



CJ Rushman – Great Lakes Candidate At-Large

The Election Committee has deemed that CJ Rushman is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated he is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his tenure in office.

The candidate was nominated by Meg Smath and received letters of recommendation from Meg Smath and Timothy Hart, in accordance with our Election Operating Guidelines. These letters follow the questionnaire.

The candidate provided the following responses on the Candidate Questionnaire/Consent-To-Run Form:

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

1998 – Cincinnati, Ohio
2001 – Louisville, Kentucky
2002 – Dallas, Texas
2004 – Orlando, Florida
2005 – Greensboro, North Carolina
2006 – Dearborn, Michigan
2007 – Anaheim, California
2009 – Chicago, Illinois
2010 – Dallas, Texas
2011 – Jacksonville, Florida
2012 – Greensboro, North Carolina
2013 – Anaheim, California

III. Section Three: Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

I believe that the leadership experience I have gained in the corporate world combined with the experience of serving USMS will make a good combination for providing leadership to the organization. My background in compliance and project management within managing organizations, both large and small, through periods of change will be of great value in the role of Great Lakes Zone At Large Director as USMS continues to move through its current period of change. I have been very involved with USMS for the past four years as Corporate Secretary and I would like to continue to contribute more as a member of the Board of Directors.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future? As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

Probably the most crucial issue is dealing with growing pains as our organization expands. As membership is increasing, managing the day-to-day operations has become more complex. As we are continuing to transition from a volunteer based organization to a business with a paid leadership staff, we have some hurdles to overcome with some elements of the general membership. Attention must be paid to the varying levels of participation types, whether or not it fits into personal goals, aiming for the success of the organization as a whole.

At the same time, we must not alienate our core membership—growth for growth's sake will wind up disappointing both current and future members. Increasing our membership must be an outgrowth of us getting the message out that USMS has something to offer for everyone. In other words, marketing our brand is absolutely fundamental. We need to tell the outside world about ourselves. We also need to listen to what the active adult population is asking for, and if necessary and feasible, be willing to adapt to meet those needs. And we need to provide more services to our non-competitive members, while maintaining our commitment to those who do compete. If elected, I would gather and evaluate information, and make appropriate recommendations and decisions.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

- USMS Corporate Secretary served from 2009-2013.
- Information Technology (IT) Liaison to the Board of Directors – Oversaw the production of the development of the In-house registration system for USMS.
- Ex-Officio to Coaches Committee – 2012 – present. Served under Scott Bay.
- Championship Committee, 2002 – 2009. Served under Mark Moore. Meet Liaison to USMS Short Course Nationals at University of Texas, Austin TX 2008.
- Communications Committee, 2001–2003.
- Publications Committee (previously Rule Book Committee), 2002–2009 Served under Meg Smath and Susan Ehringer.

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

- Swim Kentucky Masters Team President: 2009 – present
- KY LMSC Secretary: 2013 – present
- Ohio LMSC Chair: 2001-2007
- Ohio LMSC Secretary: 1999-2007
- Ohio LMSC Vice Chair: 2009 – 2013
- Ohio LMSC Fitness and Safety Officer: 2007-2009
- Founder and President of Anderson Barracuda Masters (Cincinnati Ohio) 1996- present.
- Served as meet director for both the winter AB Invitational and the summer Splash and Dash meet.
- YMCA- USA-certified swimming official; serving as referee, and stroke and turn judge. Also worked numerous Masters and high school meets in Cincinnati.
- American Swimming Coaches Association/USMS Certified Coach Level 3

Please list any other information you would like included.

- Developed and Editor of Team Newsletter as well OHIO LMSC newsletter, The Starting Block.
- Age Group Coach – Anderson Barracudas/ M.E. Lyons YMCA Represented Team as Public Relations contact with news media.
- Swam collegiately at the University of Cincinnati.(1989-1994)
- Served in the United States Military, 10 years of Active duty and reserve duty combined.

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

Swimming has been a major part of my life for over 30 years. I have continually served my team, LMSCs (KY & OH), and USMS for nearly 20 years.

March 28, 2014

Cheryl Gettelfinger
Chair, USMS Election Committee

Dear Cheryl,

I am pleased to nominate C.J. Rushman for the position of Great Lakes Zone Director.

I have known C.J. since he attended Nationals with his new Kentucky teammates for the first time in Ann Arbor in 1996. By the time those Nationals ended, I felt like I had known C.J. for decades rather than days. He is easy-going, pleasant, and willing to work hard. He cheerfully plunged right into helping put together relays, a thankless job if there ever was one, and has continued to help with this and many other tasks ever since. Whenever I have asked C.J. to help, and whatever I have asked him to help with, he has done it without hesitation. And as his résumé shows, he has helped with a wide range of tasks.

C.J. is president of Swim Kentucky Masters and has been an integral part of our club's success, both at Nationals and back home on the local level. He is secretary of the Kentucky LMSC, and as chair of the LMSC, I have had an excellent working relationship with him as we have gone about the LMSC's business. He is always there, always on time, and always completes his tasks quickly, yet thoroughly. Our LMSC could not ask for a better officer.

He has excellent organizational skills, which have served him well in his duties, but in my mind, his greatest attribute is his ability to work with and get along with everybody. I have honestly never met anyone who doesn't like him!

When I was nearing the end of my final term as USMS secretary, I asked C.J. if he would consider running to succeed me. I knew he would be a tremendous asset for the organization, and that certainly proved to be the case. He still had that desire to serve at the end of his two terms as secretary, and so the Great Lakes Zone put forward his name to the Board of Directors for appointment to serve the final year of Phil Dodson's term after Phil was elected treasurer of USMS last year. As expected, C.J. has done a wonderful job as a director, and is most deserving of being elected to a full term. I wholeheartedly recommend him for this position and look forward to his continued contributions at all levels of USMS.

I give my permission for this letter to be published in the HOD packet.

Sincerely,

Meg Smath

25 March 2014

To: USMS Election committee

Subject: Recommendation for CJ Rushman as Great Zone At-Large Director Position

CJ Rushman has been my primary source of information and knowledge in Masters swimming for the last seven years. Ever since I first joined in Masters swimming, CJ has always been there to give me great information based on years and years of swimming knowledge and Masters Experience. He has embodied what every Masters swimmer should become.

He has every intention of swimming until his dying day. He wants nothing else but to swim and have fun doing it. He wants everyone around him to understand and feel the experiences he's had in Masters swimming. He knows that Masters swimming is the best and most enjoyable way to stay fit and active as we all grow older. He loves training in the water, he loves racing in the water, he loves to coach on deck, and he loves participating in USMS administration beyond the pool. His positive attitude and knowledge of how USMS administration works was the main reason I have enjoyed conducting Masters Administration in Ohio.

His ability to inspire new and old Masters Swimmers and his ability to increase everyone's enjoyment in swimming are his best traits. He has inspired me to become a better Masters participant through a positive attitude and through a strong desire to help others enjoy it. He knows that it's just not about performance in the water. He knows that Masters swimming is about staying fit and having fun while doing it.

He knows that it's about the special relationships we forge with other USMS members. There should be no question in CJ's motivation and enjoyment in USMS. We should all strive to enjoy Masters swimming like CJ. Once he sees a solution, he will move forward quickly to get the job done right. The Great Lakes Zone At-Large Director position is a busy job and CJ has the background and motivation to do it with success.

I give my permission for this letter to be published in the HOD packet.

Sincerely,

Timothy Hart

Tim Hart
Director of Competitive Swimming
M.E. Lyons YMCA
Cincinnati, OH 45230