



2024 USMS Annual Meeting - Ozark LMSC Delegate Report

-Maryanne Barkley, Ozark LMSC Chair

The 2025 USMS Annual Meeting was a hybrid format, virtual and in-person at the Kansas City Airport Marriott (both via Zoom); Alie Morgan, a brand-new delegate, 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. I attended the Orientation, plus the History & Archives Committee meeting as a member where I had helped complete the BOD task of identifying a Historian, who along with individual contributors, would transition and sunset H&A. I attended the Breadbasket Zone meeting; items were the Zone championship meet and Virtual zone championship, Nebraska hosted in 2025. We voted to approve the minutes from the 2024 meeting and reviewed topics for Relay 2025. The House of Delegates convened Friday, September 12 - Saturday, September 13, a Sunday session 9/14 was unnecessary.

House of Delegates began on Friday evening with approval of standing rules, and a presentation by USMS President, Ed Coates beginning with a Legal Notice that due to pending legal actions on several fronts and on the advice of volunteer and outside/paid legal counsel, HOD would not discuss/debate anything related to current Interim Eligibility policy or prior policy Transgender Inclusion policy - any official discussion could be legally discoverable and potentially detrimental to defense and includes individual cases for privacy and confidentiality. USMS CEO Dawson Hughes presented his 2025 review and 2026 priorities; the success of both College Club Swimming and "Grown Up Swimming" ("GUS") were lauded. Committee reports (except Rules, Legislation & Long Distance) were approved by consent. Last was a video presentation of USMS Awards, congratulations to those who received recognition for their service. The Dr Ransom J Arthur Award went to Ed Saltzman (Georgia); Coach of the Year will be announced at Relay 2025.

Saturday's business began with Board of Directors elections: Ed Coates (South Texas), president, Julie Dussliere (Florida Gold Coast) vice president of administration, Kenny Brisbin (Southern Pacific) vice president of community services, Crystie McGrail (Colorado) vice president of local operations, Carrie Stolar (Minnesota) vice president of programs, Erika Braun (North Carolina) secretary, and Denise Dombay (Potomac Valley) treasurer. Rules and Long Distance Committee proposals were adopted as recommended by their committees, but HOD did not adopt the Legislation to sunset the History and Archives Committee. The 2026 Budget Timeline was presented for comment.

Highlights: USMS membership and club fees remain at \$75, LMSCs will receive \$10 per member in 2026. The Board of Directors welcomed 7 new board members; Governance developed an outline for what should be policy, rules or bylaws; key programs, things to change, organizational risks, and immediate opportunities were identified; discussed shared LMSC positions for operational efficiency; acted quickly to implement revised eligibility policy and vigilantly protected the organization; passed a 3-year budget plan and reviewed 5 board policies; and they had fun competing as a team in a GUS event. The 2026 annual meeting will be virtual only. Relay 2025 is Oct. 24-26 at the same hotel in Kansas City; volunteers from around the country will gather to attend presentations and exchange ideas about coach support and club development.

Note regarding "In Memoriam" the individual contributors who had helped produce prior presentations (BOD has proposed eliminating it) submitted a 2025 version but BOD President, Ed Coates, refused to post it on the Annual Meeting webpage. This resulted in many complaints, but the justification was that it hadn't been vetted. I noticed that it still is not posted on the page, despite ample time to check it for any concerns. Many thanks to Alie Morgan who broadcast the slideshow on her laptop. No Ozark LMSC members were deceased; however, I noted the passing of two members who were known to attend Ozark events, Doug Hayden of MOVY and Christa McLaren-Morris of Illinois Masters.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve Ozark LMSC as a 2025 USMS Annual Meeting Delegate.

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

<https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/annual-meeting/2025-annual-meeting>

Respectfully submitted, Maryanne Barkley