

USMS Executive Committee Reports

President

Patty Miller

When I was running for President last year, I was asked at convention what I would do first when elected President. My answer: hire a new Executive Director (Rob Butcher had just announced he was leaving), update our strategic plan, and focus on volunteer roles. So, one year in, here's an update.

The USMS CEO Search Task Force, which was formed shortly before last year's convention, put tremendous time and effort into the search process, supported by executive recruiting firm Turnkey Search. As a result, USMS hired Dawson Hughes, who began as USMS's new CEO in April. Dawson comes to us from a background in sports marketing and sales, most recently working in a non-profit setting for the Orange Bowl Committee. He has quickly had an impact and has energized our staff and volunteers by combining his experience and fresh perspective. Those who have not yet met Dawson will be introduced to him at Convention. Many thanks to Ed Tsuzuki (Chair), Nadine Day, Dan Cox, Jill Gellatly, Jim Miller, and Sarah Welch for their work on the CEO Search Task Force.

One of Dawson's first initiatives was to work with us to update the strategic plan. USMS's current strategic plan was adopted in 2011. It has guided our priorities for the past five years, but it is time for it to be refreshed. I appointed a Strategic Plan Task Force consisting of Jill Gellatly (Chair), Megan Carlson, Ralph Davis, and Ed Tsuzuki, which I joined to work hand in hand with Dawson. The task force assessed the current strategic plan, conducted its own SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis; surveyed our Board, LMSC chairs, and committee chairs; and got National Office input from a staff retreat. This culminated in a strategic plan that will be presented at convention.

Working on the strategic plan and leveraging Dawson's fresh perspective have helped clarify our focus on volunteers. While we have a network of national volunteers and an experienced and capable national office staff, it is clear that local and LMSC volunteers play a vital role in delivering USMS to our membership. These volunteers are "on the ground" (or, more accurately, "on the pool deck") to interface with our members where they live, providing important elements such as club organization, fitness activities, swim meets and open water events, social functions, and local communication. The focus on the internal partnership with volunteers will continue to be a priority through our updated strategic plan.

Part of the focus on local volunteers has come from the good work of USMS's LMSC Development Committee, which organized multiple peer-to-peer calls and webinars in the past year. We have also devoted time at our convention for LMSC training and networking with a series of workshops. In addition, we will hold USMS's second LMSC Leadership Summit in 2017 to build off of the success of the inaugural summit in 2015.

Now is an interesting time to be focusing on USMS's future and priorities through the strategic plan. As I write this report, our membership growth is relatively flat and USMS is trying to determine how best to address changing demographics, particularly age demographics. Our younger members and potential members have different interests and ways of communicating than that which USMS has relied on in the past. Our current membership statistics by age reflect that we could improve our reach to younger generations. To focus on the needs of our younger members and volunteers, I appointed a Futures Task Force this year. Thanks to Dan Cox and Chris Colburn (Board liaisons), Wyatt Bradbury, Richard Garza, Aubree Gustafson, Fares Ksebati, Claire Letendre, Clare Rudd, Luke Shaheen, and staff liaison Kyle Deery for their efforts to date on the task force. We will hear more from this group at convention. We will

USMS Executive Committee Reports

also hear about a college club initiative that Kyle Deery has been piloting to provide services and an introduction to Masters swimming for college club swim teams.

Our work at convention this year, where the House of Delegates will elect at-large Board members and establish 2017 priorities through approval of the budget, will set the stage for USMS's direction in the near and long-term future. I look forward to the passion and ownership for the future that we all will bring to convention.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Vice President of Administration

Ed Tsuzuki

I am proudly serving in my 4th term on the USMS Board of Directors and am particularly excited to be a member of our leadership team as we work closely with Dawson Hughes, our new Chief Executive Officer to create a new strategic plan. I am constantly amazed by the passion of our organization's volunteer spirit as well as the incredible dedication of our capable and enthusiastic staff.

I am extremely fortunate to have such an experienced group of veteran committee chairs leading the Championship, Legislation, Registration and Rules Committees. The depth of knowledge, level of commitment and attention to detail demonstrated by these committees continues to impress and educate me. The Championship committee works all year as they have a continuous work cycle preparing for the spring and summer nationals. I am in awe of the amount of work that goes in to the preparation of each event – from bid proposals to host selections to preparations and finally to post-meet reviews. The Legislation and Rules committees are both busy preparing for this year's annual meeting as we will be considering both legislation and rules proposals every year. Our aim is to do this as efficiently and intelligently as possible. For details of each committee's work, please refer to their annual reports and I encourage you to attend some of their meetings at convention.

The **Championship Committee**, chaired by Jeff Roddin (vice chair – Kim Crouch) has been responsible for providing swimmers at the USMS national championship meets with an outstanding experience and also working closely with staff and supporting the hosts before, during and after the events. Of course, their work gets extremely busy immediately before each (spring and summer) championship event, but they must also manage the bidding process for future events.

The **Legislation Committee**, chaired by Meg Smath (vice chair – Richard Garza) considers proposed changes to Parts 2, 4, 5, and 6 of the rulebook, as well as relevant changes to the Organizing Principles and Glossary in odd-numbered years.

The **Registration Committee**, chaired by Leo Letendre (vice chair – George Simon), provides guidance on policies related to the registration process and is working to provide mentoring/support for new LMSC registrars.

The **Rules Committee**, chaired by Charlie Cockrell (vice chair – Kathy Casey) has jurisdiction over Part 1 of the rulebook and the glossary. In addition to a regular review of the rulebook, the chair of the committee answers rules related questions and also provides clarification and interpretation of the (part 1) rules.

I am honored to continue to serve on the USMS leadership team and would like to thank all of the many volunteers we are so fortunate to have that keep this organization so vibrant and fit.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Vice President of Local Operations

Chris Stevenson

The Local Operations division consists of four committees (Awards & Recognition, History & Archives, LMSC Development, Records & Tabulation). The Vice President of Local Operations, VPLO, is an *ex-officio* member of these four committees and also works with LMSC and Zone chairs on any local issues that might require the attention or advice of a board member. The past year has been a productive one for the four operations committees; their activities are summarized below but annual reports and meeting minutes should be consulted for more detail.

History and Archives, chaired by Barbara Dunbar, continues to do very fine work on their tasks of collecting and preserving the history of the USMS organization. Their projects tend to be multi-year efforts such as finding, digitizing and consolidating paper documents such as older registration files and USMS publications, record and Top 10 chronologies, identifying legacy swimmers with missing registration IDs, and much more. They also generate stories for publication on the USMS web site.

The **LMSC Development Committee**, chaired by Paige Buehler, has had another busy year. One major project was the revision of the LMSC Standards, which was approved by the BOD in July. They have organized an excellent series of more than ten peer-to-peer (P2P) teleconferences for different LMSC offices and roles, giving volunteers across the country an opportunity to share ideas and best practices. Notes from these sessions have been generated and are now being posted in the “Meeting Minutes” section of the USMS website. The committee also organized two “Conflict of Interest” training webinars and is in charge of organizing Convention training workshops.

Recognition and Awards, chaired by Ray Novitske, oversees the national service awards that are so valuable for underlining the very fine efforts of our volunteer base. The committee continued efforts to increase submissions for national awards and were successful for several key awards. They coordinated the selection of the Ransom J. Arthur Award recipient Nadine Day, who was honored at Spring Nationals. The committee recommended Tom Boak for IMSHOF induction in the Honor Contributor category, and this recommendation was approved as Tom will be inducted at the USAS convention. The committee also writes and submits press releases to recognize award recipients, and has worked towards increasing volunteer recognition at the local (LMSC) level.

Records and Tabulation, chaired by Jeanne Seidler, continued its excellent supervision of Top 10 lists and USMS Records, as well as the list of measured/certified competition courses. The committee includes the National Swims and the USMS Records Administrators among its members; Mary Beth Windrath currently holds both positions, after Walt Reid stepped down as Records Administrator in January. The committee also continued to formulate, refine, implement and publish policies related to these lists and records; this year the committee has proposed a number of rule changes that they believe will improve these processes. The committee has also taken responsibility of monitoring progress and suggesting improvements on the End-to-End Event Management E2EEM system of sanctioning and results collection and processing.

In addition to acting as liaison for these committee and serving on the Board of Directors and Executive Committees, I was also a member of the **IT Liaison Group** an *ad hoc* committee consisting of the four VPs, the IT Director and the CEO. The goal of the group is to help prioritize IT projects and to monitor their progress. The VPs also act as liaisons to their committees who have submitted IT projects. I was also

USMS Executive Committee Reports

a member of the **Governance Committee**, which has worked on election rules, LMSC dispute resolution, provided feedback to the LMSC Standards revisions, among other topics relating to USMS governance.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Vice President of Programs

Chris McGiffin

As we gather for this year's USMS Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, I would like express my sincere gratitude and admiration for the efforts from all of the volunteer leaders in our organization. Whether you serve our members at the national, LMSC, or club level (or all three!), I know that you are making a difference. Thank you for all that you give toward making the US Masters Swimming experience the best it can be for health, wellness, fitness and competition.

The Long Distance Committee - Donn Livoni, Chair; Ali Hall, Vice Chair

2016 Goals:

- ◆ Increase total participation in 2016 ePostal NCs by 10% over 2015, identifying specific strategies that correlate to success
- ◆ Receive, for 2018, a minimum of 1 qualified, in-area, bid per event, and at least 1 West two-event festival bid
- ◆ Explore possibilities for collaborative strategies with other USMS stakeholders for increasing LDNC participation, such as 2-4 LDC members reaching out to 2 different committees such as Coaches', Fitness and/or Governance Committees
- ◆ Explore continuing development of a 3-5 year pool of unselected, qualified bidders; this would allow a bidder to reconfirm interest, capacity, leadership and commitment while by-passing the detailed bid process for a period of years.

Working Groups:

- ◆ ❖ Rules/Legislation - Bob Bruce (Lead), Donn Livoni
- ◆ ❖ Patches, All-Americans, Records, All-Stars (PARA) - Greta van Meeteren (Lead)
 - ◆ - Patches & Awards - James Biles & Melinda Greig-Walker
 - ◆ - All-Americans - Men - Michael Fanelli
 - ◆ - All-Americans - Women - Greta van Meeteren
 - ◆ - All-American Relays - Phyllis Quinn & Allison Ware
 - ◆ - Records - Jill Wright & Michael Fanelli
 - ◆ - All-Stars - Laurie Hug
 - ◆ - Postal Series - James Biles & Laurie Hug
- ◆ ❖ Club Assistant - Colleen Driscoll; Phyllis Quinn
- ◆ ❖ Safety - Bill Roach (Lead), Bob Bruce, Jim Davidson
- ◆ ❖ Documents - James Biles (Lead), Donn Livoni, Phyllis Quinn
- ◆ ❖ 2018 National Championship Selection - Ali Hall (Lead), Jim Davidson, Colleen Driscoll, Allison Ware
- ◆ ❖ Communications - Ali Hall (Lead), Laurie Hug
- ◆ ❖ National Championship Oversight - Donn Livoni (Lead), James Biles, Ali Hall, Bob Bruce
- ◆ (ePostals)

2016 USMS LD National Championships (as of 8/14)

- ◆ ★ 6/18 - Indy Aquatic Masters (Indianapolis, IN) 2 Mile Cable
- ◆ Liaison: Bob Bruce backup: Michael Fanelli
- ◆ National Office/BOD: Bruce Hopson, Mel Goldstein
- ◆ ISM: Michael S. Carlson
 - ◆ Stats: Total of 213 entries (up from 85 entries in 2015) , 190 swims

USMS Executive Committee Reports

- ❖ ★ 7/16 - Rogue Valley Masters (Applegate Lake, OR) 10K (6.2 miles)
- ❖ Liaison: Bob Bruce backup: Jim Davidson
- ❖ National Office/BOD: None attending
- ❖ ISM: Karen Allen
 - Stats: Total of 63 entries, 53 participants (down from 110 entries in 2015)
- ❖ ★ 7/30 - Kingdom Swim NEKOWSA (Newport, VT) 10 miles
- ❖ Liaison: Ali Hall backup: Laurie Hug
- ❖ National Office/BOD: Elaine Howley
- ❖ ISM: Cynthia Needham
 - ★ Stats: Total of 53 entries, 48 participants (down from 75 entries in 2015)
 - ★ 8/12 - Lake Lure Festival - Lake Lure Olympiad (Lake Lure, NC) 1 mile
 - ★ 8/13 - Lake Lure Festival - Lake Lure Olympiad (Lake Lure, NC) 5K (3.1 miles)
 - Liaison: Donn Livoni backup: Allison Ware
 - National Office/BOD: Rob Copeland
 - ISM: n/a
 - ➡ Event was “cancelled due to weather related circumstances” that contributed to a venue water temperature that far exceeded the minimum (85F) allowed under USMS Open Water sanctioned rules (Article 302.2).
- ★★ 8/13 - Sierra Nevada Masters (Donner Lake, CA) 2.7 mile
- ★ Liaison: Phyllis Quinn backup: Melinda Greig-Walker
- ★ National Office/BOD: Bill Brenner
- ★ ISM: Dan McCormick
 - ➡ Stats: Total of 408 entries (up from 90 entries in 2015)
- ➡
- ➡★ Jan. 1 - Feb. 10* - OHeP: Tamalpais Masters (San Rafael, CA)
- ➡ Liaison: James Biles backup: Jill Wright & Jim Davidson
- ➡*Note: Entry deadline extended due to Winter Storm Jonas
 - Stats: Total entries were 2335 (up from 2293 entries in 2015)
- ➡★ May 15 - Sep. 15 5,000M/10,000M ePostal: Western Hills Athletic Club/South Texas
- ➡ Liaison: Colleen Driscoll backup: Melinda Greig-Walker
 - Stats: Event still being contested.
- ❖★ Sep. 15 - Nov. 15 - 3,000/6,000 ePostal: Sawtooth Masters
- ❖ Liaison: Greta van Meeteren backup: Laurie Hug & Allison Ware
 - ➡ Stats: Event still being contested.

Other LDC Highlights:

- ➡ LDC approved the change of the OHeP ending date from 1/31 to the last day of Feb. This will begin with the 2017 OHeP. All procedures, records, age groups, etc., will follow the protocols of the other ePostal events.
- ➡ LDC has reviewed 68 proposed rules changes.
 - ➡ 1. Among the proposed changes, the BOD submitted an amendment to 302.2.2 A to align temperature limits with what FINA is expected to implement. However, the proposed amendment was withdrawn after it was learned that neither USA Swimming nor USA Triathlon were planning to adopt the FINA rules this year.
 - ➡ The LDC will come in under budget for 2016. 2017 Budget will have a nominal increase to cover Event Liaisons for OW National Championships.
 - ➡ The LDC is working with Kyle Deery to standardize the logo/brand review process for USMS LD championship events.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

➡ The 2018 NC bid selection working group reached out to all of the 2017 non-selected bidders that chose to be in the candidate pool for 2018 and all but one submitted bids for 2018 LD NCs. There is one first-time host among the ePostal events for 2018, and the workgroup will be recommending 3 first-time hosts for the 2018 OWNCS.

The Officials Committee - Brian Albright, Chair; Ed Saltzman, Vice Chair

Task Forces

❖ Officials Certification Program Task Force - Teri White (Lead), Omar de Armas, Sr., Mary Pohlmann, Dave Coddington, Al Ness

- ➡ 1.➔ Draft of proposed Phase 1 completed (see Appendix A) with a purpose to recruit and
- ➡ 2train officials to work USMS sanctioned meets, especially in LMSCs that have trouble
- ➡ 3finding enough qualified officials to effectively staff their meets. Initially, the program
- ➡ 4would have two parts: stroke and turn, and a starter certification.
- ➡ 5.➔ Discussing the possibility to send newly certified USMS Officials a certification card or
- ➡ 6name tag, along with a Mini Rulebook.

❖ Development of a USMS Officials Service Award

➡ → On hold.

❖ Recruiting Officials

- ➡ → Discussing the idea of encouraging LMSC financial support to reimburse local officials
- ➡ that travel to work national championships.

Other Officials Committee Highlights:

- USMS Officials Certification Program - Certification program will proceed with notifying LMSC chairs with sufficient information to recruit interested candidates to take the steps necessary toward USMS Certification.
- The committee is looking at developing better guidance or structure to the reimbursement process for officials for nationals. The chair received \$8500 in requests for a \$4000 pot for Spring Nationals.
- Committee submitted a revised request (6/16) for the creation of an Officials page on the USMS web site, reached from the menu bar on the home page (similar to Coaches and Instructors). A template was provided to indicate the new proposed layout, with link suggestions, a section dedicated to describing the USMS Officials Certification process, and other content.
- 2016 budget had a bump for travel reimbursement. Per Brian, 2017 could see an increase if the committee supports a motion for the Chair to appoint and cover officials for pool national championships.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Vice President of Community Services

Frank “Skip” Thompson

This is the first year I have been a member of the USMS Board of Directors as Vice President of Community Services. I appreciate the opportunity to serve USMS in this position and thank the USMS House of Delegates for electing me and giving me a chance to help contribute to USMS to be the premier aquatic fitness organization in the world. I would like to thank all of our LMSC volunteers, House of Delegate members, National Office Staff, Board of Directors, and members of the Executive Committee.

The USMS Community Services Division consists of three committees (Coaches, Sports Medicine and Science, and Fitness Education). The Vice President of Community Services is an ex-officio member of these three committees as well as having USMS National Office interface with Coaches Education with the Coaches Committee, Communications/Publications with the Sports Medicine and Science Committee, and Marketing with the Fitness Education Committee.

Below is a list of Projects, Goals, and Subcommittee Assignments that have been planned, performed and completed since the 2015 convention and plans for the 2016/2017 year. I look forward to the second year of my term and hope to help USMS to the next level of success.

Coaches Committee (Bob Jennings, Chair; Kenny Brisbin Vice Chair)

Committee Members – New members for 2016 are: Wyatt Bradbury, Dean Hawks, Mark Johnston, Andrew Le Vasseur, Jennifer Masquelier, Chrystie McGrail, Tim Waud, and Steve Weatherman. Returning members: Scott Bay, Kenny Brisbin, Chris Campbell, David Clark, Matthew Edde, Bob Jennings, Erin Mathews, Helen Naylor, and Kerry O’Brien. Ex Officio: Bill Brenner.

2016 Goals and Subcommittee Assignments Status Report:

1. National Masters Coaching Summit – USMS National Office and the Pacific LMSC are collaborating on this clinic/summit. Helen Naylor has been appointed to lead a sub-committee and the dates have been set for Veterans Day weekend which is 11-11-16 to 11-13-16 with the location in San Mateo, California. 63 coaches have registered online not including International coaches. Speakers include: Steve Munatones, Dr. John Mullen, Dr. Ernie Maglisco, Dr. Rod Havrilik, Ron Marcikic, Sheila Taormina, and Cokie Lepinski. A certificate of participation is being drafted to be ready by the completion of the NCC. Educational credits will be given to USMS and USAT participating coaches.
2. USMS High Performance Camp – The camp is a joint venture from Triangle Sports Commission, Greensboro Aquatic Center and USMS. The BOD will be responsible for other arrangements of the camp namely licensing and length of the term of the contract that was negotiated this year. The dates of the camp will be of 8-27-16 to 9-1-2016 at the Greensboro Aquatic Center. Nadine Day has been appointed Head coach. She will be working with Chris Campbell, Ben Hobbins, and Steve Weatherman as other USMS on deck coaches. At last count, the camp was 90% full.
3. On Deck Coaching – Sign up for both USMS National Championship meets at both Greensboro Aquatic Center and Mt. Hood in Gresham, Oregon has been very successful with no shortage of volunteer coaches. Marty Hendrick took the responsibility to coordinate with the hosts and the Championship Committee for the coaches on deck. For warm up sessions, it was suggested that only certified coaches be working on deck with USMS Certification, USMS website certification, and ASCA Certification. Sign-ups for On Deck Coaching through Sign Up Genius continues for both National meets and the USAS Convention in Atlanta in September 2016 for 3 morning practices and Erin Mathews did outstanding job in the past and continues to lead this project.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

4. Certification – The Level 1, 2, & 3 classes for the rest of the year are filling up and going well. The USA Triathlon (USA-T) organization had a meeting with the USMS Education Department and wants to continue recognizing our certification process. One coach has received a Level 4 coaching certificate this past spring. The Level 4 registration time frame is from June 15 – July 15, 2016 and the sub-committee will be reviewing applications and making recommendations for coaches to be certified and announced at the USAS Convention in Atlanta. Four USMS Coaches applied for Level 4 certification. The Level 4 sub-committee will be reviewing and refining the Level 4 application for future certifications to begin in 2017.
5. Awards – Chris Campbell lead this subcommittee in 2016 and is a member of the USMS Recognition and Awards Committee. He is assisted by David Clark, Kerry O'Brien, and Andrew Le Vasseur. This year there was an effort to encourage individuals, coaches, and LMSC Boards to go to the Awards section of the USMS website and review the awards and their nomination process to encourage more nominations. This year USMS had 4 nominations for the USMS Coach of the Year Award and 11 nominations for the Kerry O'Brien Grassroots Coaching Award. Award winners will be announced at the USAS Convention with the Coach of the Year being awarded at the USAS Banquet.
6. Publications – The subcommittee is responsible to submit articles of interest to the USMS Membership Community both on the USMS website and the USMS Swimmer magazine publication. Coaches have submitted favorite workouts, drills, and ideas that are successful in the USMS Coaching community throughout the year. Scott Bay, Terry Heggy, Chris Ritter, Jerry McCormick, Susan Dawson-Cook, Bob Jennings, Elaine Howley, and Jeff Cummings have contributed two or more articles.
7. Web Workouts – Erin Mathews lead this subcommittee with assistance from Mark Johnston. The workouts have been up and running on the USMS site starting in the beginning of January. There are eight different categories (5 workouts a week) which try to cover all demographics of USMS swimmers. Coaches are paid a stipend and can write workouts in one category for two years. Here is a list of the workouts and the coaches who are providing them: Basic Training by Mark Johnston, Stroke and IM by Patrick Brundage, Open Water by Charlotte Brynn, High Intensity Training by Loretta Race, High Volume by Fares Ksebati, Triathlon Training by Scott Hoftiezer, and Expectant Mothers, New Mothers, and Limited Mobility workouts by Katrina Caulfield.
8. International Coaching – No International Championships were scheduled for 2016, so no subcommittee was formed to select coaches for these events. 2017 FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary are the next International Championships that coaches will be selected. The 2018 Pan American Swimming Championships have been awarded to Orlando, Fla and coaches will be selected for this event in the future.
9. Cross Collaboration with Coaches, Sports Medicine and Fitness Education Committees is planned for the 2016 Convention on September 23, 2016 from 10:45 to 11:45 AM. Dryland Training for Swimming will be the focus of the presentation.
10. ASCA World Clinic – Dates are September 9 – 10, 2016 in Fort Lauderdale. There will be a dedicated Masters Track at ASCA and USMS will have a booth to promote USMS Coaching.

Sports Medicine Committee (Megan Carlson, Chair; Sally Berry, Vice Chair)

Committee Members – New members for 2016 are: Tait Michael and Clare Rudd.

Returning members: Cathy Fedako, Melinda Greig-Walker, Sally Guthrie, Jane Katz, Dr. Jim Miller MD, Jane Moore, Mary Pohlmann, Jessica Seaton, and Robin Tracy. Ex Officio: Laura Hamel.

2016 Goals and Subcommittee Assignments Status Report:

USMS Executive Committee Reports

1. A Research Project was started by Brett Baker of University of Texas-Austin and he worked with Dr. Hirofumi Tanaka. A Study titled “To determine age-related declines in functional capacity as assessed by swimming performance times” is going to be conducted. Using “Go the Distance” data information from the USMS website, a survey is going to be conducted to look at inquires and how it relates to how much yardage and training to performance and recovery. The survey would also determine injury questioning participants on how much volume and the intensity of the workouts.
2. The survey questions were reviewed by the SM Committee. The USMS National Office reviewed the Privacy Policy in regards to what can be assessed from the GTD and will assist with the access when the protocol is set. Legal Counsel will review the final submission. Investigation Review Board (IRB) approval through the University has been granted and then the survey will be ready to send out to members of USMS. Dr. Tanaka will then begin the survey and compile results for review and then it will be published.
3. Dr. Tanaka has accepted the request to speak to USMS delegates at the USAS Convention in Atlanta, GA on Friday, September 23, 2016 from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM.
4. Dr. Tanaka was recently featured in “Swimmer” magazine along with USMS swimmers Ed Coates, Craig Siegel, and Karen Stokes in the article “Coursing Through You Veins”.
5. Public Service Announcement – was delayed but now is in the final stages and ready for review. Once it has been completed with the photo shoot by David Samuelson, it will be ready for review by the SMC and should be completed by at the end of the 3rd quarter of 2016. The SMC desire was to have a more diverse representation of ages and backgrounds and sent information and suggestions to Samuelson to incorporate this into the PSA.
6. A Transsexual Task force has been formed for 2016. At the winter BOD meeting there was a discussion about a proposed IOC policy based on the IOC Consensus Meeting on Sex Reassignment and Hyperandrogenis. The Task Force will review the current USMS policy and make changes to be consistent with the IOC policy scheduled to be implemented in September 2016. Members of the Task force: Jessica Seaton, Sally Guthrie, Kathy Casey, Cathy Fedako, and Leo Letendre. Currently a review of the current policy is taking place and could be rolled out by convention so future event hosts have something to follow in their events.
7. The USMS Rules Committee is partnering with the task force to develop swimming rules on the eligibility of swims, competition categories for athletes in the transition period, or swimmers who have not finished their transition.
8. Sports Medicine Blog – Jessica Seaton has lead this project and this past year, a non-interactive Sports Medicine Committee directed Blog to dispense sports medicine related articles and studies on the USMS Committee website has proven to be successful. Since convention, Jessica Seaton, Sally Berry, Sally Guthrie, Jane Moore, Cathy Fedako, and Jim Miller have posted two or more articles on the blog forum.
9. Nationals Informational Booth – Sally Berry and Megan Carlson have lead this project. In 2016, the Spring Nationals had an Athletic Trainer with rollers and bands and answered questions. The Summer Nationals will involve the Fitness Education Committee and expand on some of the ideas with the Athletic Trainer. Meg Carlson and Mary Jurey will work with the Athletic Trainer at the booth at Summer Nationals in Oregon.
10. Status of Article 106 rule change/rewording – Mary Pohlmann and Jane Moore will look up research that SMC can approve and add to the rationale and prepare and submit at the convention. The Committee discussed the need to expand on the “rationale” section with references. The SMC has approved the revision of the rationale and this has been submitted to the Rules Committee to be decided at the convention.

Fitness Education Committee (Mary Jurey, Chair; Brian Cummings, Vice Chair)

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Committee Members – New members for 2016 are: Brigit Bunch, Anita Cole, Karen Gernert, Fares Ksebati, Robin Smith, Lisa Ward, Lisa Watson, and Karin Wegner.

Returning members: Andrea (AJ) Block, Stacy Broncucia, Aubree Gustafson, Robin Walker, and Ken Winterberger. Ex Officio: Kyle Deery.

2016 Goals and Subcommittee Assignments Status Report:

1. Virtual Swims – The Fitness Committee is in the process to get this started and researching what type of swims would be of interest and has plans to kick this off in 2017.
2. Check Off Challenge – The event is up and running and hosted by the Long Beach Grunions Club and fitness committee member, Anita Cole is the event director. So far very little participation of USMS members. A discussion about how to improve participation in this event with ideas of recording swimmers who participate in the event and having results posted on the USMS website. Ideas were split on recording of times in the specific events. A host could keep score by Club, like the 1 Hour Swim but the question is would you score by time, by age-group, or by participation. Currently the \$30 fee entry fee includes a custom-designed check-off challenge towel, swim cap, and a certificate of completion. An e-mail was sent to all LMSC Chairs and LMSC Coaching Chairs on 6-16-2016 encouraging participation.
3. USMS Half Hour Swim Postal event as a charity event - The Fitness committee wants to organize a postal swim with either a host or USMS and have the entry fees go straight to the SSL Foundation. Guidelines for USMS events who want to use their event entry fees as a donation to the SSL will be decided by the USMS BOD. Coordination with the USMS National Office and the SSL Board of Trustees, namely Brandon Franklin is the next step. The Fitness Committee must define how this event will be administered. Procedures and guidelines will have to be developed and presented and accepted by convention to launch this in the 2017 calendar year.
4. Go The Distance Program – Successful and gaining popularity year after year. So far in 2016, 2701 participants are registered in the program and this is a good event to attract Fitness swimmers and can be a model for other types of fitness events.
5. Go the Distance mobile application has been discussed for the FLOG's. This will be discussed in more detail at future Fitness committee meetings.
6. LMSC Communication with LMSC Fitness Chairs on ideas that are being done with success at the LMSC level. How to better effectively communicate fitness activities out to the LMSC and swimmer level. Improve on communicating fitness updates to the National Office and Fitness Chairs. Work to more effectively communicate with Coaches and the Coaches committee.
7. Work on Social media activities with the National Office and have initiatives for fitness and encourage and engage contact with swimmers on Facebook, Twitter, and the USMS discussion forums.
8. Fitness Committee Blog – In the past year, a non-interactive Sports Medicine Committee directed Blog to distribute sports medicine related articles and studies as proven successful. A possibility that has been discussed is creating a Fitness blog, where it would be live on the USMS forum and fitness committee members could contribute with articles, ideas, and studies that are going on in the fitness community.
9. Introduction to Masters/Mastering Masters – discuss having a class or up to date information on the USMS website to effectively communicate out to the Fitness swimmers. There is a Masters 101 on the USMS website that has been developed and promoted but it needs updating and fine tuning

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Secretary

Chris Colburn

I would like to thank the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs for their hard work and extensive assistance with my role as Secretary this year. Without their help, I would not be able to collate much of the information viewed each day on the website by the membership and other visitors from around the globe. I'd also like to recognize the staff for their tireless service, both to the volunteer infrastructure and to Masters Swimming as a whole.

This year has proceeded like many others for the USMS Secretary. I have recorded meeting and conference call minutes for the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and posted the approved documents on the website. I also worked with committee chairs to ensure that their meeting minutes were posted as received. I have communicated with the National Office to ensure that Convention and Board Meeting materials were prepared as needed for our meetings throughout the year. Finally, I have executed documents as requested by the business in my role as corporate Secretary.

In closing, I have enjoyed my term as USMS Secretary. I look forward to a successful Convention, and to a great 2017. Thanks again to everyone who has helped me both to succeed in this role and to continue to give back to the organization and the sport that has done so much for so many of us over the years.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer

Ralph Davis

Financial condition: Our financial condition as of June, 2016 is very healthy with unrestricted reserves in excess of \$3.6M, which cover 10.9 months of operating expenses. Six months coverage is considered good.

There are three major reasons for this unprecedented health:

- USMS is well managed in a fiscally conservative manner.
- Investment portfolio (as of 7/31/16) has grown \$635,964 since its inception in February, 2011.
- We are in the second year of our dues increase program that was adopted to invest in programs and services under a secure financial foundation.

Our financial health gives USMS the resources to support our Mission and maintain USMS as the premier resource for adult aquatic fitness in the United States and make fitness through swimming available for as many adults as possible.

Our Audit, Finance and Investment Committees continue to play significant roles in assisting the board with its fiduciary responsibilities. We have much to thank these volunteers for as their oversight of our assets contributes greatly to our organization's outstanding financial condition. Our independent accounting firm conducts an annual audit, provides a management review letter and makes an annual presentation to the Board of Directors. I am pleased to report that for the sixth year in a row there were no reported deficiencies by our auditor. Both are a direct reflection on our Chief Financial Officer, Susan Kuhlman.

The 2015 Financial Statements are complete and the certified audited financial report is available on our website. Our audit firm is Kerkering, Barberios & Co. of Sarasota, Florida. The USMS tax return for 2015 is completed and approved by the Board and filed with the IRS.

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Immediate Past President

Nadine Day

I strongly believe God has plans for us. This year I had to step back from my duties with USMS due to family. I am grateful that our current President, Patty Miller is a strong leader. I did continue to participate on EC and BOD calls monthly, however did have to miss the Summer BOD and a few calls. I was able to fulfill my duties on the CEO task force and assisted with the selection of our CEO, Dawson Hughes. I am excited about USMS's future and the leadership with Patty and Dawson.

Being President then becoming Immediate Past President really has been interesting for me. The biggest impact was communication; it has decreased 75%. I only have updates via communication like everyone else, meeting minutes and only the general forum and BOD forum. I honestly have not been on the forums as much as I have in the past. I am looking forward to attending convention and seeing the USMS Leadership.

For 2016, I was appointed as the president's designee on the Diversity Task Force (DTF), which is a TF of the BOD. On the DTF, I serve as the subcommittee chair on Celebrating Diversity, which is focusing on targeted groups to showcase and establish a communication strategy for USMS. My other appointment was on the Swimming Saves Lives Committee, however we have not met this year.

I was fortunate enough to be selected to coach the High Performance Camp and due to unforeseen circumstances of another coach, I was promoted to Head Coach. This camp and appointment has rejuvenated me and I am looking forward to coaching these selected individuals next month.

I will continue to promote Masters Aquatics, which includes diving, synchro and water polo; in addition to our swimming and open water disciplines. USMS is the leader in Masters Aquatics. It is our duty to help other disciplines and other federations promote Masters. Promoting Masters creates success and opportunities for our USMS members.

Besides my USMS duties, I was appointed to serve on the UANA Masters Technical committee. I assisted with the bidding application and process for UANA events. I was appointed to lead the UANA Masters Technical Coaches/Swimmer Education Subcommittee. This subcommittee is promoting Masters through clinics in the Americas.

I also want to thank everyone again for the opportunities that USMS has provided me to serve. I will always make sure my decisions will reflect: Members First.

Above all, thank you all for serving USMS, USMS would not be successful without you. THANK YOU!!!!

USMS Executive Committee Reports

Legal Counsel

Maria Elias-Williams

My first year as USMS' legal counsel has been very enlightening. I have been most impressed by the incredible dedication by volunteers who explore all aspects of issues within their given task.

We continue to pro-actively address and try to balance the rights and needs of all members, including the LGBTQ members, seeking input from our entire swim community. We also continue to build upon the guidelines provided for volunteers within LMSCs so that we minimize any potential threats to our tax-exempt status. I have frequent telephone conferences with staff, Board members and other volunteers, and occasionally outside counsel to keep issues that arise at low risk. I have reviewed numerous event and employment contracts. USMS has not been named in any lawsuit during my tenure, although we maintain continual contact with our liability provider for advice and direction to deter such.