

## **2021 USMS National Meeting Report**

Dave Seamen-Ozark Treasurer

Overall, I was happy with the efficiency of the USMS virtual national annual meeting compared to last year. I was worried when only 110 of 244 delegates attended the town hall meeting before the meeting to receive the rules for the meeting. 134 delegates were absent from that meeting and didn't know that all things would be finalized at the committee level. The National Office stated we have almost 365 days a year to communicate with the committees.

The original 2021 budget projection was based on 40,000 members. With 40,000 members, the net operating deficit was projected to be \$243,000. After the budget committee meeting in August, the membership had risen to 48,000 members. These additional members have the budget committee projecting a net operating deficit of \$25,000 now.

Last year's meeting overall delegate complaint was the National office has taken too much power away from the LMSC's and clubs. This year the Board proposed that instead of meeting in-person next year, they would allocate those funds to the LMSC's for support at the local level for workshops and trainings (though I question the timing of March) to attract younger swimmers and volunteers for the organization. I am excited by that. The National Office would send people to support the locals. I will defer to our Chair, Maryanne to explain the program.

It was frustrating and tiring for me to listen to some of the delegates who think we should do both. These delegates saw the same budget slides that I did. I believe that committing to both is irresponsible during this pandemic. Every position on the Board ran completely unopposed so, in my opinion, if these delegates wanted change they should have run for the board.

I believe the discussion we had about an in-person meeting year as we are battling the Corona virus was premature and took up too much time. The vote, though not binding just informational to the Board to hold next year's meeting both in person and virtual. The vote was 66% for in person/virtual and 34% virtual. As the Ozark Treasurer, I see it as not the best use of USMS resources to have an in-person meeting for business that can be accomplished virtually. Saving resources for in person stuff for trainings and informational meetings, but leave the business virtual (to eliminate business travel) is a better use of our resources.

I believe the board should proceed with their plan.