

Carrie Stolar - Breadbasket Zone Candidate for the At-Large Director



The Election Committee has deemed that Carrie Stolar 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 her tenure in office.

The candidate was nominated and recommended by *Tom Moore* and received a letter of recommendation from *David Kough* 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:

2015 Kansas City

2016 Atlanta

2017 Dallas

Section Three: Questions

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

Like many of you, my passion for swimming extends not only to coaching, but also to open water and pool swimming. In addition, by creating the ALTS program in Minnesota, I have re-discovered my love for teaching adults how to swim, especially those fearful of water. As a result of my frequent and regular interactions with the broad range of swimmers, from those

new to swimming to competitive swimmers and everything in between, I feel that I have a new appreciation and understanding of the swimming community as a whole.

Thus far, the majority of my volunteer efforts within Masters swimming have been focused on Minnesota Masters. After attending the last three conventions and as a member of the 2017 Steering Committee for Long Course Summer Nationals, I have gotten to know many USMS members from around the United States, and I want to contribute on a national level to USMS.

In my professional life as well as my athletic and volunteer life, I believe my strengths of leadership, flexibility, communication, listening skills, teamwork/relationship building will serve me well in this national role.

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?

Here are what I consider to be the major issues (and opportunities) facing USMS:

1. Adult Learn to Swim – This program is one of our most important programs, as it can literally be a lifesaver. This program has amazing potential to not only help grow USMS, but also to reinforce our brand. By teaching an adult how to swim and potentially overcoming a fear of water, we are adding the opportunity for the next generation to learn how to swim as well. Statistics show that a child of a parent who knows how to swim is much more likely to also know how to swim. This program is in its infancy in Minnesota as well as in many other states. By further marketing and promoting this program, we can easily expand its reach and save lives. In addition, based on feedback from Minnesota's ALTS program, many participants went from fearing water to looking forward to their lessons. Potential exists to transition participants from just that to regular swimmers and USMS members. Swimmers who have participated in our program have been introduced and impressed by Minnesota Masters/USMS for offering such a program, but have also willingly joined USMS after the 30 day trial membership in order to continue participating in the program.
2. Fitness Swimmers – For many of our fitness members, a membership in USMS is just something that they need to have in order to participate in their chosen program. Based on feedback from my team's fitness swimmers, USMS is just some governing body that provides insurance coverage. They like the Swimmer magazine that they receive in the mail/email, but only a small portion of it seems relevant to them. We could expand the content for fitness swimmers in one "fitness" edition a year. In this way we can help to create more value in a membership for fitness swimmers. For those fitness swimmers that can be persuaded to try a meet, even just to swim a relay, they have found that meets are fun and low key. Those swimmers are drawn in further into the swimming community. While it has been discussed for years to not focus on getting fitness swimmers involved with meets, it may be a direction worth pursuing.
3. Build the relationship between USMS/volunteers/swimmers – Again, USMS, for many, is just a governing body for an organization that they are required to belong. If a swimmer forms a relationship with a volunteer or a USMS employee, he/she is much more likely to care more about USMS. This could mean volunteers/local LMSC Board members visiting or swimming with clubs other than their own in their LMSC and sharing about LMSC and USMS efforts.

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:

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

Swimming: Secretary, (March 2016- present) MN LMSC; Founding and Current Co-Chair, Minnesota ALTS program; Steering Committee, 2017 Long Course Summer Nationals; Attendee, 2016 USMS National Coaches Clinic; Coach, Minnetonka Masters; Coordinator for MN Masters - Swim Angels for local triathlons; Open water and pool competitive swimmer; Volunteer, 2018 Men's Division I Swimming Championships, University of Minnesota

Other: Captain (Volunteer supervisor), 2018 Super Bowl VII in Minneapolis; Team Manager, Excelsior Legion Baseball, Summers (2012-2016, 2018)

Professional: Marketing (Consumer package goods and non-profit); Project Manager (Various industries)

Please list any other information you would like included.

Recipient of the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award in 2016

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

Like you, I am passionate about swimming, and I want to give back to a sport that has done so much for me. From teaching those fearful of water to swimming alongside and coaching those both younger and older than myself, I made a decision 4 years ago to get involved with my local LMSC. Through those efforts, I have gotten to know so many amazing swimmers, coaches, and volunteers, not only within my LMSC but also throughout USMS and am excited to expand my volunteer efforts to a national level.

From: Tom Moore, Chair Minnesota Masters Swimming

Date: 5/29/2018

Subject Line: Nomination and Recommendation of Carrie Stolar

To: The Elections Committee

I am writing to you today to enthusiastically nominate Carrie Stolar for the position of At-Large Director from the Breadbasket Zone. Carrie has successfully served on our Minnesota LMSC board of directors for many years, as secretary, as co-founder of our Minnesota Adult-Learn-To-Swim program and as a Steering Committee Member for the 2017 Long Course Summer Nationals. Carrie has been an active and vital member of the Minnesota Masters Swimming board as membership has grown by almost 40% over the last 5 years from 1,000 to 1,400. Under Carrie's leadership, we have established an annual Adult-Learn-To-Swim program and are beginning to work on growing it to multiple locations.

In addition to her contributions to our Minnesota LMSC, Carrie has contributed at the national level and is a recipient of the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award. Carrie has attended convention for the past 3 years and was a core member of Minnesota's 2017 LCM Nationals hosting committee. Carrie is a coach as well as an open water swimmer and pool competitor, and is able to bring her perspective and experience to the table while thoughtfully problem solving and keeping the "big picture" in mind.

I am pleased to endorse her candidacy for At-Large Director from the Breadbasket Zone, and give my permission for this letter to be advertised to USMS delegates.

Sincerely,

Tom Moore
Chair – Minnesota LMSC

Date: May 29, 2018
To: Elections Committee
Subject: Letter of Recommendation

I am excited to recommend Carrie Stolar for the position of At-Large Director from the Breadbasket Zone. Carrie has been a board member with the Minnesota LMSC for several years and has a number of significant accomplishments. She is also an avid competitor and coach with a ton of enthusiasm for the sport.

When USMS founded the Adult Learn To Swim program, Carrie hit the ground running and took the lead in developing the Minnesota LMSC program. She organized training for the trainers, solicited students, procured venues, and ensured that all of the equipment was in place. This program is now on solid footing thanks to Carrie's leadership in making it happen. For her efforts, USMS awarded Carrie with the Dorothy Donnelly Service award in 2016.

Carrie was a crucially important member of the 2017 USMS Summer National Championship Host Committee. For two years leading up to the meet, Carrie worked on developing meet logistics, raising funds, designing the logo, generating community involvement, and doing all of the other things needed to host a meet of this size. The overall success of this meet was due in great part to Carrie's hard work, enthusiasm, and organizational skills.

Carrie's enthusiasm for the sport is also evident in her frequent participation in local meets and open water swims, and as a coach / leader of her local club. All of the passion and energy Carrie gives to Minnesota will be a great benefit to the national organization, and I strongly recommend Carrie for the position of At-Large Director from the Breadbasket Zone.

Sincerely,



David S Kough
Treasurer, Minnesota LMSC
Host Committee, 2017 USMS Summer National Championship