



Dan Wegner – Southwest Candidate At-Large

The Election Committee has deemed that Dan Wegner 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 Robert E. Mitchell and received letters of recommendation from Robert E. Mitchell and Karin Wegner, 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:

2000, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

III. Section Three: Questions

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

I am interested in the position because USMS is a great organization and I want to help tightly integrate the work that is being done in the Southwest Zone and Southern Pacific LMSC with the Executive Board's decisions. As the Southern Pacific Registrar, Southern Pacific Webmaster and Southwest Zone Webmaster I have worked very hard on membership service and effective communication. I look forward to continuing to improve the work I have done and helping volunteer on national committees.

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?

I consider the major issues facing USMS are sustained membership growth, keeping expenses low especially in the face of rising insurance costs, and effective communication. I know the board members of USMS are working on all of these issues, but I am eager to help carry the burden, too. In general I believe sustained membership growth will come from effective marketing by the National Office and great volunteer support at the local level. Insurance costs are higher now than they were two years ago, but all expenses should be reviewed to make sure the most is being made from each membership dollar. Effective communication starts at the top and is a commitment each board must make beyond the estimated commitment hours. Each board member must listen to not only to every delegate, but also the entire USMS membership.

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:

Since 2007 I have attended every Registrar meeting I was invited to attend, initially as the programmer of the USMS online registration system (I was not allowed to be on the committee) and in 2010 I became the Southern Pacific Registrar and attended the meetings representing Southern Pacific.

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

As stated previously, for the past 5 years I have been the Southern Pacific Registrar, Southern Pacific Webmaster and Southwest Zone Webmaster. I also built the first USMS online registration system and worked with the national office for hundreds of hours a year.

Please list any other information you would like included.

I have been awarded the USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Award and the Southern Pacific Masters Swimming Jim Marcus Service Award for my work as a volunteer both at the national and local levels.

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

Thankfully the role of the Directors At-Large is documented and provides a great starting point. However, I know the most challenging work is often what is not documented. To mitigate the learning curve, I have spoken with current Southwest Zone Director At-Large Phil Whitten about the work he is doing and has done in fulfilling his role. Phil is very passionate about the wonderful organization of USMS and he encouraged me to seek nomination. He was already familiar with the work I have done for USMS, Southern Pacific and the Southwest Zone and I want to help even more to promote the mission of USMS. As everyone who knows me will readily acknowledge, I am a huge proponent of communication. I look forward to all of the roles of Director At-Large and especially communicating with the USMS Delegates who are the lifeblood of the organization.

Nomination for Southwest Zone At-Large Director Dan Wegner

I, Robert E Mitchell, hereby nominate Dan Wegner as Southwest Zone At-Large Director.

I recommend Dan Wegner for Southwest Zone At-Large Director. Dan has been the Southern Pacific (SPMS) LMSC Registrar and an active volunteer since 2010. During that time Dan has shepherded multiple improvements and cost saving measures, and nurtured growth in SPMS. He has gone above and beyond his role duties to provide exceptional service to the members of the SPMS LMSC.

Growth: Dan has been at the helm as Registrar for the growth of SPMS membership to over 4900 members which has enabled SPMS to send an additional delegate to the USMS Convention. In addition, club registrations have increased by 25% from 79 clubs in 2010 to 100 clubs in 2013.

Cost-Saving: Dan found a new conference call solution which saved the LMSC ~\$130/month in conference call fees. Dan helped steer the LMSC to a primarily electronic newsletter which saved the LMSC ~\$1,300 every issue.

Communications: Dan worked to bring online registration from 78% to 97.5% by making members more aware of the online registration option. Dan created an SPMS Welcome Packet for all of SPMS Clubs which was so popular that the national office has now taken on the task for the whole country.

Marketing: Dan volunteered to coordinate design and purchasing of marketing materials including SPMS convention delegate shirts for 2011, 2012, 2013, SPMS Swim Caps, Stickers and Decals, Baseball Caps, Post-It Notes, and luggage tags. Dan ordered two sets of USMS and SPMS Banners for display at pool meets, open water swims, and clinics. Dan created the new SPMS web page "Marketing Materials" with information for swimmers, coaches, club reps, and committee members.

Policies and Procedures: Dan has begun and contributed to multiple new policies and procedures including the following: Meet Administrator Guidelines, Open Water Event Host Guidelines, Open Water Referee position and Open Water Coordinator.

Webmaster: Dan volunteered his time as webmaster and rebuilt the SPMS website both functionally and design-wise with a back-end database supporting all the activities of the LMSC, especially the calendar and swim events. The website was awarded a "USMS Website of the Month". Dan designed and posted the new Perennial Calendar. Dan coordinated the switch from SPMA.net to SPMasterSwim.org for website and email hosting. Dan is also the volunteer webmaster for the Southwest Zone.

Every member of the LMSC and any potential member has benefited because of the improved communications Dan has implemented. In addition, the policies and procedures Dan has shepherded will help members for many years to come.

I give permission for this letter to be published.

Recommendation for Southwest Zone At-Large Director Dan Wegner

I, Karin Wegner, recommend Dan Wegner for Southwest Zone At-Large Director. Dan passionately believes in the mission of USMS. I work next to Dan on a daily basis and we discuss all of his projects for Southern Pacific (SPMS) LMSC and the Southwest Zone.

When Dan first took over the role of SPMS LMSC Registrar and Webmaster, he brought all his experience in building websites and immediately identified hundreds of improvements which needed to be made to the old SPMS website. All of the improvements fell under what he described as “communicating to the membership”. He explained if the membership could not find a piece of information at midnight, their perception of service would be negatively impacted. Over the course of 3 months he completely rebuilt the SPMS website. Every time he received a phone call or an email from a member he would go to the website and see if he could follow a path which would answer their question. If he could not find a logical path to the information, he would make one. The website is fantastic now and the LMSC even received recognition from USMS.

Dan still gets phone calls from members who for various reasons are not able to find the information on the website. Sometimes they do not have a computer and sometimes English is a second language to them. Dan takes extra time making sure they have all their questions answered and if they need website information mailed to them, he will print it out and mail it to them.

Dan is always volunteering for SPMS sub-committees. He has volunteered for every SPMS Committee which needed help including the Budget Committee, Planning Committee, and Swim Meet Results Committee. He knows the more he understands about the needs of SPMS, the more he can facilitate the communication within SPMS up to the USMS National Office, across to the committee members and down to the coaches and swimmers.

Something most people may not know about Dan is how he is constantly working to make software which accommodates the thousands of unique requests which benefit USMS. Philosophically Dan does not believe that people need to conform to software. Dan believes that software needs to conform to the needs of the people. Dan will spend hours changing the programming on websites so that the software is more intuitive, has better cross-references and ultimately provides better service. USMS is not the same as any other governing body and he is always listening to the unique needs of every coach, meet host, open water host and member.

Karin Wegner
USMS Member

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