

# USMS Executive Committee Reports

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President

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## **Patty Miller**

The theme of this year's Annual Meeting is "Building Bridges to Our Future". In the past year, volunteers and staff have been examining long-held processes and paradigms and planning for U.S. Masters Swimming's future. Here are some of the highlights.

### **Convention Task Force**

After last year's Convention, and faced with decisions about signing contracts for conventions up to five years in the future, I appointed a task force, led by Ed Tsuzuki. Despite change in technology, how our committees conduct business, increased size of the House of Delegates based on membership growth, and increasing expense, the structure of our annual meeting and convention has remained relatively static over the years. The mission of the Convention Task Force is to "examine the current and future value of USMS's House of Delegates (annual) meeting and participation in the USAS Convention, and make recommendations for the future."

The task force explored many aspects of the annual meeting and convention, including length of the event, the size of the House of Delegates, the process for proposing rules and legislation, the budget process, the convention content, and the timing of committee selection. Some of the task force's recommendations resulted in legislation proposals or administrative changes this year and some will be saved for evolution in the future. We'll hear more about the task force recommendations at convention.

### **Volunteers Task Force**

Similar to the impact of change on how we conduct the USMS annual meeting, changes to USMS now and in the future call for examination of the optimal roles for volunteers. In light of transition in communication technology, the advent of on-line membership and event registration, the development of professional staff, and the prospect of a generationally different volunteer base, I appointed a task force, led by Laura Winslow, to tackle issues related to our volunteers. The mission of the Volunteers Task Force is to "investigate and make recommendations regarding how to optimize USMS's volunteers as resources now and in the future."

The task force worked tirelessly over the past year to learn more about our volunteers and examine volunteer roles and engagement. Although the task force continues its efforts and its recommendations will not be ready for action at this year's convention, we will hear about their work in a general presentation and a workshop. In addition, we plan to discuss their proposals at the 2019 Leadership Summit for LMSC leaders.

### **College Club Swimming**

I mention College Club Swimming here because it's an example of the success we can have when we hold back from imposing our usual structure and processes to allow something new to develop. CCS is truly an example of building a bridge to our future.

As background, college club swimming (different from varsity athletic programs) has existed for years. There was no formal structure to connect the many college clubs other than a championship of sorts held at Georgia Tech each year. In the past couple of years, USMS supported the development of an organization – College Club Swimming (CCS) – as collective organization that

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unifies college club swim programs across the country. With USMS's backing, CCS provides the rules, calendar of events, results database, and communications across all registered CCS clubs. The relationship between CCS and USMS, where students join clubs and those clubs in turn pay a fee to USMS, which in turn provides infrastructure such as a website (<https://www.collegeclubswimming.com/>), has been wildly successful, resulting in 4,538 CCS members from 125 colleges in 2018. These students now know about USMS as a social and fitness option for their post-college lives and as the organization that helped enhance their swimming experience in college

At convention this year, we'll be presented with a package of legislative proposals to provide just enough touch to allow for a "bridge" between CCS membership and USMS participation. We'll also hear more about the success of CCS.

### **Diversity Task Force**

The future – and present – of the United States and therefore the population from which USMS draws its membership is more diverse than in the past. For the past few years, USMS has had a Diversity Task Force, most recently led quite well by Sarah Welch. The task force has examined where our diversity needs are and has recommended education and opportunities to expand USMS diversity so we can share our mission with more people. At this year's convention we'll vote on a proposal to make this task force a standing committee, demonstrating our commitment to finding ways to make USMS welcoming to a broader group of swimmers.

### **Digital Transformation (USMS.3.0)**

During 2017, the Board of Directors approved a new approach to USMS's technical infrastructure and at last year's convention plans were outlined and budgeted for a 4 to 5 year digital transformation. The concept behind the approach was that, rather than continuing to build customized software internally, USMS would utilize off-the-shelf software and external expertise when possible. The goal was to have outside vendors and partners handle software maintenance, perform upgrades and manage security while providing greater flexibility for the staff to improve and add to our digital marketing capabilities and membership benefits.

This first phase of the digital transformation included a new website platform that provides a modern experience on mobile devices, personalization capabilities to provide visitors and members with content specific to their interests, greatly improved analytics and database marketing functionality, a simplified registration process, and improved security of membership data with an e-mail login and password.

Many of us have years of experience with the prior version of usms.org and may have experienced some glitches since the launch of the new platform, and I regret that inconvenience. But the new platform has already resulted in benefits in visibility and access to information for visitors and prospective members. We'll see more information on the digital transformation, including capabilities and plans for future development, in CEO Dawson Hughes' convention report in this packet and in a workshop conducted by the National Office at the annual meeting.

Changing for the future can be challenging – but it can also be exciting and energizing. I look forward to working with you to optimize USMS's present and plan for its future when we gather in Jacksonville.

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## Vice President of Administration

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### Peter Guadagni

As I finish my first year as your Vice President of Administration and a new member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, I would like to thank everyone who has supported me in my new roles. Patty Miller's leadership as our President is an inspiration. She conducts meetings with grace, wisdom, and efficiency. She generously makes time when I need to collaborate on a challenge facing one of my committees. At my first board meeting, past-President Nadine Day offered to be my mentor as a new member of the USMS leadership team. Her friendship and guidance have been invaluable as I have coped with new responsibilities. CEO Dawson Hughes has been responsive to my questions and deserves commendation for leading the organization through the difficult (and necessary!) process of IT change and modernization.

I am particularly indebted to the Committees I oversee and the leadership of their Chairs and Vice Chairs. The Championship Committee, led by Chair Jeff Roddin and Vice Chair Jim Clemmons, oversaw the largest national championship event in USMS history. The Committee worked with the host and National Office to make the many adjustments necessary to provide a great experience for all participants. The Championship Committee also implemented several administrative changes, some big (standardized host contract) and some not so big (responsibility for relay cards). Finally, the Committee selected the host for the 2020 USMS Spring National Championships, an event that will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first National Masters Swimming Championships. After a period of inactivity, the Registration Committee began meeting again under the direction of Chair Susan Ehringer and Vice Chair Marcia Anziano. The Committee recognizes online registration has changed the role of registrars and surveyed its members on committee functions and registrar duties. The Registration Committee worked with the National Office on a few registration related initiatives.

The Rules Committee, led by Chair Charlie Cockrell and co-Vice Chairs Mollie Grover and Claire Letendre, and the Legislation Committee, led by Chair Richard Garza and Vice Chair Meg Smath, worked with the Long Distance Committee to implement a number of enhancements aimed at improving the efficiency of our annual convention. These three committees, who have primary responsibility to review and recommend USMS rules and legislative changes, embraced ideas from the Convention Task Force to standardize proposals and attempt to provide recommendations on them to the House of Delegates in the pre-convention packet. While delegates can still speak on recommended and non-recommended proposals at committee meetings, changes are expected to be minimal. This means delegates will have more time to study proposals prior to voting on them. This commitment to provide early guidance on proposals meant the Legislation and Rules Committees had to compress the work typically done during July, August, September and convention into the month of July. Committee members devoted 5 or 6 early summer evenings to support this effort. As Vice President of Administration, I participated in every conference call and in person meeting for the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and committees I oversee that did not conflict with another committee meeting. I also continued to serve on the Finance Committee. As part of my election communications I shared my belief that the primary value of USMS is delivered on the pool deck and committed to be an advocate for local clubs and work out groups. As part of my effort to honor that commitment, I led an Executive Committee task force to support the CEO and National Office in the development of a local USMS marketing program.

Finally, I would like to thank my lane mates who swim with me every day and remind me of the mission of USMS.

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## Vice President of Local Operations

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### Chris Colburn

The Local Operations division consists of four committees (History and Archives; LMSC Development; Recognition and Awards; and Records and 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 busy one for the division's committees. The activities the committees (and the VPLO) are summarized below. You can find more details in the annual reports and meeting minutes for each committee.

**History and Archives** (chaired by Barbara Dunbar) continues to perform detailed work on the tasks of collecting and preserving the history of the USMS organization and its membership. Many of their recent projects include locating, digitizing and consolidating paper documents, such as older registration files, USMS publications, and Top Ten and Records reports; identifying swimmers with missing, legacy, or duplicate registration IDs; and reviewing, fact-checking, and submitting for publication biographical and other historical information on the USMS web site.

The **LMSC Development Committee** (chaired by Michael Moore) has had a busy year. The committee conducted its follow-up survey of LMSCs for compliance with current standards. Advice and remediation for LMSCs needing help meeting the established standards were conducted under the supervision of the zone chairs and the VPLO. The committee has continued its excellent series of peer-to-peer teleconferences for different LMSC volunteer offices and roles, giving volunteers across the country an opportunity to share ideas and best practices. Notes from these sessions have been posted in the Meeting Minutes section of the USMS website. The committee is also in charge of organizing the series of workshops scheduled for Convention. Many members of the committee are involved in putting together the LMSC Leadership Summit that will take place in March 2019.

**Recognition and Awards** (chaired by Ray Novitske) oversees the national service awards that underscore the outstanding efforts of our volunteers. The committee continued their work to increase submissions for national awards. They coordinated the selection of the Ransom J. Arthur Award recipient Ed Tsuzuki, who was honored just before Spring Nationals. The committee successfully recommended Walt Reid for induction to the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) as an Honor Contributor. Walt's induction will take place on Friday even at the IMSHOF Induction Ceremony, and all delegates are encouraged to attend. The committee works with the National Office to write and submit press releases to recognize award recipients. They also continue to work to improve volunteer recognition at the local (LMSC) level.

**Records and Tabulation** (chaired by Jeanne Seidler) continued its curation of Top Ten lists and USMS Records, as well as the list of measured/certified competition courses. The committee includes the National Swims Administrator (Mary Beth Windrath) among its members. Mary Beth works with the committee to coordinate the validation and entry of USMS Records and swims entered in the National Swims database. The committee continues to formulate, refine, implement, and publish policies related to these lists and records. They have continued to contribute to the

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process of meet sanctions and recognitions this year. This year, the committee is hosting an excellent workshop to help meet hosts ensure that times swum at meets will count for Records and Top Ten submission.

In addition to acting as a liaison to the Executive Committee for the Local Operations committees, I worked to implement LMSC remediation plans in conjunction with the Zone chairs and the LMSC Development Committee. I also served this year as a member of the **IT Liaisons Group**, a task force consisting of two Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and two former Board members. This group worked with the CEO to advise the National Office on the ongoing Digital Transformation and USMS 3.0 strategies. For more information on the work impacted by this group, check out the Digital Transformation workshop.

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## Vice President of Programs

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### **Donn Livoni**

The Programs division consists of three committees (Long Distance, Officials, and Open Water). The VP of Programs serves as an *ex-officio* member of these three committees. I am extremely fortunate to have worked with a committed group of committee chairs. All three of these committees work all year as they have a continuous work cycle preparing for pool meets and open water events and championships. For details of each committee's achievements, please refer to their annual reports and join them in one of their convention meeting sessions.

The **Long Distance Committee**, chaired by Ali Hall (vice chair – Phyllis Quinn) has been responsible for selecting the ePostal and Open Water National Championship venues and providing USMS members with an outstanding experience in these events. They also have the responsibility of administering Part 3 of the rulebook.

The **Officials Committee**, chaired by Teri White (vice chair – Herb Schwab) have volunteered at countless USMS pool meets. The committee designed and will be implementing a USMS Referee Certification this fall effective at the start of 2019. They are also selecting an outstanding official to receive the first USMS Service Award for Officials. Lastly, they are working with the Open Water Committee on combining certifications onto one USMS Officials Certification card.

The **Open Water Committee**, chaired by Bob Bruce (vice chair—James Kennedy) have been diligently developing and promoting open water events. They have compiled a list of development and promotional topics and are now working on strategies to implement them. The committee is continually updating the OWGTO as needed. Lastly, they are preparing materials for a training course for event hosts/event directors.

I am honored to serve USMS in a leadership position and would like to thank all of our leaders at the national, LMSC or club level.

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## Vice President of Community Services

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### Frank “Skip” Thompson

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

Committee Members – New members for 2018 are: Patrick Brennan, Lisa Dahl, Doug Fetchen, Terry Heggy, and Christine Maki.

Returning members: Scott Bay, Kenny Brisbin Chris Campbell, David Clark, Dean Hawks, Bob Jennings, Jennifer Masquelier, Erin Mathews, Crystie McGrail, Chris McPherson, Helen Naylor, Kerry O’Brien, Tim Waud, Steve Weatherman, and Laureen Welting. Ex Officio: Bill Brenner.

Meetings held: 12/11, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9, 5/14, 6/13 and 7/9. Meetings planned: 8/13

2018 Goals and Subcommittee Assignments:

1. National Coaching Clinic - Dates and Venues have been secured. The College Park Marriott Hotel and the Eppley Rec. Center at the University of Maryland (site of the 2014 Summer Nationals) from Friday, October 19 to Sunday, October 21, 2018. The Coach presenters have been selected and the information is on the USMS website and two USMS e-mail notices have gone out to the USMS membership about the clinic. Bruce Gemmell, Bo Hickey, Joel Stager, and Jack McAfee have been selected as presenters. Helen Naylor leads the sub-committee for the NCC.
2. Coach Certification – 11 Education Weekends were scheduled for 2018 year and 6 have been completed with 5 more left in the year starting 8-25-18 in Chicago. Along with Coaches Certification classes there will be ALTS certification classes and stroke clinics for both swimmers and coaches as part of these weekend packages. A coach’s clinic will be held at the conclusion of the classes and the next day a stroke clinic will be held. Blended learning has been incorporated into the Level 1 classes.
3. USMS High Performance Camp – This camp is a joint venture from the Triangle Sports Commission, the Greensboro Aquatic Center, and USMS. The dates for the camp are 8-25-18 to 8-30-18 at the Greensboro Aquatic Center. Bill Meier was selected as Head Coach and Trey Taylor, Mike Hamm, and Lisa Brown were selected as Assistant Coaches. New for the 2018 camp is the Mentee Coach program. A Mentee Coach will be selected to further develop the coaching and communication skills of the Mentee Program participant and to provide additional coaching assistance at the HPC.
4. Level 4 Certification – The Level 4 subcommittee reviewed the Level 4 Application process and changes were made and approved by the Coaches Committee. Two submissions have been received so far and one preliminary one has been received for the 2019 year. The recipients will be announced at the 2018 USAS convention in Jacksonville at the end of September 2018.
5. LMSC Communications – Kenny Brisbin is the lead on this topic and he and Bob Jennings will be surveying the needs of LMSC Coaches Chairs and sending out minutes of the monthly USMS Coaches Committee meetings. A survey was sent out to all USMS Certified coaches, receiving over 200 responses and now are in the process of extracting data using custom algorithms. Findings will be submitted to USMS Coaches committee and USMS so see how we may help the local coaches.

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6. Fitness – David Clark has volunteered to take over the Fitness subcommittee. The subcommittee is going to come up with strategies to help motivate coaches so their swimmers will participate in the three fitness series of events throughout the year. (Winter 30 Minute Swim, Summer 2K Swim, and the Fall 1 Mile Swim.
7. On Deck Coaching – Erin Mathews along with Crystie McGrail will continue to lead this project and will be responsible for setting everything up and coordinating this through Sign Up Genius at USMS National Championship meet in Indianapolis, UANA Championships in Orlando and the USAS Convention in Jacksonville in September 2018. USMS just completed a successful meet of on deck coaching at both the spring nationals in Indianapolis and the UANA Championships in Orlando and looks forward to the convention in Jacksonville.
8. Awards – Chris Campbell continues to lead this subcommittee and is a member of the USMS Recognition and Awards Committee. The Coaches Committee is responsible to select the USMS Coach of the Year and the Kerry O'Brien Grassroots Coaching Award. As of July 1, 2018 which is the deadline, the Awards Committee has 5 nominations for the USMS Coach of the Year and 7 nominations for the Kerry O'Brien Grassroots Coaching Award.
9. Publications – Terry Heggy leads this subcommittee. An average of 2 articles to 3 articles have appeared since the start of 2018 in both the Streamlines for Coaches and Streamlines for Members issues. Coaches still submit favorite workouts, drills, and ideas that are successful in the USMS Coaching community for future publications. The 2019 Publications Plan is being developed and a move toward providing more technique videos with USMS branding is planned for the 2019 year.
10. Web Workouts – Erin Mathews leads this subcommittee with assistance from Crystie McGrail. The workouts have up and running on the USMS site since the beginning of January 2018. There are seven 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. There were 15 applicants applying to write the web workouts and seven were chosen. The 7 are: Elizabeth Miller – Basic Training, Dean Hawks – Stroke and IM workouts, Mark Stori – Open Water, Trey Taylor - High Intensity Training, Emily Von Jentzen – High Volume workouts, Shauna Payne Gold - Triathlon Training, and Michael McKinley – Limited Mobility
11. International Coaching – No FINA Masters World Championships are scheduled for 2018, so no subcommittee was formed to select coaches for these events. Bob Jennings, Dean Hawks, Doug Fetchen, and Tim Waud will work together planning for the 2019 FINA Masters World Championships that will be held in South Korea. The subcommittee has decided on 2 coaches to be chosen in the next 6 months. A budget has been created and submitted to the Finance Committee with assistance from the CFO (Susan Kuhlman). The subcommittee will utilize their experiences in past FINA World Championships to plan for the event in South Korea. They will also use Richard Garza, as a resource from his experiences as Head Coach in Hungary.
12. Coaches Mentor Program - Chris McPherson is the chair of this subcommittee. The subcommittee is made up of coaches from different USMS Zones. The subcommittee will be asked to: 1. Find and vet regional certified coaches to act as mentors. 2. Create a phone list of regional mentors that can answer questions over the phone. 3. Create a plan for coaches to watch a mentor coach conduct practice or for the mentor to go to watch a coach at his/her pool. 4. Create a budget for the mentor coaches to be presented to the Finance Committee. A complete document of expectations has been completed and it's currently being reviewed by the Coaches Committee. A budget has been created for the 2019 year and will be reviewed

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by the Finance Committee before the convention.

13. ASCA World Clinic – Dates are September 4 – September 9, 2018 in Anaheim, CA. USMS is scheduled to have a booth for the 2018 World Clinic Trade Show. The dedicated Masters Track at ASCA is not scheduled for 2018.

Sports Medicine Committee (Megan Carlson, Chair; Claire Rudd Kubiak, Vice Chair)

Committee Members – New members for 2018 are: Arlette Godges, Melodee Nugent and Carlos Rodriguez.

Returning members: Megan Carlson, Sally Guthrie, Jim Izzi, Clare Rudd Kubiak, Dr. Jim Miller MD, Jane Moore, Jessica Seaton, Eduard Tiozzo, and Robin Tracy. Ex Officio: Daniel Paulling.

Meetings held: 12/17, 1/21, 2/18, 3/12, 4/16, and 6/24. Meeting Planned: TBD before Convention.

2018 Goals and Subcommittee Assignments:

1. USAS Convention Presentation – Due to the success of the 2016 Sports Medicine Presentation with Dr. Tanaka, plans were made to have him accept an invitation to speak at the convention in Jacksonville. He agreed and Meg Carlson and Clare Rudd Kubiak are handling all of the details and will follow up with progress to the committee. A topic of interest is a Sports Injury project with new research findings utilizing the “Go the Distance” program metrics to gather sports injury data.
2. Sports Medicine Blog – In the past year, a non-interactive Sports Medicine Committee directed Blog to dispense sports medicine related articles and studies have proven successful. Jessica Seaton is highly involved with the blog, posting a variety of topics related to swimming, health and nutrition. The blog is updated regularly with a focus on current topics in research and the media. Jim Izzi will assist with this when the new website is launched.
3. Exercise & Pregnancy Project – Ben Kogutt MD, a maternal fetal medicine specialist and 1<sup>st</sup> year fellow at John Hopkins University is doing a survey and getting opinions of swimmers given birth/training while pregnant & postpartum. Selection of swimmers would be within the more recent time frame. Work in conjunction with the Coaches Committee. The goal is for this to get started soon and a report of progress will be made before convention.
4. Nationals Booth – Carlos Rodriguez leads this project. Carlos and Meg Carlson set up space at the IUPUI Natatorium during the 2018 Spring Nationals between the warm up pool and the competition pool for great exposure to all participants. Dryland stations were set up for swimmers to use and they got instruction and feedback to help aid in their swimming. Injury prevention specializing in strength and stretch workouts was the theme.
5. The SMC is looking at ideas for the launch of a comprehensive report on the health benefits of swimming that Swim England commissioned. Swim England is the NGB for swimming in England and is separate from British Swimming, which has more of a competitive elite focus. The NGB goal is providing and publicizing the benefits of swimming to further its mission focusing on learn to swim, enjoying water safety, and competing in aquatic sports. Create programs that enable everyone to be active, have fun, and stay healthy.

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

Committee Members – New members for 2018 are: Stephanie Gauzens and Andy Seibt.

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Returning members: Stacy Broncucia, Brigit Bunch, Anita Cole, Kelly Davis, Karen Gernert, Fares Ksebat, Ann Marshfield Lisa Ward, Lisa Watson, Karin Wegner and Ken Winterberger. Ex Officio: Kyle Deery.

Meetings held: 5/29

Several USMS National Office initiatives for the 2018 year have been started for which Fitness Committee input would be helpful and items already in progress from 2017 have already been incorporated in 2018 to help with this strategy. An overview of a strategy for a fitness initiative has been defined and Fitness Committee members have chosen to participate in 4 sub-groups and these will be used as resources as research and development starts and proceeds for the program throughout the 2018/2019 year. The 4 sub-groups are defined below:

1. Fitness Initiative - A group to serve as a sounding board on the research and development that we are undertaking over the next 6-8 months.
2. (Fitness) Events - A group to look at our electronic Postals and GTD events and determine which should be looked at as 'fitness' vs. 'long distance'. For fitness events that are underperforming from a participation standpoint, and whether we should continue them as programs with adjustments to improve participation. With the knowledge gained this could be a group that researches and recommends new fitness oriented programs (i.e. 30 minute swim that is being implemented in 2018).
3. Fitness Swimming Technology - (e.g. FLOGS, Virtual Swims, mobile applications, etc.) - What do our members want? What is attractive to a prospective member that doesn't plan on competing?
4. Fitness Research/Education/Marketing- Research and provide recommendation fitness related content and marketing. How can we condense the benefits of swimming exclusively for fitness (i.e. not competitive) in simple messaging? Possibly include a sports medicine committee liaison with this group to provide technical/medical input. Example: Orange Theory<<https://www.orangetheoryfitness.com/>> is franchise interval fitness training program that is expanding rapidly. From their website: ' Backed by Science: Our heart-rate monitored, high-intensity workout is scientifically designed to keep heart rates in a target zone that spikes metabolism and increases energy. We call it the after burn'. In conjunction with Sports Medicine expertise, can we develop this type of messaging to support the benefits of swimming in USMS programs.

2018 Ongoing Projects and Assignments:

1. The Fitness Committee approved to create and start a Winter, Summer, and Fall Fitness Challenge swims to encourage participation from fitness swimmers. The 30 minute swim was completed from 2-15 to 2-28-18 and had 1273 participants. The Summer Fitness 2K Swim challenge was completed from July 15 to July 31 and had 848 participants. The 1 mile swim is scheduled for the fall from November 15 thru 30<sup>th</sup>. These events will be pre-registered before the swim and the participation window to enter and complete the event is 14 days and the events have been run by the USMS National Office. These events have a fundraising component, with the majority of the registration fees going to the Swimming Saves Lives foundation or a local charity for the summer and fall fitness series.
2. Go The Distance Program – There are 2,304 swimmers registered in the program for 2018.
3. LMSC Communication with LMSC Fitness Chairs on ideas that are being done with success at LMSC level. Two successful LMSC Development Per to Per Conference Calls have been completed on the interest and promotion of the 3 USMS Fitness Series.

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4. 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.

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## Secretary

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### **Greg Danner**

This was my first year serving on the Board of Directors and it was a tremendous experience. I am inspired by the dedication of our volunteers and the tireless efforts of our National Office. I want to thank the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and the National Office staff for their support and guidance during my tenure. I believe that USMS is improving every year and will continue along a positive path. Thank you to all the delegates, coaches, volunteers, and contributors at the local and national level for making this organization successful.

My activities for the past year included taking the minutes for all the Executive Committee and Board of Directors conference calls, as well as in person meetings: one BOD meeting after the convention, as well as the Winter and Summer BOD meetings. After the distribution of minutes and their subsequent approval, I posted them to the website. I want to thank my predecessor, Chris Colburn, for spearheading the movement of online recording of our conference calls; it is a valuable resource that often improves the accuracy of the minutes. Additionally, I worked with committee and task force chairs to post their meeting minutes to the website.

I am excited for the Convention and the second year of my term. I will continue to serve to the best of my ability. Together, we will help USMS reach new heights!

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## Treasurer

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### **Ralph Davis**

Financial condition: Our financial condition as of June 30, 2017 is very healthy with reserves in excess of \$4.2M.

There are three major reasons for this unprecedented health:

- USMS is well managed in a fiscally conservative manner.
- Investment portfolio (as of 7/31/18) has grown \$50,108 for 2018 and \$1,127,825 since its inception in February, 2011.
- We are in the fourth 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, Kerkering, Barberio & Co of Sarasota, Florida, 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 ninth 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 2017 Financial Statements are complete and the certified audited financial report will be available on our website by the end of August. The USMS tax return for 2017 is completed and approved by the Board and will be filed with the IRS by August 15th.

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## Immediate Past President

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### Nadine Day

I am honored to be able to continue to serve the USMS membership. I have always made it my priority to keep the members first. **#MembersFirst**

As one of my roles as immediate past president, I serve on the Diversity and Inclusion task force as the president's liaison. Under the leadership of Sarah Welch, I am proud that the Diversity and Inclusion might become a new standing committee. This direction will help ensure that we continue to make strides in providing opportunities for all.

As a USMS member, I was appointed to serve on the SSL and the Recognition and Awards committee. Both of these committees help promote swimming and reward adults for their dedication from learning to swim and serving the masters community. **#USMSVolunteers**

I am excited about the Convention Task Force, we are focusing on streamlining convention and providing more meaningful opportunities for attendees. We all know volunteering requires sacrifices and our time is a precious commodity. We have to decide what it is WORTH. It is not about money, records and medals. It is about giving more, sharing our gifts and giving to the aquatic sports. It is about making opportunities for others. We have to make sure members have a voice and have adequate resources to be successful. **#ForwardProgress #ChangeisGood**

I also serve the Masters community as the athlete representative on the UANA Masters Technical Committee. We hosted the UANA Masters America's Cup OW Championships and the most recent UANA Pan American Masters Championships. The UANA Masters Technical committee's goal is to increase masters participation across the Americas (Canada, US, Caribbean/Central America and South America) in ALL disciplines: Swimming, Diving, Artistic/Synchro, Water Polo and Open Water. **#2020Medellin PanAm Masters Championships**

Besides serving the Masters community, I was appointed as the USAS Athlete Mentor by USAS President Steve McFarland. This year, we are proposing legislation to have athletes serve on the USAS Board. We are also encouraging athlete representation at all levels of the aquatic community from club, local, regional, national and worldwide. We want to make it a priority for athletes to have a voice and representation. We hosted an athletes' meeting with USA Synchro, USA Diving, USA Water Polo and USA Swimming in conjunction with the USAS Mid year meeting and USA Swimming AEC. These athletes are the future of our organizations.

In 2019, I will have a new role with USAS and will be helping with the USAS Convention for 2019, 2020 and 2021. For the past 20 years, we have had a dedicated group of VOLUNTEERS: Ellaine Cox, Deb Turner, Margaret Donofrio, Bob & Helen Brown, Paul & Mary Beth Windrath, and Gay Wright. They will be retiring and this will be their last convention with exception of Gay. When you see them please thank them. They have done an amazing job. MAHALO USAS Convention Committee! USAS Convention is Celebrating 40 years!!

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## Legal Counsel

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### **Maria Elias-Williams**

In my third year as USMS' Legal Counsel, I continue to be most impressed by the dedication of staff and volunteers who explore all aspects of issues within their given task.

We pro-actively address and try to balance the rights and needs of all members, seeking input from our entire swim community. We also continue to build upon the guidelines to minimize any potential threats to our tax-exempt status. I have frequent telephone conferences with staff, Board members and other volunteers, as well as occasional outside counsel, to keep issues that arise at low risk. I have also reviewed numerous contracts during this past year. 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.