

Carrie Stolar - Candidate for Secretary



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 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 *Tom Moore* and received a letter of recommendation from *Teddy Decker* 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:* 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:

Kansas City (2015), Atlanta (2016), Dallas (2017), Jacksonville (2018), St. Louis (2019), Virtual (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 office of USMS Secretary because I want to continue to give back to the sport that has helped shape me into who I am today. I have volunteered at the local, LMSC, and National levels of USMS, and this position allows me to continue to serve at the National level while remaining connected to the other levels. I would be a good candidate for Secretary because I do have that wide-ranging USMS volunteer experience, and I have served as secretary in our LMSC. I respond on a timely basis to those that contact me via phone and email. My work background includes project management and event planning, both of which require strong organization, communication, and people skills.

As your Secretary, I would continue to work on behalf of the Board of Directors and the broader USMS community.

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 COVID-19 pandemic is still very much a part of our lives. In the swimming world, the operations of pools, teams, LMSCs, and USMS have been disrupted. Some pools are still closed. Some will not reopen. Teams that are fortunate enough to be back in the water still face challenges such as limitations in pool hours available to them or number of members/swimmers allowed in a facility. As a result, financially, many are still suffering. USMS needs to think creatively about how it can help its members, coaches, clubs, and workout groups return to normal (healthy) operations as the country emerges from the pandemic. In addition, while in-person competitions and events are always preferred, until it is safe and comfortable for everyone to return, USMS should continue to offer virtual events as an option even as in-person events reappear on the calendar.

How can USMS sustain and grow its membership? The pandemic has taught us that this question is more important than ever. USMS needs to offer benefits and programming to enhance the experience of its existing membership to retain them, from fitness swimmers to competitive (pool and open water) swimmers. In addition, establishing a welcome environment at every club and workout group will help us attract a more diverse membership. Updated diversity and inclusion training (which is in progress from the D&I Committee) at the LMSC level is one first step that should be taken in this direction.

Volunteers play a vital role in success of USMS. We all need to entice more of our younger members to get involved as volunteers. By attracting, both new and younger volunteers, USMS will continue to evolve as an organization. In this progression, USMS will move along the path of attracting a broader, more diverse membership base as well.

The face of USMS to most members is the coach on deck. That coach might be the *only* interaction with USMS that they will have. As such, USMS needs to work to develop, support, and in some cases, reengage coaches. The pandemic has further stretched already stressed coaches, and many may not know what support resources, within both their LMSCs and USMS, are available to them.

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:

SSLF 2020, 2021-, (Jay Definis, chair)

ALTS Programming Committee Chair 2020, 2021-

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

Swimming:

USMS: Breadbasket Zone, At-Large Director (2018 – present)

MN LMSC: Board Member (2015 – present), Secretary (3/2016 – 12/2018), ALTS Program Founder and Current Chair (2016 – present); Coordinator for swim angels for local triathlons (2015 – present), Diversity and Inclusion Committee (2020 – present)

Steering Committee, 2017 USMS Summer National Championships

Coach (USMS Level I and II and USA Swimming certified) at Minnetonka Masters

Certified ALTS Instructor

Attendee, 2016 USMS National Coaches Clinic

Attendee, 2019 LMSC Leadership Summit

Open water and pool competitive swimmer, triathlete, swim-run competitor

Volunteer, 2018 NCAA Men's Division I Swimming Championships and 2020 Mountain West Swimming Championships, held at the University of Minnesota

Other Volunteer Experience:

Captain (Volunteer supervisor), 2018 Super Bowl VII in Minneapolis; Point Guard (Volunteer supervisor), 2019 NCAA Basketball Final Four, Minneapolis; Team Manager, Excelsior Legion Baseball, Summers (2012-2016, 2018-2019); Treasurer, Minnetonka Volleyball Booster Club (2018-2020), Vanderbilt University Class Agent (2020 -)

Professional:

Marketing (Consumer packaged goods, small business and non-profit), Project Management, Event Planning

Please list any other information you would like included.

Member of the USMS Communication Group (2019-2020), recipient of The Ted Haartz Staff Appreciation Award, 2020

Recipient of the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award, 2016

BA, Vanderbilt University

MBA, Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University

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

I have been active in USMS at many levels, beginning with my team, both as a coach and a swimmer, as well as my LMSC, Minnesota Masters, and the Board of Directors of USMS. I enjoy volunteering at each level, and am fortunate to have the time and energy to do so. I would like to continue to give back to the sport that I love by volunteering and trying to help our organization serve its members in the best way possible. I look forward to getting to know even more amazing swimmers, coaches, and volunteers and am excited by the opportunity to continue to serve USMS and its members as Secretary. I can't wait to see you in person, whenever that may be!



**U.S. MASTERS
SWIMMING**

Letter of Nomination and Recommendation

From: Tom Moore, Minnesota Masters Swimming

Date: 4/21/2021

To: The Elections Committee

I am writing to you today to enthusiastically nominate and recommend Carrie Stolar for the position of Secretary. Carrie is currently serving as a USMS At-Large Director as well as Chair of the Adult-Learn-To-Swim Committee. Carrie has reliably served on the 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 is also 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. Carrie is a dedicated volunteer with a proven track record, and I have observed her thoroughness and attention to detail when serving as Secretary to the Minnesota LMSC, so I am confident in her ability to serve capably as USMS Secretary.

I am pleased to advance her candidacy for Secretary, and give my permission for this letter to be advertised to USMS delegates.

Sincerely,

Tom Moore
Minnesota Masters Swimming



**U.S. MASTERS
SWIMMING**

From: Teddy Decker, BOD Treasurer

Date: April 26, 2021

Subject Line: Recommendation for BOD Secretary

To: The Elections Committee

It is my honor to provide the highest-possible recommendation for Carrie Stolar as a candidate for the position of Secretary. Carrie has held the position of At-Large Director for the last several years and has been an active and integral part of the USMS Board of Directors (BOD). The transition to the executive committee is a natural next-step.

Carrie has many years experience in professional business situations and is also familiar with the workings of boards of directors. She is organized, intelligent, and composed and always presents a professional demeanor. In my dealings with Carrie on the BOD, she is not afraid to speak up on issues and always has well thought-out arguments, but is also a good team player.

Carrie's passion for USMS and business experience make her an ideal candidate for the position of Secretary and I am very pleased to recommend her.

Sincerely,

Teddy Decker
USMS BOD Treasurer
NM LMSC Vice Chair