

## Matt Hooper - Dixie Zone Candidate for the At-Large Director



The Election Committee has deemed that Matt Hooper is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated he 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 was nominated by *Rob Copeland* and received a letters of recommendation from *Nadine Day and Helen Naylor* in accordance with our Election Operating Guidelines.

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 2 or more HOD Meeting in the past five years?*     Yes     No

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

As of April 2018, I have attended USMS's annual meeting since 2009. House of Delegates attendance dates for those years are: 2017 (September 14-16), 2016 (September 22-24), 2015 (October 1-3), 2014 (September 20), 2013 (September 12-14), 2012 (September 15+16), 2011 (September 16-18), 2010 (September 17-19) and 2009 (September 18-20).

### 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 serving as the Dixie Zone's representative on the USMS Board of Director. I believe I have a good knowledge of our zone, and a good mix of experience both on the governance side of USMS and on the participation side as well (both as an official and a swimmer, competitive and fitness—if that latter dichotomy is the actual reality). Many times,

there seems to be disconnects between national aims/situations and local aims/situations; my hope is to help reconnect these.

***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?***

The biggest issue I see USMS now having is the power/financial struggle between the LMSCs and the national office, which seems to be growing the past few years and from which the national office seems to be alienating the LMSCs. This issue impacts many/most interactions and initiatives on both sides, including membership growth and quality of service delivery. And may also be blocking USMS from addressing issues like meet availability, capturing/enrolling swimmers from high school and college, and how to be ready to service a larger and larger membership.

My aim in holding the position is to open communication lines between involved parties, hopefully expanding understanding of both sides related to positions and reasons for acting as they do (and finding solutions or paths to resolutions that best fit the situations presented).

***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 (2010-present; chairs: Kathy Casey, Charlie Cockrell)

LMSC Development (2014-2017; chairs: Paige Buehler, Michael Moore)

Governance (2018/present; chair: Leianne Crittenden)

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

Dixie Zone (chair 2014-2017); Florida Gold Coast LMSC (chair 2012-13; vice chair 2010-2011).

USA Swimming Board of Directors member (2002); USA Swimming athlete representative (1991, 1996-2004).

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

If elected, this would be my first time serving on the USMS Board of Directors.

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

Greetings. I welcome the opportunity to again serve/represent the Dixie Zone, this time on the USMS Board of Directors. Our zone, and our organization, face many challenges; my goal for this term is to tackle what I view are communication breakdowns within USMS's governance. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope I will be able to serve the zone again, in this new capacity.

March 29, 2018

**Rob Copeland**

**TO: USMS Elections Committee and USMS House of Delegates**

**Re: Letter of Nomination for Matt Hooper**

It is my pleasure to nominate Matt Hooper as a candidate for the office of at-large director from the Dixie Zone.

Sincerely,



Rob Copeland  
USMS Member from the Georgia LMSC  
USMS Past President

PS. The USMS ad hoc Election Committee has my permission to reproduce and distribute this letter.

Letter of Nomination/Reference for Matt Hooper

Date: April 29, 2018

To: Members of the USMS Election Committee  
2018 USMS House of Delegates, Jacksonville, FL

This letter is in support of Matt Hooper for the Dixie Zone At Large Board of Directors position. I have know Matt for over 10 years. Matt is very knowledgable in the Aquatic arena throughout the World as he works for ASCA for his day job. He also has served his peers when he was an athletes representative for USA Swimming. Serving as the Florida Gold Coast chair, he has the experience at the USMS local level. He also has served as the Dixie Zone chair for four years and gained an understanding of the Zone structure. Currently he is on the USMS rules committee and Governance committee.

Matt's goal is to work together and to the decrease conflict with the national office and the LMSCs. He is promoting transparency and communication. Matt has proven to work through difficult situations and work with people to move forward.

For the reasons stated above, I feel that Matt Hooper is an excellent candidate for the USMS Board of Directors. He will serve the membership well, and put the needs of others first.

Swimcerely,  
Nadine Day

From: helen naylor, member Coaches Committee  
Date: April 30, 2018  
Subject: Letter of Recommendation

To: The Elections Committee

i am honored to write a recommendation letter for Matt Hooper to be the U.S. Masters Swimming At-Large Director from the Dixie Zone.

Matt has served USMS in various capacities at every level. At the local level, he was an active and engaged Vice Chair and Chair of the Florida Gold Coast LMSC. As Chair of the Dixie Zone, he navigated controversial ideas with care and an open mind, while handling differing viewpoints with respect. He has also served at the National Level as a member of the Rules, LMSC Development and Governance committees. His passion for swimming even extends beyond USMS to the larger swimming community through his work with the American Swim Coaches Association.

Through Matt's leadership positions, he has demonstrated attention to detail while still keeping the bigger picture in mind. Along with his passion for USMS, willingness to listen, and make informed decisions, i believe he will make an excellent member of the National Board of Directors. i am pleased to recommend Matt for the position of At-Large Director from the Dixie Zone.

Respectfully submitted,



helen naylor  
Member, Coaches Committee