

## **REPORT OF BRUCE HOPSON**

I attended the 2023 annual meeting of the House of Delegates of U.S. Masters Swimming, Inc., as an in-person delegate for the Ozark LMSC. The meeting was held September 8 – 10, 2023, at the Marriott George H.W. Bush International Airport in Houston, Texas. Like last year, the meeting was a “hybrid” because about two-thirds of the delegates attended in person while the remaining third attended virtually.

The in-person meeting started with the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the House of Delegates. At that session, the secretary opened the Annual Meeting followed by the remarks of the President, Peter Guadagni, and the CEO, Dawson Hughes, who updated the House about the activities in 2023 and the priorities for 2024. The House then passed the reports of all the committees (except for Rules, Legislation, and Long Distance) and officers. Concluding that session was the presentation of awards, including the Ransom J. Arthur Award, which went to Barbara Dunbar of San Diego, California, while the coach of the year went to Rick Walker of SHARK of Sarasota, Florida.

The House of Delegates resumed the next morning with the 2<sup>nd</sup> session. The highlight of that session was the election of the officers, as follows: Ed Coates—President; Julie Dusliere—Vice-President of Administration; Kenny Brisbin—Vice-President of Community Services; Crystie McGrail—Vice President of Local Operations; Robin Smith—Vice President of Programs; Secretary—Carrie Stolar; and Jill Gellatly—Treasurer. Also at that session, the Rules Committee, the Legislation Committee, Long Distance gave their reports concerning their rule proposals. Delegates then voted on the various proposals that the respective committees offered. But before the session began, as is the custom, an “In Memoriam” video was played honoring those Masters Swimmers who had passed during the prior year. Unfortunately, Stephen King of the Riverbend Mighty Narwhals was included among them. He was an Air Force Veteran, Colonel, who competed in triathlons and even biked across the U.S. twice!

The second part of the session that resumed after lunch focused on the fiscal matters of the organization. The Finance Chair addressed the House and presented the business plan and budget assumptions. The Annual Meeting then concluded with President Guadagni and CEO Hughes giving their respective closing remarks. The meeting concluded with the customary feedback session regarding the Annual Meeting.

The committee meetings that normally occur concurrent at the Annual Meeting were held virtually, beginning in the first week of August and concluded prior to the start of the in-person meeting.

More detailed minutes of the committee meetings and each of the HOD sessions, along with the results of the winners of the awards may be found on the USMS website.