

2016 USAS Convention
Atlanta, Georgia
Ozark Delegate – Mary Pohlmann, LMSC Chair

It was a privilege to represent the Ozark LMSC as a U.S Masters Swimming delegate to the 2016 United States Aquatic Sports Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia, September 21-25, 2016.

In addition to attending all of the House of Delegates sessions, I attended the meetings of my two committees - Officials and Sports Medicine and Science. I attended the following other meetings: Breadbasket Zone, the Sports Medicine presentation, the LMSC Workshop on Adult Learn to Swim Month, the LMSC Workshop on the new USMS Officials Certification program, and the Round Table Lunch for LMSC Chairs. I also attended the USAS Welcome Reception, the National Women in Aquatics breakfast, the LMSC Social, the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and the USAS Banquet.

Full minutes of the USMS Convention are posted on the USMS website:
<http://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/index.php?GROUPID=&EVENTID=75>

We were introduced to the new CEO of U.S. Masters Swimming, Dawson Hughes, and a new Strategic Plan for the future of USMS.

Here are some highlights from the meetings I attended.

The Breadbasket Zone Championships for 2016 is to be hosted by Missouri Valley November 5-6 in Gladstone, MO. Ozark will host in the Zone Championships, April 1-2, 2017, in Edwardsville, IL. The Breadbasket Zone has a Facebook page and will develop a simple web page.

The Officials Committee is rolling out a USMS Officials credentialing process using the USA Swimming tests and videos online. So far Stroke and Turn and Starter certification is available. For details go to <http://www.usms.org/admin/lmschb/content/officialscert>

The Sports Medicine and Science Committee recommending deleting from the rulebook the requirement for a physical exam immediately prior to competition. This change in the rules was recommended to the Rules Committee and passed by the House of Delegates. A most entertaining and informative talk regarding Sports Medicine research on Masters swimming was presented by Dr Tanaka of University of Texas.

Our own Thomas Maine was inducted in the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame in a special ceremony with his family, teammates and supporters from the aquatics community. Our registrar, Diann Bauer, received the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award and Saluki Masters swim coach, Clay Kolar, received the Kerry O'Brien Coaches award. We also learned that the Saluki Masters Swim Club will receive a Swimming Saves Lives grant to continue the free Adult Learn to Swim classes that were started in Carbondale this summer. The amount of the grant has not yet been announced.

The 2017 USMS Spring Nationals will be in Riverside, CA, April 27-30, 2017 and the 2017 Summer Nationals will be in Minneapolis, MN, August 2-6, 2017. The 2018 USMS Spring Nationals will be in Indianapolis, IN. Instead of a Summer Nationals, USMS will promote the Pan American Masters Championship that will be held in Orlando, FL, July 28-August 3, 2018.

The USMS portion of individual memberships will increase \$2 in 2017 to \$41 and will continue to increase \$2 per year for a total of five years. This means for SLAM members the 2017 dues will be \$58, unless eligible for discount. Members of clubs with no club fee and unattached members will pay \$51 in 2017. Club registration and workout group registration was increased from \$25 to \$41 for 2017. Relay entry fees for USMS Nationals will be increased from \$12 per relay to \$16.

The most contentious issue in the budget was the institution of a fee of \$100 for USMS recognized events. These are meets in which non-USMS members participate, but USMS members' times may be accepted for the USMS database of times, Top Ten and records. This new fee passed the House of Delegates by only 7 votes. The LMSC will be billed by USMS. It is assumed that these costs will be passed on by the LMSC to event hosts. Apparently, USMS may provide funds to provide partial waivers of the recognition fee to LMSCs who cannot afford these additional costs, but such waiver is not guaranteed and would be after the fact. Ozark had two recognized events in 2016, the Four Rivers YMCA Adult Meet and the St Louis Senior Olympics.

The 2017 USAS Convention will be held in Dallas, TX, September 13-17, 2017. St Louis will host the convention in 2019 (Sept 11-15) at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch.