

2017 USMS CONVENTION REPORT

Joan Campbell
Legislation Committee member

Many of the attendees to the Dallas Convention were, like us, refugees from hurricanes. We came reeling a bit from days of no power, felled trees, water. Took a few hours to face reality of air conditioning and water. I found that keeping up with the items we had to address had us running in place – much of what we print out and digest, in our paper free environment, found us behind because of lack of power at our source.

One of the main items I had to address at convention was about the origination of fees in the budget. In particular, I am concerned about the \$100 USMS fee to recognize local Senior Games meets which I brought up during a House of Delegates meeting. I am going to be able to address this with the Board of Directors by writing to Jeanne Ensign, our Finance Committee Chair. I feel that many local Senior Games, particularly in Florida, should not have to pay a \$100 fee to be Recognized by USMS. They are our recruiting tool for USMS and USMS does not provide anything for Recognition – not even the insurance. I will let you know the answer I receive.

Our Dixie Zone Committee elected Ed Saltzman as new chair. He will Chair our Committee for two years, possibly for four, as his office now has term limits. Also, the Valentine Meet at Clearwater February 9 – 11th will be the SCY Dixie Zone Championships. There will be no LCM Dixie Zone Champs since the Pan American Games in Orlando has substituted both that and the Summer Nationals. The SCM Championships will be held in Coral Springs. See dixiezone.org for dates. I hope Ed will reinstate going over the Calendar during our Zone meeting. It makes it much easier to see where there might be conflicts and gives us time to adjust.

Next year Jacksonville and our LMSC are hosting Convention. Let's hope for a quiet hurricane season.

Finance Committee Report by Jack Groselle

The financial balances of USMS are very strong. We went up in net worth over \$200,000 this past year, July 31,2016 to July 31,2107.

With the retirement of some employees of USMS, we have chosen to out source some of our IT work. You may have noticed that Summer Nationals was done by Club Assistant this year. That worked well this year. What that means is we will have less IT employees, but will spend more out sourcing and so far, the dollars spent on IT are still the same.

Thank you for allowing me to represent Florida.

2017 Convention Report – Laura Groselle

This year our Rules Committee accomplished a lot during our many conference calls. Of interest to most swimmers were the following rules change requests:

Adding 25 yard and 25 meter events of all four strokes to the list of conforming events – this proposal failed. Keep in mind that meet directors can still add these events to a meet, but they won't count for records or USMS Top Tens Times.

Manual timing (watches) and semi-automatic primary timing systems (buttons) are no longer valid for USMS records. Note that FINA and USA Swimming no longer accept records with times from these sources. However, if the automatic primary timing system (touchpad) fails the semi-automatic backup system (buttons) can be utilized for World and USMS records. Meet directors must state in the meet announcement if times from the meet cannot be submitted for World or USMS Records or for USMS Top Ten Times. Note - Top Ten Times are valid with a minimum of two watches.

Relay swimmers are no longer allowed to start from the top of the back plate on an adjustable block. At least one foot must be in contact with the starting block in front of the back plate. This was a USA Swimming change that USMS adopted. The primary concern was for the swimmer's safety.

Another USA Swimming change that we adopted was clarifying that the forward start handgrips cannot be used for a backstroke start.

2017 Convention Report - Bob Jennings

While at the 2017 United States Aquatic Sports Convention in Dallas, I wore two hats. First, I represented the Florida LMSC as a delegate and also as the USMS Coaches Chair.

The first meeting I attended was the Committee Chair Orientation Wednesday evening. Chris Colburn and Patti Miller thanked the committee chairs and provided instruction on their responsibilities during the convention. Each chair was responsible for conducting their committee meeting, recording the meeting's minutes, and reporting to the House of Delegates.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings, I supervised the buses and morning swim workouts for USMS members. Friday and Saturday we swam at The West Side Aquatic Center from 5:30 to 6:30 am. On Saturday we swam at SMU from 6:00 to 7:00am. A variety of workouts were provided by the on deck coaches for the swimmers to choose from.

During the 1st House of Delegates meeting, it was announced the since Patti Miller was running unopposed for the USMS Presidents position, she would serve for two more years. Skip Thompson ran unopposed also, so he will continue in his VP position for two more years also. Dawson Hughes (USMS CEO) discussed three topics. #1 USMS's involvement with College Club Swimming as an advisory roll. #2 USMS's new Fitness Challenge Series which will include a ½ hour swim in the winter, a 2K swim in the summer, and a 1 mile swim in the fall. The 1/2-hour swim will be a fundraiser for the Adult Learns to Swim Program. . #3 USMS's Technology improvements were described. In other House of Delegate meetings, Michael Moore was given the Ransom J. Arthur Award. The Dorothy Donnelly Award, Kerry O'Brien Award, June Krauser Communications Award, Open Water Service Award, and the Championship Meets Award were all presented. I had the honor of presenting the USMS Coach of the Year award to Tim Waud during the Saturday night festivities.

The two Committee meetings I attended were the Coaches and Fitness. I led the Coaches Committee meeting. Each subcommittee discussed the projects they had been involved in during the year: Awards, Level 4 application revision, evaluating the Level 4 applications, the High Performance Camp, On Deck Coaching, web workouts, and the upcoming 2018 National Coaching Clinic. The coaches committee will be involved in creating workouts to help fitness swimmers complete the ½ hour, 2K, and 1 hour swims. During the Fitness Committee meeting, Dawson Hughes discussed and answered question dealing with the new Fitness Challenge Series.

During the Dixie Zone meeting, Ed Saltzman was elected Zone Chair. The Short Course Yards Championship will be February 10 and 11 in Clearwater. There will not be a zone Long Course Meters Championship due to the Pan Am Games in Orlando in July/August. The Short Course Meters Championship will be held in Coral Springs in December. The Open Water Championships will be held in Chattanooga in June.

I spent time talking to Jessica Porter from the USMS National Office about the Florida LMSC's involvement in the 2018 USAS Convention. Pool availability for the 2019 convention in St. Louis was discussed with Lori Payne. Five members of the Coaching committee met on another day to discuss: Coaching Certification, Workshop topics, and coaches acting as mentors.

2017 USMS Convention

Hyatt Regency Dallas
September 13-17, 2017
Dallas, TX

Florida LMSC Open Water Chair report:

I attended the convention as a delegate for the Florida LMSC. I attended the following committee meetings as well as attended all of the House of Delegates meetings voting on each piece of business. I also attended the socials, including the International Swimming Hall of Fame ceremony and the USAS banquet.

Committee Meetings attended:

- Thursday, September 14: All House of Delegates meetings, Open Water, Long Distance #1, and the Dixie Zone meeting
- Friday, September 15: All House of Delegates meetings, Long Distance #2, Workshop #4 Mentoring vs. Coaching Know the Difference, Workshop #7 Open Water Sanctioning & Long Distance National Championship Bidding
- Saturday, September 16: House of Delegates meetings

New board members were elected as well as a number of rules amended or created. For a complete review of meeting minutes, schedule, etc. please go to:
<http://www.usms.org/admin/conv/2017/>

David Miner
LMSC Open Water Chair

2017 Convention Report - Meegan Wilson

Besides attending the House of Delegate meetings, I also attended the following:

- Recognition and Awards
 - An Officials Service Award was approved beginning in 2018. This will be handled by the Officials Committee. Nominations are required. One official will be awarded each year.
- History and Archives - See our convention minutes for more information:
<http://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/hist-2017-9-14-1.pdf> - A few of our projects are below:
 - I am vice chair of the History & Archives Committee. The committee is working on various projects to record our history and allow access to our members. We have posted all the top ten booklets, in booklet form. These are posted under “Printed Listings” on the Top Ten page. See: <http://www.usms.org/content/top10print>
 - The first USMS newsletter, Swim-Master, was published from December 1971 – December 1992. All 181 newsletters have been scanned and posted along with an index that I compiled for each newsletter. See: <http://www.usms.org/content/swimmaster>
 - History and Archives is helping to research records for the USMS National Record Chronology database.
 - Old convention minutes and other documents are being scanned and posted.
- Dixie Zone
 - Dixie Zone Chair Matt Hooper ran a very good Dixie Zone meeting. Our next Dixie Zone Chair will be Ed Saltzman. The SCY Dixie Zone Championships meet was awarded to the Clearwater Valentines meet, February 9-11. The SCM Dixie Zone Championships meet was awarded to Coral Springs in early December, and the Dixie Zone Open Water Championship was awarded to Chattanooga, TN for the first weekend in June. The LCM Dixie Zone Championship was suspended for 2018 due to the Pan Am Games in Orlando.
- Rules #2 – The Rules Committee does a great job with their presentation.
- Finance #3
 - The meeting was mostly about approving extra lodging and travel expenses due to Hurricane Harvey or Irma for delegates who receive USMS reimbursement.
- Rules #3
 - USMS swimmers can only swim 6 events a day – regardless of the number of USMS meets they attend per day.
- Sports Medicine presentation
 - Results of a USMS swimmers survey about their health status was presented. This was not a very scientific study. It is difficult to determine the outcome of the study.
- International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
 - It is really great that this ceremony is at convention and we are able to attend. The ceremony this year was really nice. It was Bruce Wigo’s last IMSHOF ceremony since he is retiring as CEO of ISHOF. Tom Boak did a great job as the M.C.
- National Office Speed Dating
 - The National Office is working on a new website that will be unveiled soon. Because the current website has many more hits than Masters members, they will require that you give them your email address in order to browse the website. They will also be using various marketing tools that will allow them to see what you are interested in so that they can market you. This may backfire on USMS because I don’t want to be marketed and I don’t use any website that requires me to give them my email address. Of course, USMS already has my email address. I suppose there will be an option to refuse any marketing from USMS. USMS marketing has increased dramatically over the past few years.
- Aquatics Awards Banquet - USMS’s skit with Mike Heather and Rob Copeland was hilarious! Bob Jennings did a great job introducing the 2017 USMS Coach of the Year, Tim Waud.