



2024 USMS Annual Meeting - Ozark LMSC Delegate Report -Maryanne Barkley, Ozark LMSC Chair

The 2024 USMS Annual Meeting was one-hundred percent Virtual via Zoom, Paul Morris and I were the two allocated delegates from Ozark LMSC. Beginning in August, Orientation, Forums, Zone, and Committee meetings were held for delegates to debate prior to voting in HOD sessions. The House of Delegates convened Friday, September 13 – Saturday, September 14, business was completed on Saturday, so the Sunday session 9/15 was canceled.

I attended the Orientation, plus the History & Archives Committee meeting as a member. I was a member of the H&A Task Force discussing the H&A Committee sunset, but the USMS BOD decided against that this year. Again, H&A produced the “In Memoriam” presentation, which the BOD has proposed eliminating. I was happy that it was broadcast in the meeting; this year, no Ozark LMSC members were deceased. I attended the Breadbasket Zone meeting, items were the Zone championship meet and Virtual zone championship; Iowa hosted in 2024, Nebraska will host in 2025. We voted to approve the minutes from the 2023 meeting. Topics for Relay 2024 and National Coaches Clinic were mentioned.

House of Delegates began on Friday evening with approval of standing rules, and opening remarks by USMS President, Ed Coates; then USMS CEO Dawson Hughes gave his 2024 Update and 2025 Priorities. The success of College Club Swimming was highlighted; and an update about the recently acquired “Grown Up Swimming” (“GUS”) to grow membership was discussed. A new product, Lane Mate, is for independent swimmers and will feature video stroke analysis. Committee reports were consent approved, except for Rules, it was postponed over an issue about pool measurement. 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 Kris Wingenroth from Gulf LMSC; Coach of the Year is to be announced at Relay 2024.

Saturday’s business began with Zone At-large Board of Director elections: Samantha Kraft, Breadbasket; Guy Davis, Colonies; C.J. Rushman, Great Lakes; Rob Heath, Northwest; Phyllis Quinn (Oceana); Nicole Christensen, South Central; Trey Taylor, Southeast; and Jeff Commings, Southwest. Rules, Legislation, and Long Distance proposals were adopted as recommended by their Committees. Highlights: No more event sanction fees for pool & open water (recognition fee remains); USMS membership and club fees have been set at \$75 and LMSCs will receive \$12 per member in 2025; College Club Swimming members (9,000+) get a USMS Bridge Membership at registration to ease the transition from CSS to USMS; grievance procedures were updated; changed the 60-day limit on competition before transferring to a new club to the rule that a member can only change clubs three times per calendar year; & no Sanctions for events using word “Olympics.” Board Meetings will remain closed. The House of Delegates continues to entrust the board to choose the best format for the annual meeting; the 2025 meeting may be hybrid at Kansas City, MO. This year, the [National Coaches Clinic](#), and [Relay 2024](#) are concurrent on Oct. 18-20 in Houston. Coaches and volunteers from around the country will gather to exchange ideas on how to continue the growth of their local adult swimming communities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve Ozark LMSC as a 2024 USMS Annual Meeting Delegate.

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

<https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/annual-meeting/2024-annual-meeting>

Respectfully submitted, Maryanne Barkley