



2023 USMS Annual Meeting - Ozark LMSC Delegate Report -Maryanne Barkley, Ozark LMSC Chair

The 2023 USMS Annual Meeting was a hybrid format this year: in-person at the Marriot Houston International Airport and virtually via Zoom meetings and webinars; I attended virtually, and Ozark LMSC Vice-chair Bruce Hopson attended in person. Beginning in August, Orientation, Forums, Zone, and Committee meetings were held. The House of Delegates convened Friday, September 8 – Saturday, September 9. This year’s meetings were efficient, effective, and agenda timelines were kept; delegates debated 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 committee member; H&A had been slated for sunset, but the committee members voted against it, and a task force was formed to review the decision and the future of the committee. Once again, H&A produced the “In Memoriam” presentation, which the incoming USMS President has proposed eliminating. I was very pleased that it was again broadcast during the meeting; sadly, Ozark LMSC member Stephen King of the former Riverbend Mighty Narwals was among those memorialized. I attended the Breadbasket Zone meeting, items for the coming year are the Zone championship meet and Virtual zone championship. Ozark hosted the Zone meet in 2023, Iowa will host in 2024. The delegation voted to approve the minutes from the 2022 meeting and elected Jenny Hodges as the Zone Chair. Topics for Relay 2023 were introduced; South Dakota hosted a very successful National Championship and the 2024 5K will be at Square Lake, MN.

House of Delegates began on Friday evening with approval of standing rules, and opening remarks by outgoing USMS President, Peter Guadagni; then USMS CEO Dawson Hughes gave his 2023 Update and 2024 Priorities. The success of College Club Swimming was highlighted; a proposal to acquire “Grown Up Swimming” (“GUS” is a private company) to grow membership was discussed. Event initiatives included adding non-conforming events to swim meets. Committee reports were approved. The evening ended with a video presentation of USMS Awards, congratulations to all those nominated and cheers to those who received recognition for their service. The Dr Ransom J Arthur Award went to Barbara Dunbar from San Diego-Imperial LMSC; Coach of the Year was Rick Walker of Florida LMSC, Sarasota Sharks Masters.

Saturday’s business began with officer elections: President, Ed Coates; VP of Administration, Julie Dussliere; VP of Community Services, Kenny Brisbin; VP of Local Operations, Christie McGrail; VP of Programs, Robin Smith; Secretary, Carrie Stolar; Treasurer, Jill Gellatly. Rules proposals were adopted as recommended by the Rules Committee. There was a debate about whether event directors could have discretion over the rule allowing ties on the back of swimsuits in open water events, it was decided rules should be followed. Long Distance Committee recommendations adopted included acknowledging that the National Office is taking over running virtual events. The Legislation Committee revised the Mission, Vision, and Values Statements, and ended the Fitness Education Committee. Next year’s meeting will be online despite support for continuing the hybrid format.

The final business on Saturday was about Financials including a review of 2023 and 2024 assumptions. USMS is in a solid financial position. The 2024 registration year fee for Club / WOG / Individual membership is \$70.

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

- Copy and paste this link to access Annual Meeting information:

<https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/annual-meeting/2023-annual-meeting>

Respectfully submitted, Maryanne Barkley