

USMS Executive Committee Reports

President – Nadine Day

On behalf of United States Masters Swimming, I would like to thank you for your leadership and commitment to USMS. We have had challenges this past year and USMS has overcome them. We faced an unexpected increase in our insurance premium and our insurance carrier required new requirements for open water events. Our legislation, long distance and open water and finance committees worked together to ensure that we continued to provide opportunities in open water. We examined our sanctioning process and compliance of LMSCs. We found out some LMSCs were not reporting sanctioned events, and not collecting one event registrations and fees. These are missed opportunities for us.

We have a great document, “LMSC Standards”. This gives LMSCs an outline of the minimal requirement to achieve unity and consistency across the LMSCs. In addition, we did a risk assessment for the first time. We need to re examine who we are, and whom we want to cover and what activities we want to provide. What are the necessities/essentials and do we have the available resources? If we provide adequate resources and guidance, we can provide a consistent and unified message. Together everyone achieves success. We need to seize these opportunities and ensure the leadership is here to serve. This will not be easy and we must be willing to change.

As President, I am hoping to change the view of masters nationwide and worldwide. We need to promote opportunities for others and to encourage adults to swim. This creates more opportunities for our members. We are so fortunate to have a national presence and support.

This past year, I participated in the Caribbean and Central America Amateur Swimming (CCCAN) Leadership weekend. I served as a moderator for panel discussion on leadership and financial issues. We were given an opportunity to promote and help develop masters swimming in the CCCAN Federation. We have developed a good partnership. We encouraged participation and CCCAN masters swimmers were welcomed to participate in our USMS sanctioned events.

USMS along with the meet host of the Sarasota Sharks, hosted the 2013 UANA Masters Pan American Championships. This was the most successful Masters Pan American Championships in recent history. Indy Aquatics Masters hosted the USMS Spring Nationals. Mission Viejo Nadadores hosted the largest USMS Summer Nationals and the 2.4 OW Championships. Davis Aquatics Masters hosted the One Hour Postal Championships. Tri Valley Masters hosted the 1 mile OW Championships. Gulf Coast Swim Team hosted the 5K OW Championships. Swim Las Vegas hosted the 10K OW Championship. We still have Adirondack Masters hosting the 2 mile cable swim. Swim Louisville Masters will host the 5K/10K Postal. Central Illinois Masters Swim Team will host the 3,000/6,000 yard postal this Fall. We thank you all for hosting these National Championship events and thanks to all the clubs that host local events as they provide opportunities for our members.

I also had the opportunity to attend the FINA World Congress in Barcelona, Spain. I attended the Swimming Congress, Masters Congress and the General Congress. During the Masters Congress, I was one of the United States of America delegates. The dynamics of the Congress is similar to the USMS HOD, however most of the discussion and work occurs before the Congress from the technical committees. Out of 29 pages of the submissions, 5 items were pulled; all by USA. All failed. The issue that impacted USMS the most was MSW 6.2 and MSW Appendix 1. We only pulled MSW 6.2; I was told prior to the Congress the rationale about MSW 6.2. *MSW 6.2 requires times must take place in a masters meet, formally sanctioned by a FINA member Federation, organized for on behalf of a club or organization, which is a member of this FINA member Federation or recognized by FINA, conducted under the rules of FINA (especially Master FINA Rules) and in which only swimmers registered in a club member of a FINA Member Federation participated.* There were events that adults tried to submit records and top ten times, however the events are not approved by any federation and swimmers were not part of a federation. The FINA Masters committee did their due diligence and had the FINA Bureau review it and also the FINA Legal committee. FINA did this to protect our federations and protect masters swimming around the world. I expressed during the Congress that USMS would be working on a solution for this legislation. The USMS rules committee has submitted legislation to comply with FINA MSW 6.2, we are proposing all unattached swimmers will be an unattached club of their LMSC. The swimmers will not be able to swim relays or score club points. This impacts every short course meters and long course meter meet. Every swimmer in the meet must be a member of a club and

USMS Executive Committee Reports

a federation. If not, all the times achieved during the meet for everyone will not count for FINA world records or FINA top ten times.

I am also proud to announce that Mel Goldstein was selected as FINA Masters Technical Committee Vice Chair. This was an extraordinary accomplishment to be appointed as vice chair during a first term appointment. We also have another representative, Dr. Jim Miller, who was re-appointed to the FINA Sports Medicine Committee. Congratulations to Mel and Jim.

Are you willing to serve your organization? I would like to challenge each of you during the convention to focus on United States Masters Swimming and our mission: To promote health, wellness, fitness and competition for adults through swimming.

- We value HEALTH AND FITNESS, constantly challenging ourselves to achieve, in competition and in accomplishing our own goals.
- We value RESPECT for our teammates, competitors, coaches, employees, and volunteers.
- We value FUN, enjoying camaraderie with our fellow swimmers and embracing swimming as a joyful and satisfying avocation.
- We value LEARNING through coaching, programs, and communication.
- We value EXCELLENCE in safety, education, innovation, performance, leadership, and the provision of services and programs.

Let's make this the best year to come.

Swimming for Life!!!!!!

Vice President Administration - Michael Heather

I will not bore you with a recount of things I have done for or in the name of USMS this year. Instead, I will try to be like a good camper, leave the place a little better than I found it. I hope my efforts at any level will have suggested that my love for the sport is not confined to the swimming pool. I have always tried to do the right thing, even if it was not convenient, or downright uncomfortable.

As I end my tenure on the board of directors after 23 years, It has occurred to me that there is something I should say that will instill confidence and hope into the younger generation coming along to take my place. Play nice with others and always treat others as you would want to be treated. It goes without saying that as we grow as an organization, some people will take advantage of a situation or other people to get what they want, whatever that may be. If we all remember that this volunteer opportunity is not an end all or rocket science, we can sooner discover that it is sometimes fun and always interesting enough to give a little more of your time to find out what happens next.

I used to break up the board meetings by injecting a little humor when I thought things were getting too serious. Perhaps there is another out there that can restart that engine of mirth. More will always get done with a smile, even more if you are laughing. Don't be afraid to smile, it is a sign that you have learned something or are about to share something of value. Always be inquisitive. Demand answers if necessary, accept them with grace. Last year I attached a document designed to help you be happy. This year I will leave you with the best advice I can give to anyone, "Play nice with others and always treat others as you would want to be treated." We can get more done, be happy, instill confidence and earn respect just by doing those simple things.

Live long and prosper

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Vice President of Local Operations – Ed Tsuzuki

2013 has been an incredible year of accomplishments in the Local Operations division. I have been fortunate to have a terrifically dedicated group of committee chairs who are both productive and collaborative, as they provide great support for our growing USMS membership. I am amazed and humbled by the never ending commitment of our volunteers as well as the many contributions from a very caring and supportive staff.

The **Records and Tabulation Committee**, chaired by Chris Stevenson, continuously strives to improve the clarity of our documentation and has completed revisions to the [Guide to Operations](#), the list of committee policies, and the Pool Length Certification form. The committee works very hard to support our members while also maintaining consistency in policy and rules interpretation as well as accuracy in our data. The committee manages and enhances the widely accessed “Event Results Database” and Mary Beth Windrath and Walt Reid continue in their very important role of collecting, verifying and compiling all Top 10 submissions and record applications for all three courses.

The **Recognition and Awards Committee**, chaired by Sally Dillon, oversees all of the USMS service awards, and this year will be adding a new “Open Water Swimming Service Award,” which was submitted by the Open Water Committee. The committee has completed several revisions to their policy manual and has redesigned the Ransom Arthur and Dorothy Donnelly service pins. They offer special congratulations to this year’s Ransom Arthur award winner, Patty Miller from Virginia, as well as to Ted Haartz, who will be inducted to the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame as an “Honor Contributor.” The committee is looking forward to announcing the USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Awards, USMS Club of the Year Awards, and June Krauser Communications Award at convention.

The **History and Archives Committee**, chaired by Meegan Wilson, oversees a huge list of projects which continue to document and preserve USMS history to ensure that the achievements of USMS and Masters swimmers will be maintained for posterity. The committee is actively writing and editing stories about members, digitizing old documents and registration data, and archiving artifacts at the Henning Library at the International Swimming Hall of Fame. The committee is requesting assistance from the National Office and USMS membership in identifying swimmers with incomplete data from old top ten listings. The committee also requests that our members consider donating any historical (local or national) USMS documents before discarding them. As more historical donations are located, they can be preserved and archived.

The **LMSC Development Committee**, chaired by Paige Buehler, has three sub-committees focused on the following topics:

- **Mentoring** – (led by Chris McGiffin) responsible for working with LMSCs, especially those struggling to meet LMSC Standards, determining criteria for convention grants, and communicating LMSC Standards survey results.
- **Education** – (led by Tim Waud) responsible for identifying and/or creating, and managing LMSC volunteer workshops at the annual meeting/convention and determining other methods and topics for year-round education to assist LMSCs.
- **Practices and Standards** – (led by Tom Moore) responsible for documenting “recommended practices” and developing/maintaining a resource library of them and for administering and collating LMSCs’ performance evaluations against LMSC Standards.

The committee fosters communication across all LMSCs and LMSC volunteer roles by providing

- An online resource library of recommended practices
- Online discussion forums for posting questions
- Peer-to-peer teleconferences for interactive discussion of issues
- Outreach and mentoring through the zone chairs, and
- Educational seminars and workshops on selected topics

The committee is very pleased to present a Leadership Summit at convention, focusing on volunteer engagement, led by international author/speaker Betty Stallings, an expert in leadership and volunteer engagement.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

I'd also like to thank our 8 **Zone Chairs** (Breadbasket – Stacy Broncucia, Colonies – Jeff Strahota, Dixie – Jerry Clark, Great Lakes – Daniel Cox, Northwest – Tim Waud, Oceana – Michael Moore, South Central – Tyler Blessing, Southwest – Mary Hull), for providing leadership, recognition and support at a more “local” level, despite the broad geographic areas included in their zone.

As you can see, it has been another exciting and productive year for the Operations Division and as I complete by second and final term as Vice President of Local Operations, I'd like to thank all of the veterans who have mentored me as well as our many tremendously committed and talented volunteers who do so much to keep the USMS community so vibrant and “fit”!

Vice President Programs – David Diehl

The mission of United States Masters Swimming is to promote health, fitness and wellness in adults by offering and supporting Masters swimming programs. The Vice President for Programs has ex-officio status as the Executive Committee liaison and oversight responsibility over the National Officials Committee, the National Long Distance Committee and the National Open Water Committee and provides coordination with the Board of Directors and the USMS National Office.

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE: The Officials Committee mission is to create a safe, fair and consistent meet experience for all Masters Swimmers across the country and within each LMSC by developing a well trained, knowledgeable core of Masters Officials through recruiting and education. During the past year, the Officials Committee met quarterly to conduct its business through various sub groups and worked on and completed the following projects:

- Filled the key positions for the Spring and Summer Nationals. Officials Committee Liaisons worked closely with the Meet Referees. Also, the Officials Committee liaison was named for each National Championship.
- The Committee made a motion that one of the assigned positions for SC and LC National Championship, be considered from certified officials from the Officials Committee
- Submitted proposed rule change to 601.5 Effective Date to change the new rule effective date from January 1 to March 1 to better align with a more realistic date based on Rule Book deliveries.
- Distributed Summary of 2013 Rule changes to all LMSC Officials Chairs.
- Reviewed, updated and re-issued USMS vs. USA Swimming Rule Differences Quick Reference Card.
- Ordered USMS Officials Pins to distribute at Spring and Summer Nationals.
- Completed annual refresh of LMSC Officials Chair contact list.
- Revisited USMS Officials Training Material and Officials Certification program.
- Developed and published the "Application to Officiate" for the Spring and Summer National Championships.
- Established USMS Officials Committee Forum
- Reviewed the Officials Section of the USMS Guide to Operations.

OPEN WATER COMMITTEE: The purpose of the Open Water committee is to "...promote the development of and participation in open water swimming..." The Open Water Committee continues to work very closely with, and in conjunction with, the Long Distance Committee to develop the growth of open water swimming through:

- nurturing the development and growth of USMS sanctioned events.
- ensuring the safety and proper management of open water events.
- developing education and training programs for open water event officials and swimmers.
- Open water safety, education, guidelines, code changes, awards, and service to open water events.

The Committee met every six to eight weeks and established a number Open Water Sub-Committees: Event Development, Safety, Webinars for Event Officials, Swimmer Clinics, Service Awards, Rules and Legislation to complete their assigned work. Other activities included: OW Manual Update, Event Results Database, Ranking System, Swimmer Challenge System: OEVT, E2EEM, Marketing & Promotion, Communications Plan, Inter-committee Collaboration, Insurance Fee Rebate.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Worked with the National Office on the development of a USMS open water logo; approved collaboration between the OWC and LDC for enhancing the safety of USMS Open Water National Championships, approved the creation and implementation of a U.S. Masters Swimming Open Water Service Award to be presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Selected the winner of the first USMS Open Water Service Award, approved legislation and rules proposals for the 2013 Annual Meeting to be submitted in collaboration with the LDC, approved new guidelines for open water practices, training swims and clinics.

LONG DISTANCE COMMITTEE: The Long Distance Committee continued working closely with National Championship event hosts to ensure the success of the USMS Open Water and Postal National Championships. The Committee met every six to eight weeks and established a number of working groups (Rules & Legislation, PARA, Club Assistant, Safety, Manuals, NC Selection) to complete their assigned work. The Committee had significant cooperation, inputs, and proposed rule suggestions from the Open Water Committee in furtherance of USMS open water swimming growth and development. The following projects have been worked on during the past year:

- The open water and pool postal rules have been thoroughly reviewed.
- The USMS One Hour Postal National Championship had nearly 3,000 entries. .
- The Committee is providing liaison support for all USMS Open Water National Championships
- With the Open Water Committee, all safety plans are critiqued and recommendations made.
- The Committee selected the 2013 national long distance and postal swims.

The Long Distance Committee continued working closely with National Championship event hosts, ensuring the success of five Open Water and five Postal USMS National Championships. In addition, the LDC supports and enforces Part 3 of the USMS Rule Book, keeps the manuals and guidelines as up-to-date as possible, continues to recognize All Americans and All Stars, and develops new programs to help ensure the success of our events.

Vice President Community Services – Jody Smith

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer – Ralph Davis

It has been my honor and pleasure to server as the Treasurer of USMS for the past four years. My objective as the Treasurer was to provide financial leadership to the organization. I have listed below some of the major financial administration accomplishments during my four years as Treasurer. These accomplishments were achieved because of excellent support of the BOD, Finance Committee, Investment Committee, Audit Committee, CFO, Executive Director and the other members of the USMS staff.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Recruited and hired a new Controller
Created a new Chart of Accounts
Converted to non-profit specific business software- Blackbaud
Engaged a local CPA firm with non-profit expertise
Updated the Cash Disbursements Policy
Established a Monthly Controller's Letter
Implemented Quarterly Forecasts
Established USMS/LMSC fee collections and exchanges
Developed and implemented an Investment Policy
Created an Investment Committee and selected members
Engaged Northern Trust as our Investment Advisor
Volunteer air travel paid in advance by USMS
Implement new staff benefits delivery options
Created an Audit Committee and selected members
Created a Charter for the Audit and Investment Committee
Move Swimmer Magazine in house with \$100,000 in annual savings
Developed an Investment Spending Policy
Oversight of the national office remodel
Implemented internal controls over programs and grants documentation for the Swimming saves Lives Foundation
Created a Gift Acceptance Policy for Swimming Saves Lives Foundation
Developed a disaster recovery plan for the USMS office and operations
Promoted Controller to CFO
Implemented the Florida Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act
Reduced merchant service fees from 2.5% to 2% that gives USMS a \$70,000 savings over three years
Engage risk management and insurance consultant for USMS insurance options review

United States Masters Swimming continues to be on very solid financial ground. As of July 31, 2013 we had in excess of \$2.8 million in cash and investments. Our 2013 investment returns are forecasted to be 8.0 % to 8.5 % for the year. Our 2012 investment returns was 8.9%. The Investment Policy implemented in 2011 gives USMS the opportunity to generate a reasonable return for the organization over the long term. For the first time, \$66,500 is available for the 2014 operating budget based on the Investment Spending Policy.

The 2012 Financial Statements are complete and the certified audited financial report will be available on our website by the end of August. Our audit firm is Kerkering, Barberios & Co. of Sarasota, Florida. The USMS tax return for 2012 is completed and approved by the Board and will be filed with the IRS by August 15th.

Secretary – CJ Rushman

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank USMS for the opportunity for allowing me to serve as Corporate Secretary for the past four years. It has been a privilege to aid the USMS mission and this position has given me more than I could have expected. I just hope that I can repay back USMS over my next numerous years with the organization. I need to thank the members of both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for their support, encouragement and friendship. I truly learned a great deal from their past experiences from the personal and professional side. I would like thank the National Office that has assisted me with many of the day to day operations

USMS Executive Committee Reports

of being a Corporate Secretary. I'd like to thank all of our many tremendously committed volunteers who do so much to keep the USMS community vibrant, exciting and growing.

As in the past years what I did this year was much the same as previous predecessors did; ordinary secretary stuff. I have been posting the different committee's conference call minutes to the website as well as schedule their committee calls. I have written and distributed minutes for the Executive Committee, Board of Directors during the past year. I wrote, distributed and posted minutes from all Executive Committee, Board of Directors and other committee meetings held during the year, including the meetings in Mesa Arizona and Sarasota. As this 2013 convention has approached, I have been soliciting and compiling the official list of delegates, and preparing other convention-related materials.