

Patty Miller - Candidate for President



The Election Committee has deemed that Patty Miller is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated she is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and, if elected, is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his tenure in office.

The candidate is running for reelection and is not required to provide a letter of nomination or letters of recommendation.

The candidate provided the following responses on the Candidate Questionnaire/Consent-to-Run Form:

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

I have attended more than 1 HOD Meeting in the past five years? Yes No

I am a resident and a member of the Zone from which I seek election (Director Candidates only): Yes No NA

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

I attended the USMS House of Delegates meetings in the following years: 1998; 2001 through 2016

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 being re-elected for a second term as President so I can continue the work that I and the Board, CEO, and volunteers have begun. In the past two years, we hired a new CEO and adopted a revised strategic plan. CEO Dawson Hughes has gotten off to a great

start, focusing on our national office operations and our partnerships with volunteers. There is still change to come and it is important to me to help guide and facilitate that transformation.

We are pursuing the four prongs of our newly revised strategic plan: Membership Value; Brand Clarity; Innovation; and Partnerships. For the partnerships prong, I am particularly focused on the internal partnership with volunteers. We are just beginning to develop in the area of volunteer engagement (see below) and I am interested in shepherding this development.

Finally, I will repeat from my candidate statement two years ago the ultimate driver that keeps me wanting to devote myself to being President: I love swimming. I love to participate for the aesthetic pleasure of being in the water. I love the camaraderie and fun of being with Masters swimmers. I love seeing adults improve their fitness and skills in swimming because of the opportunity that we have provided for them. Being President of USMS would allow me to lead others who have this same passion to enhance the joy of swimming and spread it to others.

I believe I am a good candidate because of my leadership ability, my big picture focus, and my ability to stay calm in the face of change and uncertainty.

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?

Two key issues facing USMS are volunteer engagement and relevance. When I ran for office two years ago, I identified similar issues.

I previously described the first issue as “balance” – trying to find the right balance between activities that are best done by our professional staff and those that are best done by volunteers. As we have worked on this issue in the past 18 months, I now think of it as volunteer engagement – how best to optimize, support, recruit and recognize volunteers. We have prioritized this issue by making it part of our strategic plan in the Internal Partnerships prong. We have begun the dialog to address volunteer engagement in conversations at our Winter Board of Directors meeting, at this year’s successful LMSC Leadership Summit, and in the planning for workshops at our 2017 convention. The Leadership Summit was a great opportunity to listen to our LMSC leaders and hear their ideas, needs, and pain points. We have already learned about some things with which the national office might be able to help so as to free up LMSC and club volunteers to represent USMS where our members and prospective members are.

Relevance is about USMS adapting as our population and its needs change. Key areas for this are generations and diversity. As President, I appointed the Futures Task Force that focuses on younger generations that are our present and future members and volunteers. They have already come up with some great insights that were shared at convention last year and that are being pursued this year. I have supported the national office in its pursuit of the College Club Initiative, which is helping today’s college club swimmers who may become future USMS members. In the area of diversity, I have encouraged USMS’s Diversity Task Force to direct its efforts toward identifying specific areas of underrepresentation before moving forward with proposals for action.

A third area for relevance is ensuring that USMS is offering programming and benefits that are relevant to our ever-developing membership. At this year’s LMSC Leadership Summit, participants learned that, although it varies by LMSC, nationally only about 25% of our members compete. This realization drives us to develop opportunities to engage and retain members with programming and ways of communicating that fit with their desire for fitness. One such effort, stemming from the revised strategic plan, is the national office, working with our Fitness Education Committee, piloting innovative fitness programming.

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:

Governance Committee: 2008 – 2015; Ex officio – 2016 - present
Chair – 2008-2009
Chairs served under – Anthony Thompson; Hugh Moore; Leianne Crittenden

Ad Hoc Legal Counselors Committee: 1999–2005
Chair – 2003-2005
Chairs served under – Jeanne Crouse; Jack Geoghegan

Safety Education Committee: 1999 – 2002
Chair – 2002
Chairs served under – Julie Heather

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

I have been USMS President since 2015. Before becoming President, I served as USMS's Legal Counsel from 2002 to 2009 and then from 2011 to 2015. Key events to which I contributed during that tenure included revisions to the USMS governance structure; preparation for and hiring of an Executive Director; allowance for electronic signatures that facilitated adoption of on-line registration; establishment of a national headquarters; adoption of the Code of Conduct and refinement of the grievance process in Part 4; and establishment of the Board of Directors Governance Committee.

In addition to USMS committees, I have served on many USMS task forces, including the following:

- Leadership Summit Task Force - 2017
- CEO Search Task Force – 2015-2016
- Strategic Plan Task Force – 2016
- Executive Director Succession Task Force - 2015
- National Headquarters Task Force - 2015
- Ineligible Persons Task Force (Chair) – 2012 – 2013
- Strategic Planning Task Force (Chair) – 2011
- Board of Review Task Force – 2011
- Branding Task Force – 2007-2008
- Executive Director Hiring Task Force – 2006-2007
- Executive Director Funding Task Force (Chair) – 2005

I also have experience at the very important local level. I was Chair of the Virginia LMSC from 2010 to 2014, served as President of Virginia Masters Swim Team, and was co-director of the Chris Green Lake Swim.

In the swimming world outside of USMS, I am on the Ethics Committee for United States Synchronized Swimming and I formerly served on the Board of Directors of USA Swimming as USMS's liaison.

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

When I ran for office two years ago, I said my top three priorities were to hire a new CEO, develop a revised strategic plan, and work toward finding the best balance between contributions of professional staff and volunteers. The first two priorities are complete and the work on volunteer engagement is underway. It has been my privilege to work with awesome people – both volunteer and staff – who care so much about promoting health, fitness, wellness and challenge through swimming. I hope to continue to lead us through continued development for the next two years.