

2014 Convention Welcome Speech

by Nadine Day, USMS President
September 18, 2014

On behalf of USMS, I would thank each of you for being here this week. We appreciate the sacrifices that you make for USMS.

It is everyone's responsibility to promote health, wellness, fitness and competition for adults through swimming.

It is USMS's vision to be the premiere resource for adult aquatic fitness in the US and will make fitness through swimming available for as many adults as possible.

I would just like to state the goals and objectives of the USMS Annual meeting (convention):

It is your responsibility as a member of the House of Delegates, according to Article 504.2.3, to:

- A) Elect officers/directors and this year we have the At Large BOD elections;
- B) Amend the USMS Code of Regulations and Rules of Competition;
- C) Review and approve the annual budget.

These things cannot be delegated to anybody but you, the House of Delegates.

I also want everyone to be aware of the Board of Directors' responsibility: We are a policy-making leadership. We have one employee, who is the Executive Director. We work together with the USMS Executive Director Rob Butcher, who provides leadership to the staff.

In 2008, USMS decided that we wanted to invest in our future. We used our reserves to hire an Executive Director to run USMS. We made an excellent decision, and you have in your packet the pay off of our investment and at the same time, we have overcome an insurance crisis and we continue to increase our reserves. The Board of Directors voted in favor of making another investment in programs and services and directed Rob to propose a deficit budget.

Our decisions are being guided by the Strategic Plan in which you, the House of Delegates, voted and approved in 2011.

One of our initiatives is an LMSC Leadership Summit in 2015. I cannot take credit for this idea: Gail Dummer, who is the current Michigan chair and a former Vice President of USMS, made the suggestion to me. USA Swimming already does this for their LSCs and it has been successful.

What is the purpose of this conference? For LMSC chairs, to gain a better understanding of the USMS Goals and Objectives, Strategic Plan and USMS Business Plan and equip them to better lead their LMSCs.

We will have topics such as Leadership and Governance Training and Education, Understanding a non-profit board, building a partnership and enhancing communication and support with the LMSCs.

Another initiative is examining our Open Water business model and solutions for our current Open Water insurance surcharge, which IS NOT sustainable. We created an open water task force and their recommendations will continue to be developed in 2015 for implementation in 2016.

There will be some topics that arise that may generate a lot of interest, such as 25-yard events at nationals or open water temperatures. If you are interested in these topics you should go to the committee meetings where they will be discussed.

Discussion on the HOD floor will be limited on the assumption that these topics have been fully vetted at committee meetings.

Committee meetings provide an opportunity for open discussion and understanding of topics of the HOD.

We have a goal to have a successful convention and we have one mission: to promote health, wellness, fitness and competition for adults through swimming.

We work together as one team, Team USMS.

Thank you for the opportunity for allowing to serve as your President and thank you again for serving as the leaders of our organization at the LMSC and National levels.

I would like to introduce our USMS Executive Director Rob Butcher, who will give us the State of United States Masters Swimming, Incorporated.

Rob...