

## Chris Colburn - Candidate for Vice President of Administration



The Election Committee has deemed that Chris Colburn is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated he is planning to attend the USMS National HOD Meeting for this election year and, if elected, is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his 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:***

Dearborn, MI (September 13-17, 2006)  
Anaheim, CA (September 26-30, 2007)  
Atlanta, GA (September 24-28, 2008)  
Chicago, IL (September 16-20, 2009)  
Dallas, TX (September 15-19, 2010)  
Jacksonville, FL (September 14-18, 2011)  
Greensboro, NC (September 12-16, 2012)  
Anaheim, CA (September 11-15, 2013)  
Jacksonville, FL (September 17-21, 2014)  
Kansas City, MO (September 30 – October 4, 2015)  
Atlanta, GA (September 21-25, 2016)  
Dallas, TX (September 13-17, 2017)  
Jacksonville, FL (September 26-30, 2018)

St. Louis, MO (September 11-15, 2019)  
Virtual Annual Meeting (September 25-27, 2020)

### **Section Three: Questions**

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

After serving my first term as Vice President of Administration through the experience of the pandemic, I have found that although we have accomplished much in the past two years, there is still more that I want to do in this role. I believe that I would be a good candidate because as an incumbent, I have the experience and have established the requisite first-term relationships that enable me to continue the work of this position. Further, as a longer-term member of the Board of Directors in various roles, I have the experience and relative history in the recent workings of the Board to be able to continue to make relevant connections to our previous work and use that knowledge to help the Board move forward more effectively.

***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 past year has affected everyone in different ways, and we see that in the myriad of changes, restrictions, and guidelines that continue to affect our LMSCs, our clubs, and our members in every part of the country. As we emerge from the pandemic, the biggest issue facing USMS continues to be getting our members back to doing what they love. This involves assisting both athletes and clubs to find and utilize available water for practices and events. It includes continuing to monitor, evaluate, and improve guidelines for safe events that can be used throughout the country in conjunction with Federal, state, and local regulations. Most importantly it requires us to work with our swimmers, coaches, and clubs to ensure they have ready access to information they need in order to achieve their goals. In the future, USMS needs to pay attention to what we learn from our members and our clubs to further enable them and the organization to move forward and grow. Over the past two years, I have directly addressed the issues of events through the work of the Event Sanctions Subcommittee, which has worked with the National Office and the Board to establish the initial and ongoing guidelines for events. As the pandemic hopefully winds down, I want to continue my work to ensure that we can have safe events for our members in the areas that can support them. I hope to continue my work with the Board that involves working both at the national and LMSC levels to provide relief for clubs affected by the pandemic so they can continue to thrive as their members come back to the pool. Most importantly, I would like to continue the work of communicating with and listening to the needs of our LMSCs and clubs, much of whose feedback has been extremely valuable as we have worked through some major initiatives over the past few years.

***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:***

Board of Directors and Executive Committee:

- Secretary, September 2013 – September 2017 (Nadine Day, President 2013-15; Patty Miller, President 2015 - 2017)
- Vice President of Local Operations, September 2017 – September 2019 (Patty Miller, President)
- Vice President of Administration, September 2019 – Present (Peter Guadagni, President)

Championship Committee:

- 2019 – Present (EC Liaison: Jim Clemmons, Chair)

Coaches Committee:

- 2000 (Scott Rabalais, Chair)
- 2007 – May 2008 (Vice Chair; Mo Chambers, Chair)
- June 2008 – 2010 (Chair; Chuck Burr, Scott Bay, Kerry O'Brien, Vice Chairs)
- 2011 (Craig Keller, Chair)

Membership (formerly Registration) Committee:

- 2014 (Leo Letendre, Chair)
- 2019 – Present (EC Liaison: Susan Ehringer, Chair 2019-20; Sue Nutty, Chair 2021 – Present)

Legislation Committee

- 2016 (Meg Smath, Chair)
- 2019 – Present (EC Liaison: Richard Garza, Chair 2019-20; Charles Cockrell, Chair 2021 – Present)

Rules Committee

- 2017 (Charles Cockrell, Chair)
- 2019 – Present (EC Liaison: Charles Cockrell, Chair 2019-20; Mollie Grover, Chair 2021 – Present)

History and Archives Committee

- 2017 – 2019 (EC Liaison: Barbara Dunbar, Chair)

LMSC Development Committee

- 2017 – 2019 (EC Liaison: Michael Moore, Chair)

Records and Tabulation Committee

- 2017 – 2019 (EC Liaison : Jeanne Seidler, Chair 2017-8 ; MJ Caswell, Chair 2019)

Recognition and Awards Committee

- 2017 – 2019 (EC Liaison : Ray Novitske, Chair 2017-8 ; Megan Lassen, Chair 2019)

Governance Committee

- 2019 – Present (Jim Miller, Chair)

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

- Head Coach, Delaware Swim Team Old Dawgs, 1996-1999
- Pilot Coordinator, Colonies Zone Regional On-Deck Coaching Program, 1999
- USMS On-Deck Coaching Coordinator, 2000, 2007-2010
- Illinois LMSC Vice Chair, 2005-2009
- Illinois LMSC Webmaster/IT Director, 2005-2011
- Head Coach, Academy Bullets Masters, 2006-present
- USMS Club Development Task Force, 2008-2009
- Illinois LMSC Chair, 2009-2011
- Illinois LMSC/ILMSA Coach of the Year, 2009
- USMS Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award, 2009
- USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Award, 2009

- Allegheny Mountain LMSC Vice-Chair, 2011
- USMS Discussion Forums Task Force, 2014
- USMS Discussion Forums Moderator, 2014-2021
- USMS Futures Task Force, 2016-2017
- USMS Convention Rules Task Force, 2016-2017
- USMS LMSC Leadership Summit Task Force, 2018-2019
- USMS Board Communication Task Force, 2019-2020
- Chair, USMS Sanction Recommendation Task Force, 2020-present
- USMS F.H. "Ted" Haartz Staff Appreciation Award, 2020

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

When I'm not hanging out with my kids, coaching, swimming, or working with technology, my hobbies include cars (especially Thunderbirds) and driving (all over the Eastern half of the US); watching streaming shows of interest (current favorites include any of the new *Star Trek*-related series or shows about wrenching on the Motor Trend Network); learning to cook things my family will actually eat; and as always, NEVER wearing a red shirt on an away mission.

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

In addition to coaching Masters swimmers for many years, I have volunteered at the local, regional, and national levels as a member of three different LMSCs since 1998. Most recently, I am finishing my first term as Vice President of Administration. I have given back to Masters Swimming wherever possible in coaching, leadership, and communications-related roles, and hope to continue to do so for another term as the Vice President of Administration. I have a deep interest in the strategic and operational workings of U.S. Masters Swimming at both the local and the National levels. I wish to continue to contribute both communications and guidance as USMS navigates its way out of the complexities of the pandemic. Further, I am interested in helping USMS evolve as an organization that can support and promote positive change for the membership as we move forward into our "new normal." My experiences with technology, linguistics, and coaching have given me the organizational, communications, collaborative, and strategic thinking skills to succeed in this position. If I am elected, I will continue to work with all levels of our staff and volunteer infrastructure to bring about a better future for our sport and our members.