

Teddy Decker - Candidate for Treasurer



The Election Committee has deemed that Teddy Decker is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated she is planning to attend the USMS National HOD Meeting for this election year and, if elected, is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during her 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:* **X** Yes _____ No
- I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:* **X** Yes _____ No
- I am planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office:* **X** Yes _____ No
- I have attended 1 or more HOD Meetings in the past five years?* **X** Yes _____ No

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

- 2013, Sept 11-15 Anaheim, CA
- 2014 Sept 17-21 Jacksonville, FL
- 2015 Sept 30-Oct 4 Kansas City, MO
- 2016 Sept 21-25 Atlanta, GA
- 2017 Sept 13-17 Dallas, TX
- 2018 Sept 26-30 Jacksonville, FL
- 2019 Sept 11-15 St. Louis, MO
- 2020 Sept 25-27 Virtual

Section Three: Questions

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

I started swimming competitively when I was 12 years old. Swimming has given me so much throughout my lifetime (including my husband!) and I am excited to be able to give something back to swimming and the swimming community. In addition to being a competitive swimmer, I have also coached, and I have been an active meet official for both USA and USMS swimming.

I believe giving back to the community and volunteering is important in life and it gives me great joy to be able to combine this important duty with something I also enjoy a great deal.

I believe I would be a good candidate partly because of my passion for swimming, but also because I have an extensive background in business and in professional situations. I have been a CPA for 24 years and have had my own business for 11 years. During my tenure as a CPA I have been a business consultant for small businesses as well as auditing and consulting for many not-for-profit organizations. I believe this group of skills and experience will be a benefit to USMS as well as helping me to continue to grow and learn.

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 feel the current most important issue facing USMS is recovering from COVID and getting back to "normal" operations. The NO Staff and BOD all did a very good job adapting to the situation and overall I believe we will come out of the pandemic much better off than a lot of other organizations in the US and around the world, but there is still a lot of healing that needs to be done. I also believe that now is a great time to challenge the "status-quo" and not just go back to the way we have always done things, but rather to take a good, hard look at everything we do and make sure that everything we do is the best for the organization as a whole, instead of just the way we have always done it.

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:

- 2015 - Audit Committee Member; Elyce Dilworth, Chair
- 2016 - Audit Committee Member; Elyce Dilworth, Chair
- 2017 - Audit Committee Vice Chair; Elyce Dilworth, Chair
- 2017 - Planning Committee Member for the 2nd Leadership Conference
- 2018 - Audit Committee Vice Chair; Elyce Dilworth, Chair
- 2018 - Finance Committee Member; Jeanne Ensign, Chair.
- 2019 – Audit Committee Vice Chair, Elyce Dilworth, Chair.
- 2019 – Finance Committee Member, Jeanne Ensign, Chair.
- 2019 – Southwest Zone At Large Director.
- 2020 to present - BOD Treasurer

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

In addition to being active at the national level for the past eight years, I have also been the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Officials Chair for the New Mexico LMSC and have been working to increase membership and offer a good value to our local members by setting up stroke clinics, supporting swim meets and open water events, and also supporting other swimming related activities within New Mexico. It has been my goal to "get the word out" to our local membership about what USMS is all about at the national level and what the NM LMSC can do to help support our local swimmers and our local swimming community.

In running my own business for the last eleven years, I have developed a good skill set to help me work with lots of different personalities and to be organized, as well as being highly self-motivated and efficient. I strive to do be the best I can be in both my personal and private life and to continually grow and learn from new and challenging experiences.

I have been a CPA for 24 years. My early experience in public accounting was almost entirely in auditing not-for-profit organizations. I currently have several not-for-profit clients and thoroughly enjoy supporting this sector of the business world.

Please list any other information you would like included.

When I was first asked to be a member of the New Mexico LMSC, I had been a member of USMS for about 5 years and I had no idea what USMS did at a national level or the amount of support and resources that were available. My LMSC had not been compliant with the minimum LMSC standards for quite a while and there was not much information disseminated by the LMSC. After I got involved at the LMSC board level, I made it part of my mission to make sure that all of our LMSC members were at least given the opportunity to learn what happens at the board level and what support is available to them.

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

It would be my honor to be reelected as USMS Treasurer. During the last year, I was part of the BOD team that helped bring USMS through a very difficult year and hope to continue to be involved in restoring USMS to its former glory and beyond by supporting the organization at the national and local levels.