

Robin Smith - Candidate for Vice President of Programs



The Election Committee has deemed that Robin Smith 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 was nominated and recommended by *Phyllis Quinn and Ali Hall* and received a letter of recommendation from *Kenny Brisbin* in accordance with USMS 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 1 or more HOD Meetings in the past five years? Yes _____ No

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

2013 Anaheim, CA (Sep 11-15, 2013)

2015 Kansas City, MO (Sep 30- Oct 4, 2015)

2016 Atlanta, GA (Sep 21-25, 2016)

2017 Dallas, TX (Sep 13-17, 2017)

2018 Jacksonville, FL (Sep 26-30, 2018)

2019 St. Louis, MO (Sep 11-15, 2019)

2020 Virtual (Aug 30-Sep 27, 2020)

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 the position of Vice President of Programs because I want to assist USMS in carrying out its Mission, Vision, and Purpose. My eleven years of volunteer experience has been at both the local and the national levels of USMS, and has included oversight and support of Open Water, Long Distance, and Officials. I am a swimmer and a coach, and I compete in the pool, in open water, and in multi-sport events. I am also a fitness swimmer and enjoy swimming on my own and teaching others to swim. I believe that the breadth of my volunteer experiences, along with my swimming and coaching background, will bring additional knowledge and expertise to the USMS Board of Directors.

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 major issue facing USMS now and in the future is Membership. We have challenges with attracting new members and with retaining our current ones. If USMS is to effectively carry out its Mission, we need to be more welcoming and truly embrace the diversity of prospective and current members. This includes all individuals, no matter their age, ability, gender, ethnicity, or background. In discussions with prospective and former members, our messaging and marketing as an organization needs to better reflect this. As a person holding an elected position within USMS, I will use this platform to continue to listen, learn, and to really hear what is being said. And I plan to use this information, in combination with lessons learned and best practices, to help drive new ideas and processes forward that support and value each of our members.

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:

Long Distance Committee (2021) – Chair: Ali Hall

Long Distance Committee (2020) – Chair: Ali Hall

Long Distance Committee (2019) – Chair: Ali Hall

Long Distance Committee (2018) – Chair: Ali Hall

Fitness Education Committee (2016) – Chair: Mary Jurey

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

Southern Pacific LMSC Open Water Committee Chair (Jan 2018 to present)

Southern California Swimming LSC Open Water Committee Chair (Jan 2020 to present)

Collaborate with LMSC and LSC Officials Committees to support certification activities and provide training opportunities for Open Water Officials.

Developed guidelines and checklists for local Coaches, Swimmers, and Event Hosts/Directors regarding safe conduct of swim practices at open water venues, considerations for returning to racing, and drafting COVID-19 safety plans. Continue to work with Event Hosts, USMS, USA Swimming, and local authorities regarding safety, venues, permits, and sanctions during pandemic closures and re-openings.

USMS Long Distance Subcommittee activities include Bid Selection for ePostal and Open Water National Championships, Long Distance Rules (Part 3 Proposals), Championship Event Liaison for ePostal and Open Water National Championships, Club Assistant Liaison, Committee Goals, and the ePostal Working Group.

Please list any other information you would like included.

I am retired from a 40 year career as a Medical Professional (RN, PHN) working in Healthcare, Global Clinical Research & Development, and Clinical Trial Disclosure.

Southern Pacific LMSC Fitness Education Committee Chair (Jun 2015 to Jan 2018)

Southern Pacific LMSC Secretary (Jul 2012 to Dec 2017)

Southern Pacific LMSC participate in Monthly Meetings and Ad Hoc Subcommittees (2010-present)

Irvine Novaquatics Inc., Irvine, CA Assistant Coach (Mar 2015 to present)

USMS Certified Coach (Level 3 Oct 2015, Levels 1&2 Sep 2014)

Certified USMS Adult Learn to Swim Instructor (Mar 2015)

USA Swimming Certified Coach (Sep 2019 to present)

USMS Coach-on-Deck (2015, 2017, 2019)

US Aquatic Sports Annual Convention – Volunteer at Convention Registration Desk (2015 to 2019)

Recipient of USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Award (2015)

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

Hello Everyone! My name is Robin Smith from Southern Pacific. I am running for the position of Vice President of Programs because I want to assist USMS in carrying out its Mission, Vision, and Purpose. My eleven years of volunteer experience has been at both the local and the national levels of USMS, and has included oversight and support of Open Water, Long Distance, and Officials. I am a swimmer, a Certified USMS and USA Swimming Coach, and a Certified USMS Adult Learn to Swim Instructor. I believe that the breadth of my volunteer experiences, along with my swimming and coaching background, will bring additional knowledge and expertise to the USMS Board of Directors. Thank you for your consideration.



From: Phyllis Quinn, Chair USMS Open Water Committee and Ali Hall, Chair USMS Long Distance Committee

Date: April 24, 2021

Subject Line: Nomination and Recommendation for Robin Smith, VP of Programs

To: The Elections Committee

We would like to nominate and endorse Robin Smith for the position as USMS Vice President of Programs.

Robin has been an effective volunteer for several years with the Southern Pacific LMSC and with the Southern California Swimming LSC. She has worked diligently for years with Open Water event hosts and officials to run safe events in Southern California. You have likely met Robin at USMS Annual Meetings, as the friendly and helpful face welcoming you while she served at delegate check in, supporting the USMS mission at committee meetings and giving voice to various priorities on the House of Delegates floor.

As part of the USMS Long Distance Committee (LDC) for several years, Robin has been a skilled liaison for Open Water National championship events, National Championship ePostal events and as the LDC liaison to Club Assistant. Robin has led and served with excellence on several working groups within the LDC. She is both a self-starter and a good teammate. Robin has supported the LDC successfully with her thoughtful, collaborative and articulate way. Robin is also a USMS Certified Level 3 Coach, a Certified USA Swimming Coach, and a Certified USMS ALTS Instructor. The USMS VP of Programs works with the USMS Long Distance, Open Water, and Officials committees, Robin has deep and extensive experience working with all these groups. Her qualifications for the VP of Programs role are outstanding.

USMS is finding new ways to collaborate with other organizations such as USA Swimming and USA Triathlon (USAT), to help build membership and provide fresh participation opportunities. Robin has the specific experience, knowledge and passion to enhance connections and opportunities for the intersections of triathlon, USMS, and USA Swimming open water events. She will contribute significantly to these types of relationships and increase partnerships and participation as VP of Programs.

We endorse Robin wholeheartedly as VP of Programs and look forward to her contributions, enhancing event quality and participation, and supporting the USMS mission.

Closing,

Phyllis Quinn, Chair Open Water Committee

Ali Hall, Chair Long Distance Committee



April 24th, 2021

Re: Robin Smith - Candidate for USMS Vice President of Programs.

Dear Election Committee:

It is an honor to support and recommend Robin Smith for the office of USMS Vice President of Programs. I have worked very closely with Robin for more than ten years in various roles. These include, but are not limited to: sanctioning both pool and open water events, working with officials, city municipalities, and event directors to assure these events were done safely and followed all guidelines by USMS.

As we all emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, this position will require specific knowledge, the ability to multitask, patience, and excellent leadership skills. Robin embodies all of these traits. She has demonstrated her extensive knowledge of U.S. Masters swimming through her work in multiple critical roles within our LMSC. Robin is the right person to lead USMS in this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Brisbin".

Kenny Brisbin
Long Beach Grunions Coach
USMS Chair Coaches Committee
SPMS Vice-Chair & Meet Operations