

Convention Report Dallas Sept 2017

Convention, as always, covered many diverse subjects.

The insurance welcome Wednesday night was busy with everyone talking and catching up with old friends. To everyone's dismay, they ran out of food, like they did last year!

Thursday brought the opening house of delegates meeting, where they made introductions and a quick summary of what to expect. We moved right into announcements, nominations and the CEO Dawson Hughes update from the year. There was mention of the loss of membership this year, which affects our budget, and the mention of the continued \$2 increase for the next two years. A thinly veiled comment or two indicated there will be a fee increase forthcoming, after the last one expires.

The afternoon slated the candidates and let them speak to their nomination. Bruce Hopson was slated for secretary representing Ozark.

We all had fun at Dick's BBQ hosted by North Texas LMSC that evening.

Friday we had elections and Bruce was a strong candidate, but Greg Danner won. A run-off election was needed for the VP for Administration, with Peter Guadagni ultimately winning.

Awards were presented by the Recognition and Awards committee. Maryanne Barkley from Ozark won the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service award.

There were workshops presented by the committees in a fun fashion, to encourage and teach, to make us more aware of their committees, and how to make our LMSC stronger.

The rest of Friday discussed potential changes in some rules, legislations and long distance. Items were pulled...the most contentious being can one 'rest' on a buoy or boat in the middle of an open water race. (it passed, twice, after being voted on, reopened and voted on again).

Almost every committee spoke Saturday morning with a brief review of their year. Nationals were awarded to diverse areas of the country with the spring nationals in 2020 being the wild card, as it is USMS' 50th GALA year.

We finished the afternoon with the review and votes of the potential changes of Long Distance, Rules, Legislation and Budget approval.

We closed around 5pm, and went on to the USAS Banquet, where, as always a good time was had by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Payne