

**2011 USAS Convention  
Jacksonville, FL  
Ozark Delegate – Mary Pohlmann**

It was a privilege to represent the Ozark LMSC as a U.S Masters Swimming delegate to the 2011 United States Aquatic Sports Convention.

In addition to attending all of the House of Delegates sessions, I presented one of the workshops on officiating Masters swim meets. I attended the following other meetings: Breadbasket Zone, Officials Committee, Meet the Candidates Forum, Legislation Committee Open Forum, Sports Medicine and Science Committee, Registrar's Roundtable, Dryland/Coaches Presentation, the LMSC Workshop, and the Sports Medicine presentation. I also attended the USAS Banquet which is held to celebrate contributors and athletes in all five of the disciplines that meet together at the Convention.

Full minutes are posted on the USMS website:

<http://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/index.php?GROUPID=&EVENTID=22>

Here are some highlights from the meetings I attended.

Richard "Hap" Gentry received the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award in recognition for his many years of dedicated service to the Ozark LMSC. Congratulations, Hap.

Nadine Day from Illinois was elected President of USMS for the next two years.

In the Breadbasket Zone meeting, Ozark offered to hold the 2012 Zone Championship in St Louis, probably March 31-April 1<sup>st</sup> at Marquette High School.

The Officials Committee is continuing to work on a Masters Officials credentialing process that will not require an official to be a certified USA Swimming, YMCA or NCAA Official in order to be fully qualified to official Masters meets. I am a member of the Officials Committee.

The Sports Medicine and Science Committee of which I am also a member discussed providing health screenings at Nationals rather than lectures which have been poorly attended. The Sports Medicine talk at convention was about the Pathstar Alcatraz swim program which encourages Native Americans to learn to swim well enough to complete the swim across San Francisco Bay from Alcatraz, in addition to improving other health-related aspects of their lives.

The Registrars roundtable emphasized that with the shift to online registration the role of the registrar has changed from registering members to serving as an ambassador or public relations person for the LMSC and USMS. Dan Wegner, President and CEO of Club Assistant, was present and responded to questions and requests for changes in registration procedures. For paper registrations, it was noted that the date of signature on the form should be the date the registrar uses to override the date the registration was entered in to Club Assistant. This is particularly important for those individuals who sign paper registrations the day of a meet.

At the LMSC workshop – *Learn Manage and Serve ... Consistently*, the results of the LMSC Minimum Standards survey were discussed. It is clear that not all surveys were correctly tabulated, but this is a start in the right direction. The committee will be focusing on 14 of the higher priority LMSC Minimum Standards. We were provided with this list and will be asked later to clarify our responses to

the surveys regarding these items. Six of the items deal with finance, four with leadership and bylaws, three with registration and one with sanctions.

The USMS Foundation initiative is “**Swimming Saving Lives**” -drowning prevention. Programs to meet this goal are receiving funding through the USMS Foundation. We are encouraged to consider such projects.

The 2013 USMS Spring Nationals will be at IUPUI in Indianapolis, May 9-12, 2013 and the 2013 Summer Nationals will be in Mission Viejo, CA, August 7-11, 2013. The 1500 will be held August 7<sup>th</sup> and the 800 will be August 11<sup>th</sup>. You will be permitted to swim both if you have the qualifying times. There is consideration being given to having a relay day at Spring Nationals.

The most controversial legislative items that may affect us were those having to do with workout groups. Legislation was passed to include a definition of *Chapters* (workout groups or subgroups) in the rulebook glossary, but legislation dealing with a formal membership structure for Chapters was not passed. I believe we will see more about this in the future.

The USMS portion of individual memberships will increase in 2012 to \$31 despite my plea that, in view of the current recession, we reconsider our five-year plan of increasing dues \$2 each year for 5 years. We have 3 years left in this plan.