



2021 USMS Annual Meeting - Ozark LMSC Delegate Report
-Maryanne Barkley, Ozark LMSC Chair

The 2021 USMS Annual Meeting was held virtually via Zoom meetings and webinars: beginning August 31, Orientation, Forums, Zone and Committee meetings were held. House of Delegates convened Friday, September 24 – Sunday, September 26. This year's meeting was more efficient and effective than the previous year. Agenda timelines were thankfully kept; delegates were directed to debate all details in Forums prior to voting in HOD sessions.

I attended the Orientation, confirming procedures for the meeting. I attended the History & Archives Committee meeting as a member; this year the H&A produced the "In Memoriam" presentation & I was again disappointed that it was, again this year, not broadcast during the meeting. I attended the Breadbasket Zone meeting and was delighted that again someone mentioned the Gus' Pretzels from the 2019 St Louis meeting. The Zone is still discussing how to do a "virtual" Zone Championship Meet by merging results from each LMSC's spring meet. The main obstacle remains that each LMSC uses different Event Numbers for the same Event, so merging results is difficult unless all the LMSC use the same Order of Events, which they don't. Ozark will host the Zone meet in 2023.

House of Delegates began on Friday evening with an overview of the year and Finances. Cheers to Board Treasurer Teddy Decker and CFO Susan Kuhlman Parker who applied for PPE loans for staff salaries. Overall, membership did not drop as much as was feared, therefore USMS has a better financial position than was anticipated and the budget deficit is less than expected, but still a deficit. The evening ended with Awards, congratulations to all those nominated and cheers to those who received recognition for their service.

Elections were conducted smoothly, and business was efficient. Open Water Committee is now combined with Long Distance. A controversially debated issue was about extending the season for each course per Top Ten deadlines – affecting swimmers who competed in Nationals. By far the most controversial debate was whether to hold a virtual Annual Meeting next year. This was met with much resistance, even though holding a meeting in person is very expensive. Also, the number of Delegates that may attend HOD is proportional to the size of LMSC membership, a small LMSC like Ozark is only allowed 2 or 3 attendees. It can be reasonably argued that LMSC funds would be better applied to send LMSC members to experiential events like workshops and trainings like "The Relay" event that the National Office is proposing for March 2022.

New for 2022 individual registration year (begins 11/1/21) USMS is offering "USMS Plus". [USMS+](#) is a premium membership add-on option that combines the great benefits and experience of a standard USMS membership with additional access & benefits at a bargain value in one bundle. USMS+ benefits include: A standard USMS membership, exclusive welcome package, free registration to virtual events like the Fitness Series events & ePostal National Championships, and more. USMS+ will be offered at \$199 from Nov. 1-Dec. 31, 2021, and then at \$229 starting on Jan. 1, 2022. LMSCs will receive 20% of the USMS+ **net revenue** from the USMS+ option, minus the \$60 standard membership portion. The net revenue will be distributed in December 2022 when redemption of USMS+ benefits expire, and the final cost is known. LMSCs will immediately receive 20% (\$12) of the \$60 standard membership for each USMS+ registration in their LMSC; funds will be distributed monthly.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve Ozark LMSC as a USMS Annual Meeting Delegate.

Respectfully submitted, Maryanne Barkley