorf                       | Judy McGowan         | AQUA Evaluator                           |
| Laurette Longmire                     | Judy McGowan         | USAS VP Administration (former)          |
| Tammy McGregor                        | Charlotte Davis      | AQUA Coaches Committee/PAQ Vice Chairman |
| Sue Nesbitt                           | Charlotte Davis      |  |
| Denise Shively                        | Barbara McNamee      | PAQ TASC (former)                        |

**XV. National Competitions in the US with International Participants**

**A. US Junior & National Championships – April 2024**

This year, we were fortunate to have international participation at this combined championship in Cypress, Texas. Participating Federations included Canada and Singapore.

**B. 12&U Invitational and Youth Championship – April 2024**

This year, we were fortunate to have international participation at this combined championship in Cypress, Texas. Participating Federations included Canada and Mexico.

**XVI. Invitation and Intent to Participate Forms – Local Events**

This year we continued the use of our foreign invitation and intent to participate form to assist local meet hosts with notifying the IR Chair of foreign participation at their local, regional and zone championships. The form is used to inform local, regional and zone meet managers of the rules and policies of the organization. Last fall, the form was distributed to each Zone Chair to distribute to their registered clubs.

**XVII. Private Invitation Form**

This year we continued the use of the form for our clubs to notify the IR Chair and National Office of private invitations to international events. The form is very similar to the Club Option application form. Private invitations follow the same policies and procedures as the Club Option policies.

**XVIII. IR Review Subcommittee**

Throughout the year, the IR Review Subcommittee was asked to review and approve 4 club option applications (see section I). Note: Masters club option and PAQ Event winner/club option applications for most events do not need approval as the competitions allow multiple entries so the IR Chair approves the applications rather than the subcommittee.

**XIX. International Clinics, Schools, Coaching Assignments & Invitations**

In addition to items already listed in this report, many members of our organization have been requested to organize clinics, coach foreign individuals and teams, and lecture at seminars around the

world, as well as others have attended various competitions/ events. Below is a summary of the activities provided to the IR Chair.

- Attended the CCCAN Championship as a neutral judge (Sept 2023) – Eugenia Gillan
- Attended LEN Artistic Swimming Coaches and Judges clinic (EGY) (Oct 2023) – Shari Darst, Linda Loendorf, Tammy McGregor
- Swimmers attended practice with Club Estrellas De Antioquia in Medellin, COL during the Christmas holidays and attending Hungarian Trials – Palm Beach Coralytes
- USAS Chef de Mission at World Aquatic Championships, Doha, QAT (Feb) – Christine McMaster-Shah
- Attended the Splashquatics International Invitational Competition in Kingston, Jamaica as TC (Feb) – Jen Muzyk
- AQUA STC online training & passed the test (Mar) – Megan Loehndorf, Tammy McGregor & Ludivine Stsepaniuk
- Meet Manager for CARIFTA Championships, Fort Lauderdale, FL (Mar-April) – Ashley Johnson
- Judged at Australian Trials (April) – Cheryl Russell
- Worldwide Invitational Event hosted Cayman Islands, Curacao, Ecuador and Jamaica (May) – Ashley Johnson and Coral Springs Aquacades
- Invited Sonia Cardenas (MEX) to serve as Head DTC at Pacific Association Regionals (May) – Tammy McGregor
- Volunteered coaching in Quito, Ecuador for 3 weeks (June-July) – Becky Meitin
- Attended the 5th Annual Masters camp in Normandy, France (Aug 2024) – Anna Georgieva
- Visited with a Dublin Ireland coach, Aoife Drumm, after the Olympic Games (Aug 2024) – Jen Hatt
- Coaching virtually with an Ecuador Swimming (ongoing) – Jen Muzyk

**XX. Club Options 2025**

If interested in a 2025 Club Option, applications will be due **Friday, January 31st**. Please refer to the website for additional information or contact the IR Committee Chair for more information.

**XXI. Upcoming Events in 2024-2025**

- A. 59<sup>th</sup> ISHOF induction weekend, Oct 4-5, 2024, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- B. Team Phoenix International Artistic Swimming Invitational, Oct 25-27, 2024 Johannesburg, South Africa
- C. 11<sup>th</sup> Argentina Open Artistic Swimming, Oct 30-Nov 2, 2024, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- D. XXXI Hungarian Cup, Nov 8-10, 2024, Hungary
- E. World Aquatic Championships, July 11- Aug 3, 2025, Singapore
- F. World Masters Championships, July 26 – Aug 22, 2025, Singapore