

From: U.S. Masters Swimming
To: National and local level Voluntters
Subject: A message from the president
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021



Dear Volunteer,

We'll begin preparing for our annual meeting next month. As mentioned in [the most recent *STREAMLINES for Volunteers*](#), we've incorporated feedback from last year to improve the experience and efficiency this year. We've reduced the number of meetings partially by moving substantive meetings for many committees to late July and August and made them optional for delegates and open to all USMS members.

We're also planning changes to improve the House of Delegates' process for considering items for approval. This includes returning to our previous practice of introducing rule book amendments in batches and letting delegates pull those they wish to consider. We also plan to make it easier to raise points of order, allow delegates to second motions made in the course of debates, and provide greater transparency regarding who's waiting to speak.

The most important element in making our legislative process effective is delegates being thoroughly prepared. In the next few weeks, we'll release proposed rule book amendments along with the recommendation status from the committee under whose jurisdiction they fall. Please review these proposed amendments as early as possible. If you feel the arguments in favor or against proposals aren't adequately described in the agenda

packets, [please share your opinion on Community](#). (Community replaced the Discussion Forums, and more information on its use will be released in the coming days.)

Furthermore, if you have a suggested edit for a proposal, please share it on Community. This will allow the committee of jurisdiction to review the suggestions earlier in the process. A proposal review meeting for each committee has been scheduled for mid-September. These meetings allow delegates to ask questions about proposals and provide input the committee might not have considered. Note: These sessions should be considered a supplement to written commentary in the agenda packet and Community, not a replacement.

Delegates should also review committee reports in the agenda packet. If you have questions, review the committee's minutes or email the committee chair. If it's a question that's likely to be of widespread interest, the chair can post the answer to it on Community.

By enabling and encouraging more written commentary in the weeks before the House of Delegates meetings, we believe delegates can be better informed regarding the proposals under consideration. This should reduce debate on the day proposals are considered. We believe hearing arguments in favor and against proposals in advance will allow delegates to make more considered decisions.

I ask that all delegates remember that every volunteer and staff member wants what's best for USMS. We might differ on the particulars, but we share the goal of making USMS a better organization. As we prepare for our House of Delegates meetings, I ask delegates to respect each other by not repeating comments and points of view already made orally or in writing.

Thank you for your service,

Peter Guadagni
President, U.S. Masters Swimming

Note: This email was sent to all local- and national-level volunteers.

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