

Bob Jennings's 2018 Convention Report

Since the Florida LMSC was hosting the hospitality suite for USMS at the convention, Meegan Wilson, Dave Wilson and I drove up to Jacksonville a day early. With all the provisions, food and drinks we had in our cars, it took quite a while for us to unload and set up the hospitality suite. We were extremely grateful that Joannie Campbell met us to help. Meegan had set up a schedule of when the suite would be open and when individuals would be working. Thursday the LMSC hosted a dessert social, which was a huge success. All the hard work paid off. We constantly heard thank you from all the USMS delegates.

All the Florida LMSC delegates attended the House of Delegate meetings.

The Dixie Zone meeting was very informative. Four candidates for the Zone Representative made presentation. Maddie Sibia was elected to the position Saturday morning during the House of Delegates meeting. The Zone Championships were decided: SCY – Auburn Meet 2/17& 18/2019; SCM - Rowdy Gaines Meet 10/11 to 13/2019; LCM- Greenville Meet 6/15 & 16/2019; Open Water- Tropical Splash 5/12/2019

As Coaches Chair for USMS, I organized and attended all the morning swim workouts, which began at 6 am at the Bolles School. Bagels and bottled water were provided for all swimmers and coaches. I conducted the Coaches Committee meeting and presented our minutes to the House of Delegates. Chris Campbell and I presented the Kerry O'Brien Coaching Awards. At the Banquet, Saturday night, I had the honor of presenting the USMS Coach of the Year Award to April Cheadle.

Hospitality:

First, I want to thank Meegan for her organization of the hospitality suite, which I know is the best run/organized hospitality of any convention. Unfortunately, we have to do it again in 2 years. The dessert social was a huge success & should be a model for future convention hosts and I discussed it briefly with a friend of mine who will be involved with next year's hospitality in St. Louis. We were very fortunate with weather in that I don't remember a night that it rained, so everyone was able to enjoy themselves outside on the balcony.

Everyone who worked the hospitality suite – thank you for your time as I think the USMS members appreciate our southern hospitality and there was no shortage of food. While I was on the late shift, I did run up to the room one day for the taco lunch and ended up helping serve the tacos as the one guy seemed overwhelmed. I think taco day was very well received, so thank you Meegan – the vegetarian option was a surprise to many & they appreciated it.

The morning crew – while I only made it to the pool once, I appreciate having the bagels & water that you could quickly grab & run onto the bus.

Convention 2020: I'd like to volunteer to help the planning as there are things that came to mind that I can research to see if its cost effective and other things I took note of. Overall, I don't think we need to kill ourselves to try & make everyone happy. And, I think it was Bob's suggestion to USMS to pool the funds of the non-hosting LMSC to help pay for hospitality. I had a discussion with a person about it & that person basically ignored me. Another past/future host thought it was a great idea.

Wednesday, September 27th:

USAS Welcome Reception

Hospitality (was on duty until close)

Thursday, September 27th:

HOD #1

Dixie Zone meeting:

At the Dixie Zone meeting, it was impressive to see that we had the most candidates wanting to serve on the Board with the youngest board member ever elected, Maddie Sabilia. With USMS's main focus on College Club Swimming, seems like a natural fit. I was also impressed that all/most in the room agreed that we shouldn't have to vote on having 1 or 2 candidates move forward, when all/most felt strongly to have all 4 be heard by the HOD.

Open Water Committee meeting:

I attended the Open Water (OW) meeting as last year I became the meet director for our Hurricane Man open water swims and was interested to see how others organize their events and what I can possibly do to make it better/more efficient. The Chair had everyone in the room say why they were there and how the OW Committee could help, which was a different way of holding a meeting, but I did learn a few things. I was going to split that time with the Coaches Committee, but I was interested in learning more about OW (sorry Bob).

Championships Committee meeting #1:

This year was the first year that I was on the Championships Committee and got to sit at the table... and take notes 😊 This past year it was exciting as a long time participant at USMS Nationals to read through the bids for future meets and to speak to the organizing committees of those bidding. It was also fun to look through some suggested meet order of events and trying to pick the best possible line up (there really is no "best" as we all swim different events). USMS Nationals is a huge undertaking and I applaud all who applied to host and all the planning that is involved.

HOD #2

FL LMSC Social 6-10pm and Hospitality (was on duty until close)

Helped Meegan & Joannie set up, then I was "on duty" the rest of the evening.

Friday, September 28th:

Championships Committee meeting #2

We had 2 meetings at convention that were productive and there is never a shortage of conversation at these meetings. NQTs and National Meet timelines after the largest USMS Spring meet ever in May 2018, are a hot topic and we will be working on this in the coming year.

Understanding and Engaging Volunteers – Survey Results from the Volunteer Task Force workshop:

It ended up being more of a group exercise than learning about what the Task Force had worked on the past year. For my team, volunteering is like pulling teeth, so I really wanted to see what others do and what the task force might suggest to LMSCs/teams in engaging folks to volunteer.

Sports Medicine: Dr. Tanaka's Presentation: I love this guy! Who knew that mature adults can be compared to the naked mole rats and how Masters swimmers like the mole rat may look older from the outside, but inside (because we lead healthy lifestyles) are in better shape than those our age who don't exercise. His presentation and sense of humor was the highlight of my day.

HOD #3

Saturday, September 29th:

Swim practice

HOD #4

HOD #5

USAS Banquet – very excited that my friend Ed Tsuzuki was given the highest USMS Volunteer award this year, the Ransom Arthur award. He has contributed so much to USMS and I was happy that we were assigned random seats at his table.

Hospitality (on duty until close)

Convention 2018 Report

10/13/2018

Meegan Wilson

Special thanks to all our convention hospitality volunteers including delegates who brought in much appreciated supplies. In alphabetical order, thanks to Scott Bay, Steve Butler, Joannie Campbell, John Conlon, Margaret Dodson, Jack and Laura Groselle, Bob Jennings, Penny Knutzen, Cheryl Kupan, David Miner, Peter Nickodem, Doug and Maggie Rowe, Jillian Wilkins, and David Wilson. The Florida LMSC could not have done this time consuming job without your help!!!!



Jessica Reilly, Senior Director of USMS Membership Acquisition & Services, was very helpful setting up the bagel deliveries and delivery of the Hyatt hotel pizzas. She also arranged for the tables and a microwave oven in the room. We were disappointed that there was no TV as there had been in the past. On further investigation the cost of having a TV would have been \$400/day which is cost prohibitive. Special thanks to David Wilson and our Chair Bob Jennings for helping to bring in all the supplies to the suite and to Bob for all his shopping prior to convention. Bob also supplied bagels and water to the early morning swimmers. Get some much needed sleep Bob!



The USMS delegates seemed to appreciate what we offered during the day and evening as well as our “Let’s Flamingo Dessert Social” Thursday evening from 8-10 pm. Although the House of Delegate’s meeting ran over by 20 minutes, we were able to get things set up in time. I hope the delegates were still able to eat out as planned. Thanks to those who provided desserts for the social. There was very little left by the end of the evening, but we did not run out. The wine was appreciated as well.

Since it is difficult to bring all the supplies one needs to feed over 200 delegates, plus not having enough room in the car – we had to make several shopping runs. Special, special thanks to Scott Bay and David Wilson for replenishing some of our supplies daily.

Since I had volunteered to oversee the hospitality suite this year, I spent most of my time in there helping out. We were lucky that we had 7 volunteers from Jacksonville who filled in when our delegates were otherwise involved in meetings and other activities. Convention will be in Jacksonville again in 2020 – USMS’s 50th Anniversary.

I attended the History and Archives committee meeting as vice chair. History and Archives has accomplished a lot this year and Barbara Dunbar ran an exceptional meeting. One issue that H&A has been fighting since the new registration system was implemented in April is retaining permanent IDs for members. Since the role out of club registrations in October, we are also concerned with keeping our permanent Club IDs. These IDs are very important because Top Tens and meet results are associated with them and allow swimmers to find their accomplishments on the website. See H&A minutes: <https://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/hist-2018-9-27-1.pdf>

Dixie Zone minutes can be found here: <https://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/dixie-2018-9-27-1.pdf> I was disappointed that our own Jack Groselle did not win his bid for Dixie Zone At Large Director. Dixie Zone Championships were awarded to the following: SCY - Auburn, TX; LCM - Greenville, SC; SCM - Orlando, FL; Open Water - Sarasota, FL. Committee Chair Ed Saltzman did a great job running the meeting.

The International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame induction ceremony was really nice. The food was exceptional and the presentations by Tom Boak were very enjoyable. He always does a terrific job. Congratulations to Walt Reid, Maurine Kornfeld, and Jurgen Schmidt.

I attended all the House of Delegates (HOD) meetings. I was surprised that one of the legislation proposed rules changes which allowed College Club swimmers to register with USMS at a reduced rate of \$25 per year, had already been enacted by the Board of Directors (BOD) in August. This was not reflected in any of the BOD minutes prior to convention. Micheal Heather pointed it out to the HOD. President Patty Miller stated that if the House of Delegates does not approve this change, then those College Club swimmers who have already registered at the reduced rate, about 50 I believe, will have their money refunded to them and their registration negated. This legislation rule change was approved in the HOD, but I take exception to the way the BOD handled this. If the BOD promised decreased membership to these College Club Swimmers, then those that had been processed prior to HOD approval should be honored instead of putting a guilt trip on the HOD to approve it. Transparency seems to be lacking.

The Remembrance slide show of those swimmers who died since the 2017 convention was very moving and the awards ceremonies were well done. Pat Baker received the first Officials Excellence Award. Congratulations Pat!!!

I attended the USMS 3.0 – Digital Transformation Workshop. There have been a lot of changes to the USMS website – all seem to be geared toward a potential USMS member and marketing current members. However these changes are also causing more time and energy for it's volunteers because a lot of problems have developed. There does not seem to be any plan to make the changes needed to reverse this trend.

Individual membership registration will increase by \$2 in 2019. This is the last year that it is scheduled to increase. Membership has gone up \$10 over the past 5 years from \$35 to \$45. This may be one reason that individual memberships are decreasing. In 2017 club and workout registration fees increased by 64%, from \$25 to \$41. For some reason the \$2 yearly increase has been added to club and workout group registrations as well. Both are \$45 for 2019. I do not remember explicitly voting on this yearly increase in the HOD. Perhaps I have missed something.

The Aquatics Awards Banquet was really nice as well. Bob Jennings did a great job presenting the Coach of the Year Award to April Cheadle. Ransom Award recipient Ed Tsukuzi's convention skit presentation was fun. However, the Banquet Awards Ceremonies ran over as well – I believe we will have to rethink the hospitality scheduling in 2020 – assuming that we will still be involved.