



2026 USMS Annual Meeting - Ozark LMSC Delegate Report **-Maryanne Barkley, Ozark LMSC Chair**

The 2026 USMS Annual Meeting was a virtual only format; Dave Seamen, OZLMSC Treasurer, 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 tasks. I attended the Breadbasket Zone meeting; items were the Zone championship meet which Colorado hosted in 2026, and Virtual zone championship. We voted to approve the minutes from the 2025 meeting and reviewed topics for Relay 2026 being held in conjunction with the National Coaches Clinic 9/25-27 in Denver. The House of Delegates convened Friday, September 18 - Saturday, September 19, a usual Sunday session was eliminated.

House of Delegates began on Friday evening with approval of standing rules, and a presentation by USMS President, Ed Coates beginning, same as in 2025, 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 2026 review and 2027 priorities; the success of both College Club Swimming and "Grown Up Swimming" ("GUS") were lauded. Club Development and Knowledge Network for education were outlined. Starting in 2027, ALL swim meet registration must be conducted via Club Assistant (multiple events like at swim meet) or Run Sign Up (single events like Open Water). 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 Richard Burns (Pacific); Club of the Year & Coach of the Year will be announced at Relay/NCC 2026.

Saturday's business began with At-Large Board of Directors for Zones elections: Breadbasket – Scott Moore; Colonies – Guy Davis; Great Lakes – C.J. Rushman; Northwest – Rob Heath; Oceana – Phyllis Quinn; South Central – Nicole Christensen; Southeast – Thomas Murphy; Southwest – Becky Cleavenger. Rules, Legislation, and Long Distance Committee proposals were adopted as recommended by their committees. The 2027 Budget Timeline was presented for comment.

Highlights and personal opinions: USMS membership and club fees remain at \$75, LMSCs will receive \$10 per member in 2027.

In my opinion, all Awards should be presented in-person at Relay. Going forward, all Annual Meeting business should be conducted Virtually, there's no justification for LMSCs to spend money sending delegates to a hotel conference center for it. All the business could be completed in one day if Awards are presented at the in-person relay.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve Ozark LMSC as a 2026 USMS Annual Meeting Delegate.

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

<https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/annual-meeting/2026-annual-meeting>

Respectfully submitted, Maryanne Barkley