

**2018 USAS Convention  
Jacksonville, Florida  
September 27-29, 2018  
Delegate—Bruce E. Hopson**

I attended the Annual Meeting of U.S. Masters' Swimming, Inc., held at the United States Aquatics Sports Convention, September 27-29, 2018, in Jacksonville, Florida. Although I was not one of the two official Ozark LMSC delegates, I was there nevertheless because of my automatic delegate status as a member of the USMS Legislation Committee.

In addition to attending all sessions of the House of Delegates ("HOD"), I attended both sessions of the Legislation Committee. Although much of the work is done throughout the year via telephone conferences, the committee still needs to meet at the annual meeting to gather input from other delegates, answer questions, and make necessary changes. This is my first year on the committee.

Additionally, I attended the meeting for the Breadbasket Zone, to which Ozark belongs. The zone designated the 2019 Nebraska State Meet as the 2019 Zone Meet. Finally, the Zone continued its discussion on the concept of having a virtual zone meet. The idea is that each of the LMSCs would conduct separate meets within short window and then submit all the times to place and score as if one meet took place.

I attended the following workshops: Understanding and Engaging Volunteers—Survey Results from the Volunteer Survey, and Digital Transformation—USMS 3.0, as well as the Sport Medicine Presentation presented by Dr. Tanaka on research on the health benefits as they apply to Masters swimmers.

I also attended the separate event, the LGBTQ Affinity group breakfast sponsored by USA-S's Diversity & Inclusion and Safe Sport Committee. The featured speaker was a local coach and former swimmer and LGBTQ activist who identifies as lesbian. She spoke on her experiences in coming out as a swimmer in Danville, Illinois, where she grew up, and the difficulties of being true to herself, but at the same time not becoming a disruption for the teams she coached.

Finally, I attended all of the HOD meetings where the bulk of the work of the meeting takes place. As an even year, USMS elects from the zones each of the directors-at-large for the Board of Directors. I served that position from 2012-2016. After it became apparent that no one from our zone planned to run (my successor, Tom Moore of the Minnesota LMSC, chose not to seek a second term), I agreed to run so the seat would not be vacant. Subsequent to my filing, Carrie Stolar from the Minnesota LMSC submitted her intention to run. The HOD elected her instead. The rest of the results were as follows: Dan Cox (Great Lakes), Ed Coates (South Central) ran unopposed and were reelected; and Jeff Strahota (Colonies), Mattie Sibelia (Dixie), Matt Miller (Northwest), Chris Campbell (Oceana), and Teddy Decker (Southwest) were elected to their first of two possible two-year terms.

Also in the HOD, the Championship Committee awarded the 2020 USMS Spring Nationals to San Antonio, Texas (April 23-26). The meet will also be a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of U.S. Masters Swimming. The committee had previously awarded the 2020 Summer Nationals to Richmond, Virginia (August 13-16). The 2019 Spring Nationals will be

May 25-28, in Mesa, Arizona, and the 2019 Summer Nationals will be held August 13-16 in Mission Viejo, California.

Full minutes for the USMS Annual Meeting can be found on the USMS website:  
[www.usms.org/admin/minutes/index.php?GROUPID=&EVENTID=84](http://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/index.php?GROUPID=&EVENTID=84)