

III. Section Three: Questions

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

I continue to be interested in the office of USMS Secretary because I firmly believe in giving back to the sport that has had such a positive impact on my life. Besides the obvious health and wellness benefits of swimming, Masters Swimming has given me lasting friendships and an extended family of like-minded individuals who are passionate about participating in and giving back to the sport we love. I am honored to serve among their ranks.

Apart from the experience gained in my first term, I believe I would make a good candidate because I maintain a deep interest in the strategic and operational workings of U.S. Masters Swimming. As Secretary, I am and would continue to be honored to work with all levels of our volunteer infrastructure and our staff to bring about a better future for our sport. In my "day job" as an IT professional, I have extensive experience with compiling and organizing meeting notes, project plans, and documentation to ensure the success of our team and corporate operations. As a linguist with a background in writing, I have done research on developing effective communication for a myriad of audiences. As a long-time coach and volunteer, I understand both the operational and functional processes of the office. I have formed good working relationships with many members of both the volunteer and staff leadership that will facilitate my ability to continue the work I have accomplished in my first term.

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?

With respect to the first question, three major issues I see for USMS include member retention, management of insurance costs for our events, and the evolution of roles within our volunteer infrastructure. We have done a great job attracting new members to Masters Swimming in the past few years. If we want to grow our membership more consistently, we need to continue to strengthen the products and services that keep those members coming back while identifying new initiatives to bring aquatic fitness to a wider audience of adults. As our insurance costs rise, we must take steps to mitigate our risks by developing processes to run safer, efficient, and fun events while finding ways to manage the increasing costs. As we better define the roles of the National Office staff, we need to continue our efforts to include, engage, and recognize the similarly evolving roles of the passionate volunteers who wish to devote their time and talents to U.S. Masters Swimming.

On the second question, as a person holding an elected office within USMS, I would continue to identify and implement ways to focus our programs on a two-pronged approach that addresses both membership growth and member retention. As your Secretary, I will continue to work diligently with the Board of Directors, the National Office, and the Masters Swimming community both to manage costs and processes as effectively as possible while helping define clear, engaging roles for our volunteers.

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:

Board of Directors:

Secretary, September 2013 – present (Nadine Day, President)

Coaches Committee:

2000 (Scott Rabalais, Chair)

2007 – May 2008 (Vice Chair; Mo Chambers, Chair)

June 2008 – 2010 (Chair; Chuck Burr, Scott Bay, Kerry O'Brien, Vice Chairs)

2011 (Craig Keller, Chair)

Registration Committee:

2014 (Leo Letendre, Chair)

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

Head Coach, Delaware Swim Team Old Dawgs, 1996-1999

Pilot Coordinator, Colonies Zone Regional On-Deck Coaching Program, 1999

USMS On-Deck Coaching Coordinator, 2000, 2007-2010

Illinois LMSC Vice Chair, 2005-2009

Illinois LMSC Webmaster/IT Director, 2005-2011

Head Coach, Academy Bullets Masters, 2006-present

USMS Club Development Task Force, 2008-2009

Illinois LMSC Chair, 2009-2011
Illinois LMSC/ILMSA Coach of the Year, 2009
USMS Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award, 2009
USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Award, 2009
Allegheny Mountain LMSC Vice-Chair, 2011
USMS Discussion Forums Task Force, 2014
USMS Discussion Forums Moderator, 2014-present

Please list any other information you would like included.

When I'm not hanging out with my kids, coaching, swimming, or working with technology, my hobbies include driving (especially Blue Mustangs); cycling (on- and off-road); watching reruns (*Dr. Who* is a current favorite); checking out new and different eateries; and NEVER wearing a red shirt on an away mission.

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

In addition to coaching Masters swimmers for over 25 years, I have worked actively at the local, regional, and national levels in three different LMSCs over the past 17 years, and most recently am finishing my first term as USMS Secretary. I have given back to Masters Swimming wherever possible in coaching, leadership, and communications-related roles, and hope to continue to do so. I have a deep interest in the strategic and operational workings of U.S. Masters Swimming. My experiences with technology, linguistics, and coaching have given me the organizational, communications, and strategic thinking skills to succeed in this position. If I am re-elected Secretary, I will continue to work with all levels of our staff and volunteer infrastructure to bring about a better future for our sport.