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# USMS CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

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## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE/CONSENT-TO-RUN FORM

**All candidates must complete the entire questionnaire.** You may use as much space as you choose in answering your questions. Candidates should return this form **by email** with your other attachments to the Chair of the Election Committee (Debbie Morrin-Nordlund, Colonies@usms.org), by **April 30, 2007**. Candidates nominated from the floor must return this form with attachments immediately after nomination.

### I. Section One: Consent-to-Run

Name: Rob Copeland

LMSC: Georgia

Consent-to-Run: I, Rob Copeland, am interested in running for (**check one**):

#### Officer Positions

- President  
\_\_\_\_ Vice President for Member Services  
\_\_\_\_ Vice President for Community Services  
\_\_\_\_ Vice President for National Operations  
\_\_\_\_ Vice President for Local Operations  
\_\_\_\_ Secretary  
\_\_\_\_ Treasurer

### II. Section Two: Candidate Qualifications

*I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year:*  Yes \_\_\_\_ No

*I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:*  Yes \_\_\_\_ No

*I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office:*  Yes \_\_\_\_ No

*Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:*

I have attended the USMS Annual HOD meeting each year since 1985.

### III. Section Three: Questions

*Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?*

I am passionately committed to USMS. In my 20 plus years of membership in and volunteerism to Masters Swimming, I have served where my experience best fits the needs of the organization. Now, I feel I can best serve USMS continuing in the role of president.

Having been actively involved in the local and national operations of USMS since 1983, I have been fortunate to see and be a part of the growth and maturing, which has brought us to where we are today. Over the past 2 years I have been blessed by the opportunity to serve as our president and been actively involved with USMS leadership. With this deep understanding of our rich heritage and of our vision for the future I will work to maintain our high level of quality programs and services while managing the governance changes that will establish our foundation for continued improvement and growth.

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*What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?*

- Leadership – The duty of our leaders is to set the vision and commit to achieving success in support of our mission. Throughout our history, Masters Swimming has been blessed with strong leaders who have guided us through over 30 years of growth and maturity. As we continue to grow and mature, it is important that our leaders are responsible to the mission and vision and are responsive to the needs of our volunteers, members and the community at large. As a long time student of leadership, I understand the challenges we must face and am ready and willing to meet these for our continued success.
- Volunteers – Our fundamental strength as an organization has always been our enthusiastic and committed volunteers at the national, local and club levels. Volunteers are our number one asset. For our continued success and growth we need to focus on educating, encouraging and recognizing our volunteers and we need to identify and provide opportunities for willing volunteers. I am committed to engaging, encouraging and recognizing volunteerism within USMS.
- Coaching – Providing real and virtual coaching for our members is one of the most valuable services available through USMS and is a leading factor in member retention. Coached programs and Masters coaches provide added value in support of our mission to promote fitness and health in adults by offering and supporting Masters swimming programs. I am committed to investing in programs that will provide more coaches and coaching to our members, and to programs that will increase the numbers of Masters coaches and elevate the coaches knowledge level.
- Governance – The Planning, Legislation and Executive Committees have spent a significant amount of time developing a framework of change for the future of USMS. The first phase of these changes was implemented through legislation last year; the second phase is before us this year. In the coming years we will continue to introduce and fine-tune how we do business. I am committed to working with our committees and the HOD to finish the good works of Planning’s governance task force.
- Quality Programs – We will grow by providing high quality products and services to our members and to our volunteers. The change in our organizational structure (the creation of divisional vice presidents and changes to our Board), which the House of Delegates implemented last year was a significant step in aligning how we are organized with how we need to operate to provide continuously improving volunteer and member services. Our leaders will be responsible for ensuring that our restructured organization works efficiently and effectively in advancing current programs and in developing high quality programs for our members.
- Local Support – In addition to developing high quality programs for our individual members and clubs, we need to develop programs to support our LMSC’s. Many of our smaller LMSCs and some of the larger ones struggle with finding and keeping volunteers to lead and run LMSC operations. Some LMSC officers have held their positions for decades, out of love for our sport or because no one else is willing to step up. Most LMSCs could operate more effectively. Our leadership, through the president and vice president of Local Services, must address these issues and the others facing our LMSC’s in order to stabilize our local foundation.
- Relationships – USMS maintains excellent relationships with other members of our aquatic sports community, adult athletic organizations and international Masters swimming groups. Further enhancing these relationships will provide our members with additional training and competitive opportunities, and introduce more adults to the benefits of USMS. I feel the partnerships we develop at the national and local levels between Masters Swimming and other aquatic and related athletic groups are critical to the future of USMS and I will work to continue to improve upon these.
- Growth – For the past few years USMS has not experienced the growth we previously enjoyed. We need to focus on member services which will attract and retain members and community services which will introduce Masters Swimming to our target audiences. Providing services which retain members must be high on our list of priorities. And to borrow a phrase from Nancy Ridout, USMS should “Make Masters Swimming a habit for life.”
- Finance – We continue to maintain a strong balance sheet through the fiscal stewardship of our Finance Committee, Executive Committee and controller. We must continue to responsibly manage the assets of USMS, investing in programs which will benefit the business of USMS. I also, believe that our new Board of Directors must be more accountable for understanding and managing our USMS fiscal direction and policies. In the coming years we will likely face a number of financial opportunities, such as 2006 Worlds, insurance, professional executive management, and growth based investments. The ability of our leaders to effectively manage how, when and what programs and services

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to invest is a critical attribute, and is a key to our continued strength. I am committed to growing USMS, while maintaining financial accountability to our board, house and members

- Communication – Properly developed and executed communication plans for our national and local volunteers, our members, peers, partners, sponsors, and the community at large, are critical facets in achieving our objectives and in enhancing the recognition of USMS. In the past few years, how USMS communicates has drastically changed; usage of email, conference calling, the USMS web site and our national publication have all provided us with communication opportunities and challenges that were not as readily accessible 5 to 10 years ago. Our leaders need to be responsive to these channels of communication and look for ways to use them in support of national and local programs.

***Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:***

Executive Committee 2005 to present

Legislation Committee 1987 to 2005, chair 2002 to 2005 (Chairs Art Smith, Jerianne Donnelly, Bill Earley, Elin Zander)

Long Distance Committee 1986 to 1993 and 2002 to 2005, chair 1988 to 1993 (Chairs Dave Gray, Peter Crumbine)

Ad hoc Rule Book Committee 1990 (Kathy Casey)

Rules, ex officio 2002 to 2005 (Chair Leo Letendre)

Breadbasket Zone Representative 1985 to 1987 (Chair of ZC Edie Gruender)

Dixie Zone Representative 2004 to 2005 (Chair of ZC Lynn Hazlewood)

Served on other committees in the 80's and 90's

***Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.***

USMS president 2005- to present.

In the past 25 years, I have served in many positions at the local level in the Midwestern, New Jersey and Georgia LMSC's, and in the Georgia LSC.

Additionally, I have served in almost every capacities in the clubs that I have been a member of throughout these years; president, secretary, treasurer, meet director, starter, timer, ...

***Please list any other information you would like included.***

***Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting***

USMS has a tremendous group of volunteers and staff who make us the organization we are today. It has been my extreme privilege to be involved in Masters Swimming as a competitor and as a volunteer. I have met lifelong friends and helped to advance our mission. It is critical that our elected officers remained focused on achieving the mission and objectives of USMS, by providing leadership to the incredible volunteers and staff who are Masters Swimming. As president I am committed to provide this leadership.

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## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE/CONSENT-TO-RUN FORM

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### I. Section One: Consent-to-Run

Name: Leo Letendre

LMSC: New England

Consent-to-Run: I, Leo Letendre, am interested in running for (**check one**):

#### Officer Positions

- President
- Vice President for Member Services
- Vice President for Community Services
- Vice President for National Operations
- Vice President for Local Operations
- Secretary
- Treasurer

### II. Section Two: Candidate Qualifications

*I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year:*  Yes  No

*I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:*  Yes  No

*I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office:*  Yes  No

*Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:*

I have attended every National HOD meeting since 1983.

### III. Section Three: Questions

*Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?*

With the hiring of an executive director, we are at a significant if not critical point in our history. We need to welcome the new director and assist him/her in learning what is essential to keep the essential parts of our organization while redesigning those that must function differently with the institution of the ED position. As vice president of National Operations I have overseen the functioning of a number of our major policy making committees which are vital to the success of USMS. I have also served in numerous positions in USMS which has provided me with the experience to help in the our transition. Specifically, I have been a member and chairman of the Rules committee, and a member of the Legislation committee. Additionally, I have worked with each of the USMS registrars for many years as the author and maintainer of the software they use. This position has also allowed me to work with the National Office in areas related to registration. Given this background, I believe that I would be a good candidate for the office of VP of National Operations.

*What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?*

There are several issues that must be address over the next several years. These include adjusting to the new organizational structure with an Executive Director handling day-to-day operations.. While it is important it is

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probably the least challenging issue facing us if we assemble the right group of people as we initially set the group's expectations.

USMS must continue to modernize its systems. We must continue to expand our presence on the Web and actually accelerate the pace of offering members services through it. These services must include membership as well as administrative services such as meet management. As an organization of largely volunteers, we must provide the tools to help these volunteers become more efficient as well as provide better data for the all members. This pursuit may be restrained by budget issues so judicious use of volunteers may be required to fulfill parts of this need.

The organization must continue to attract new and young members who will not only maintain their membership and participation, but who will step forward to become the leaders we will need in the future. We must provide the membership with the information about how we govern ourselves to convince them of the need to participate and then to mentor them as they progress to positions of leadership. Now that we own the entire content of the official magazine, we have a vehicle with which we can occasionally inform our members about this admittedly mundane but important issue.

We must look at ways to improve the quality of our local programs in order to attract and retain members. The improvements needed range from increasing the number of masters coaches, the programs available to non-competitive members to the quality of our meets. For example, there appears to be a need to educate meet directors in order to raise the expectation level for the conduct of all levels of competition.

Lastly, we need to use our financial resources wisely. The addition of the ED position does not come without a financial price even while we expect that the position will allow us to seek additional sources of revenue. We need to watch our expenses and seek new revenue as needed from sources that are consistent with our mission.

***Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:***

Rules Committee 1984-present; Chair 1998-present; June Krauser, Tom Boak

*Ad Hoc* Computerization Committee 1992-1993, Chair

Zone Committee, 1996-1997; Stephanie Walsh

Legislation Committee, 1998 – present, *ex officio*; Elin Zander, Rob Copeland

*Ad Hoc* Professional Management Committee, 1998-1999; Hugh Moore

Officials Committee, 2002-present, David Diehl

***Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.***

Vice President of National Operations, 2005-present

Author and maintainer of the USMS Registration Program, *ca.* 1995 – present

Meet Director, USMS Postal Hour Swim, 1994; Postal 10K Championship (*ca.* 1992-93)

USMS Database Taskforce, 2001-2002

USMS representative to Our Kids Initiative, 2004-2005

Ozark LMSC Chairman, 1991-2003

Ozark LMSC Top Ten Recorder, 1982 – 2000

Ozark LMSC Officials Chairman, 1992 - 2002

St. Louis Masters Swim Team president, 1992-1998

USA-Swimming Rules Committee, *ex-officio*, 2004 – present

USA-Swimming Official, 1989-present, Administrative Referee, National Championship Certified

President, Parkway Swim Team (USA-Swimming) 1997-2000

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***Please list any other information you would like included.***

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*Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting*

Swimming has given me much more than I have been able to give back. I met my wife through Masters swimming and my two daughters have benefited from all of the good associated with this fine sport. Over the years, I have been able to learn more about myself and the sport as I have had the opportunity to serve in various capacities in both USMS and USA-Swimming. As USMS changes the structure of its leadership team by adding a full-time Executive Director, I would like to be able to provide the organization the benefit of the experience it has allowed me to obtain to help define how this new structure functions. If USMS allows me to serve them as a Vice President, I will be honored to do so.

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### CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE/CONSENT-TO-RUN FORM

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#### IV. Section One: Consent-to-Run

Name: Julie Paque Heather

LMSC: Southern Pacific

Consent-to-Run: I, Julie Paque Heather, am interested in running for (**check one**):

##### Officer Positions

- President
- Vice President for Member Services
- Vice President for Community Services
- Vice President for National Operations
- Vice President for Local Operations
- Secretary
- Treasurer

#### V. Section Two: Candidate Qualifications

*I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year:*  Yes  No

*I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:*  Yes  No

*I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office:*  Yes  No

*Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:*

1989 to present

#### VI. Section Three: Questions

*Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?*

I am interested in the position of Vice President for Local Operations because I believe I have the background and experience to effectively provide leadership for our organization and work with LMSCs, clubs and zones to grow and prosper USMS. I would like to continue my contributions to Masters Swimming that began in 1982. I have participated as a swimmer since 1980, and have served on a variety of committees on the national level, and have also contributed extensively on the local level, including as Chairman of Pacific Masters Swimming. I am now Registrar and of Southern Pacific, and I have a very good understanding of the day to day operations of our organization. Our growth is dependent on the strength of our clubs and LMSCs. That's the first, and last, line of contact for many of our members. If it is a good experience, people will join! The past two years as VP-Local Operations have been very exciting for this organization. I have contributed as a member of the On-line registration task force, policy task force, and as chair of the Club Development Task Force.

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***What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?***

*I have read through what I wrote two years ago when I was first nominated, and I think the same issues are true today. I think this executive committee is addressing all these issues in a systematic, productive manner.*

*Adjusting for the growth of our organization, both in terms of management and financial aspects.* We are starting to deal with the fact that it is difficult for an organization of our size to rely totally on volunteer efforts to accomplish time consuming tasks. It is always in the best interest of a non-profit organization such as USMS to keep costs down, but it is also very important to ensure that key tasks are accomplished in a professional and timely manner. We need to examine our costs and determine whether they are in the best interest of our membership as a whole, and in line with our goals and objectives. We need to make sure that we effectively use the strengths and knowledge of our volunteer leadership, and recognize the value of their contributions.

*Providing support for LMSCs.* USMS is only as strong as the LMSCs. Without the LMSCs we wouldn't exist. We need to find a way to provide practical support for the local organization, in terms of leadership development, volunteer management, and administration. Some of our LMSCs are struggling to handle the day to day operations of the LMSC, including leadership and registrations. We need to provide those LMSCs mentors to help them through the rough spots.

*Swimming venues.* We need to encourage new facilities to bid for National Championships; consider the possibility of having a short course meters nationals; and get access to more facilities for Masters teams. The lack of facilities in some areas is hindering the growth of Masters Swimming, and if we can provide some assistance to those wanting to start new teams it will benefit Masters Swimming (e.g., provide a list of benefits to present to pool management).

***Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:***

- Ad hoc Rule Book Committee (1990-1991, Kathy Casey and Gail Dummer, chair)
- Coaches Committee (1990-1991, Steve Schofield, chair)
- Ad hoc Rule Book Committee Chair (1992-1993)
- Legislation Committee (1992-1995, Jerianne Donnelly, chair; 1996-1997, Bill Earley, chair)
- Ad hoc Recognition and Awards Committee Chair (1994-1995)
- Zone Representative, Oceana (1996-1997, Stephanie Walsh, chair)
- Safety Education Committee Chair (1998-2001, Jeanne Crouse, liaison; 2003-2004, Patty Powis, liaison)
- Computer On-line Committee (1998-2001, Jim Matysek, chair)
- Insurance Committee (1998-2004, ex-officio member, Colleen Driscoll, chair)
- Ad hoc Professional Management Committee (1998-2000, Hugh Moore, chair)
- Registration Committee (2003-present, Anna Lea Roof, chair)
- Records and Top Ten (2003-present, Pieter Cath, chair)

***Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.***

- Delegate to USMS Convention (1989 to present)
- Secretary, Southern Pacific (1982-1984)
- Secretary, Pacific (1987-1991)
- Administrative Vice-chairman, Pacific (1991-1993)
- Chairman, Pacific (1993-1995; 1998-2000)
- Board of Directors, Palo Alto Area Chapter, American Red Cross (1990-1999)
- Executive Committee, Palo Alto Area Chapter, American Red Cross (1996-1999)
- Health & Safety Committee Chair, Greater Long Beach Chapter, American Red Cross (2002-2003)
- CPR, 1st Aid, Water Safety, and Lifeguarding Instructor, Instructor Trainer (various dates 1979-2006)
- Preparedness Education Committee Chair, Board of Directors, San Gabriel Valley ARC (2004-2006)
- Registrar, Southern Pacific Masters Swimming (2001-present)



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*Please list any other information you would like included.*

Professional experience

Southern Pacific Masters Swimming (2001-present) Registrar

California Institute of Technology (2002-present) Staff Scientist, research on meteoritic materials and experimental analogs.

Computer Programming Consultant (1995-2002) Microsoft Visual C++, Visual Basic, Microsoft Access, Corel Paradox, and additional third-party tools.

SETI Institute (1992-2000) Principal investigator, experimental petrology of Ca-Al-rich inclusions from carbonaceous chondrites; aerodynamic sorting of chondrules in the solar nebula.

Stanford University (1986-1992) Research associate, director of the electron microprobe/SEM laboratories.

Education

California Institute of Technology (graduate), University of Tennessee-Knoxville (undergraduate)

*Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting*

I would be proud to continue to serve as your Vice President for Local Operations. I believe that members of the Executive Committee are the key to effective communication within our organization. We have a lot of intelligent members in the HOD with many years of experience in USMS. We need to communicate openly with the Board and HOD to get feedback on major issues and help guide the decision making process. If elected, I will continue to work with our committees to provide resources for leadership development, volunteer management, and administration to our LMSCs to help them grow and reach their potential. I would like to see members of the Executive Committee spend time during convention getting to know delegates informally, and solicit their concerns, priorities, and opinions on issues facing USMS. We need to involve as many people as possible in the decision making process, and we need to communicate information to members of the HOD so that they can make educated decisions.

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#### VII. Section One: Consent-to-Run

Name: Mark Gill

LMSC: Kentucky

Consent-to-Run: I, Mark Gill, am interested in running for (**check one**):

##### Officer Positions

- President
- Vice President for Member Services
- Vice President for Community Services
- Vice President for National Operations
- Vice President for Local Operations
- Secretary
- Treasurer

#### VIII. Section Two: Candidate Qualifications

*I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year:*  Yes  No

*I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:*  Yes  No

*I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office:*  Yes  No

*Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:*

2001 – 2006 conventions. I attended all days

#### IX. Section Three: Questions

*Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?*

I think USMS is a great organization and I have enjoyed volunteering in the past in a variety of roles. As the Vice President of Member Services, I believe I could bring my past experiences to bear on a number of issues and help support the goals of masters swimming. USMS is facing an interesting time that has the potential to dramatically shape its future and I would like to do my part to help support the growth and health of our organization.

*What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?*

I think there are a number of exciting issues and opportunities facing USMS.

Our membership growth has been rather flat for the last few years. Other similar organizations such as USA Triathlon have had explosive growth. What are some of the issues that are limiting our growth? I believe a greater emphasis on open water swimming within USMS will help us attract new members. I also believe that we need to continue to strengthen our relationships with other groups. As an example, the YMCA owns a large number of pools. Many do not have masters programs or don't have programs that are associated with USMS. Are there things that we could offer that would make being a part of USMS more attractive?

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It has been long recognized that our strongest growth has come from teams with great coaches. How can we help recruit more coaches into USMS? Are there ways that we can help clubs find and retain good coaches? Are there things that USMS can do to better support our current coaches?

I feel the USMS is searching for its identity. We know from surveys that many of our members are not interested in competitive swimming. Yet much of our activity centers on the competitive side of the sport. What types of offerings will be most attractive to our non-competitive members and potential members?

If elected Vice President of Member Services, I would have the opportunity to work with other volunteers within USMS to address these issues. I see this position as a chance to bring in ideas of my own and mix them with ideas generated by a variety of committees. This position would give me the opportunity to champion ideas and policies that will help ensure growth and a healthy future for USMS.

***Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:***

Championship Committee member – 2002 – 2005, Sandy Rousseau, Barry Fasbender

International Committee member – 2003 – 2005, Phil Whitten, Sandy Rousseau

***Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.***

### **Communication**

- Developed and maintained team website for 4 years
- Maintain the TYR Masters Grand Prix website

### **Club Development**

- Have coached masters for 9 years.
- Started and built a Masters workout group at the University of Louisville.

### **Competition**

- Meet director for a variety of masters meets in AZ
- Started the Sun Devil Invitational meet
- Director for the 2003 SC Nationals
- Started the AZ Open Water Series - a 5 race event.
- Created open water races that combine USA Triathlon, USMS and USA Swimming in one event.
- Started and direct the Louisville Invitational, Cardinal Invitational and TYR Masters Grand Prix

### **Coaching**

- 20 years of coaching experience with age group, YMCA, USA Swimming, Masters and College
- Member of ASCA
- Invited as one of two coaches to work at the USA Swimming 2004 National Open Water Camp
- Currently coach with Swim Louisville Masters and the University of Louisville

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### **Education**

- Started and organized the first two Mentor Coach and Swimmer Clinics in AZ
- I have coordinated a swim clinic in Louisville

### **Officiating**

- Officiated and announced at USMS Nationals
- Announcer for the University of Louisville Swim Team (Go Cards)
- Announcer at the Big East Swimming and Diving Championships

### **Awards & Records**

- Served as the records chair in AZ for 5 years
- I have worked to create the USMS Club of the Year Award

*Please list any other information you would like included.*

I can hold my breath underwater for almost 30 seconds.

*Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting*

I am running for reelection for the Vice President of Member Services position. I have been involved in masters swimming since 1992. During that time, I have worked as a meet director of local meets plus the 2003 short course national championship meet. I have started several events including the Arizona Open Water Series, a 5-race series on Tempe Town Lake in Arizona, the Louisville Invitational and the Cardinal Invitational.

I believe that USMS has many great things to offer. By being more involved, I hope to be able to help grow our membership and support ideas that will lead to a healthy future for our organization. I hope to be able to work with the different groups within our membership to see that all views are fairly represented.

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#### X. Section One: Consent-to-Run

Name: Michael Heather

LMSC: Southern Pacific

Consent-to-Run: I, Michael Heather, am interested in running for (**check one**):

##### Officer Positions

- President
- Vice President for Member Services
- Vice President for Community Services
- Vice President for National Operations
- Vice President for Local Operations
- Secretary
- Treasurer

#### XI. Section Two: Candidate Qualifications

*I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year:*  Yes  No

*I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:*  Yes  No

*I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office:*  Yes  No

*Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:*

I have attended all meetings since 1986.

#### XII. Section Three: Questions

*Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?*

I am the incumbent VP and intend to improve on my first term

*What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?*

Growth and retention of members. I support a national marketing (ad) campaign, uniform national registration fees, consistent LMSC presence and services, specialized help for local groups (including clubs and pool operators) and more communication and interaction with other masters aquatics groups.

*Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:*

Rules, Marketing, Planning (various dates from 1989-2005), Chair of Convention committee 1989-2005

*Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.*

Red Cross disaster volunteer since 2003

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*Please list any other information you would like included.*

*Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting*

I support and propose change (sometimes radical) to insure the health, prosperity and future of USMS, including better and more opportunities for our members to join or come back. Do not vote for me if you think USMS is just fine the way it is and do not want anything to change.

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#### XIII. Section One: Consent-to-Run

Name: Meg Smath

LMSC: Kentucky

Consent-to-Run: I, Meg Smath, am interested in running for (**check one**):

##### Officer Positions

- President
- Vice President for Member Services
- Vice President for Community Services
- Vice President for National Operations
- Vice President for Local Operations
- Secretary
- Treasurer

#### XIV. Section Two: Candidate Qualifications

*I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year:*  Yes  No

*I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:*  Yes  No

*I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office:*  Yes  No

*Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:*

- 1990—Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 1991—Louisville, Ky.
- 1992—Minneapolis, Minn.
- 1993—Los Angeles, Calif.
- 1994—Kansas City, Mo.
- 1995—Houston, Texas
- 1996—Orlando, Fla.
- 1997—Burlingame, Calif.
- 1998—Cincinnati, Ohio
- 1999—San Diego, Calif.
- 2000—Kissimmee, Fla.
- 2001—Louisville, Ky.
- 2002—Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas

## USMS CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

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2003—San Diego, Calif.

2004—Orlando, Fla.

2005—Greensboro, N.C.

2006—Dearborn, Mich.

### **XV. Section Three: Questions**

#### ***Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?***

I have been very involved with USMS for many years as chair of the Publications Committee and editor of the rule book. I would like to contribute more as a member of the Executive Committee. I am well qualified for secretary because of my job as an editor at the Kentucky Geological Survey, and because I have held the position of secretary in several other organizations, including my LMSC. I take excellent, complete notes, and my minutes would be an accurate reflection of what took place at meetings. I would also be more than capable of handling the official correspondence. I am well organized and would efficiently deliver notices of meetings. I am proficient in many types of software that would be beneficial for this job, including Word, InDesign, Photoshop, Acrobat and Excel.

I also feel I could bring a fresh perspective to the Executive Committee. I am not an elite swimmer, although I compete as often as I can and do my very best. Neither am I strictly a fitness swimmer. I'm somewhere in between, and I think I could help USMS strike a balance between the various needs of our members.

#### ***What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?***

Probably the most crucial issue is dealing with growing pains. As our membership has increased, even day-to-day operations have become a challenge. To do more than simply maintain the status quo, we must change the way we operate, a process already well under way with these elections. At the same time, we must not alienate our core membership—growth for growth's sake will wind up disappointing both current and future members. Increasing our membership must be an outgrowth of us getting the message out that USMS has something to offer. In other words, communication is key. And communication means being willing to listen too. We need to tell the world about ourselves, but we also need to listen to what the active adult population is asking for, and if necessary and feasible, be willing to adapt to meet those needs. And we need to provide more services to our noncompetitive members, while maintaining our commitment to those who do compete. If elected, I would gather and evaluate information, and make appropriate recommendations and decisions.

#### ***Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:***

Communications Committee, 2001–2005 (vice chair 2005). Served under Hugh Moore.

Convention Committee, 1991, 1996–2000, 2002–2004. Served under Bill Tingley and Michael Heather.

Officials Committee, 1996–97. Served under Sally Dillon.

Legislation Committee (ex-officio), 1998–2005. Served under Elin Zander and Rob Copeland.

Professional Management Committee, 1998–2000.

Publications Committee (previously Rule Book Committee), 1991–2005 (chair 1994–2005). Served under Kathy Casey/Gail Dummer and Julie Paque.

Ransom Arthur Award (now Recognition and Awards) Committee, 1993.

Rules Committee (ex-officio), 1998–2005. Served under Leo Letendre and Tom Boak.

#### ***Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.***

Secretary of Kentucky LMSC since 1999; formerly Officials Chair

Webmaster for the Kentucky LMSC

President of Wildcat Masters (a subgroup of Swim Kentucky Masters) since 1988, and in that capacity have served as meet director for Wildcat Masters Invitational (the Kentucky LMSC short course championship meet) since then.



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NCAA-certified swimming official; worked NCAA and NAIA meets (including the SEC championships) as a starter, referee, and stroke and turn judge. Also worked numerous Masters (including 1991 LC nationals in Elizabethtown, Ky.) and high school meets

Secretary, editor, and board member of the Central Kentucky Shetland Sheepdog Club

Member of the board of directors of the Association of Earth Science Editors

Editor of the newsletter and former secretary of the Kentucky Society of Professional Geologists

***Please list any other information you would like included.***

I've already done this job for two years, and would like to see it through.

***Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting***

I would like to contribute more to USMS by being elected secretary. My job as an editor, as well as having served as secretary in several other organizations, uniquely qualifies me for the position. If elected, I would like to focus on communication as a means to improve USMS and promote intelligent growth—increasing our membership as an outgrowth of us getting the message out that USMS has something to offer.