2026 USMS Annual Meeting - Ozark LMSC Delegate Report
- **Submitted by Dave Seamen, Ozark LMSC Treasurer**
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The 2026 USMS Annual Meeting was a virtual only format; Maryanne Barkley, Ozark Chair and I were the two 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 and Town Hall to refresh myself about the way the meetings are conducted. The House of Delegates had the first session on Friday, September 18 and the second on Saturday, September 19; all business was finished in this time frame and I was glad that there wasn't the usual Sunday session, it would have been totally unnecessary.

USMS President, Ed Coates opened the 2026 meeting in the House of Delegates, we approved standing rules, Ed gave his update about what the Board of Directors did this year and announced that HOD would not discuss/debate anything related to current Interim Eligibility policy or prior policy Transgender Inclusion policy.

USMS CEO Dawson Hughes reviewed the 2026 and 2027 priorities. He said that College Club Swimming and "Grown Up Swimming" ("GUS") were continuing to grow and generate new members and revenue. He introduced new initiatives about Club Development and outlined the new Knowledge Network approach to learning for coaches and clubs. Committee reports (except Rules, Legislation & Long Distance) were approved by consent. Last thing was the Recognition and Awards Committee's video presentation of USMS Service Awards with news that the rest of the Awards would be given in person at The Relay next week.

Saturday we elected the At-Large Board of Directors for Zones: 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.

The Rules, Legislation, and Long Distance Committee proposals were adopted as recommended by their committees. The 2027 Budget Timeline was presented for comment about the assumptions.

In my opinion, the Annual Meeting virtual format is the most economical approach for USMS going forward. All of the business discussion can take place in Zoom meetings and emails between the committees, delegates, and interested members. Financially, there's no reason for LMSCs to spend money sending delegates to a hotel conference center for it. I also think all the business could be completed in one day, on Saturday, without having to spend time with it Friday night. But for this one, I am glad that it was online and just Friday and Saturday.

- Copy and paste this link to access Annual Meeting information: https://www.usms.org/volunteer-central/annual-meeting/2026-annual-meeting

- Respectfully submitted, Dave Seamen