

with such a passionate group of volunteer leaders. I have learned a lot and wish to continue to advance that learning through collaboration and by focusing on making the USMS membership experience even better.

What do you consider to be the major issues facing USMS now and in the future? As a person holding an elected position within USMS, how would you address these issues?

In my view, USMS and its volunteers (Club, LMSC and National) really do a fantastic job supporting the USMS mission "to promote health, wellness, fitness and competition for adults through swimming." Like any organization, I feel that we aspire to be better and there are a few areas that deserve attention. First, I wish to continue supporting the great work performed by our USMS IT staff. As a member of the BOD IT Liaison team, it is my goal to work with the other VP's to balance the work requests from committees with the work that already exists supporting the operational and strategic needs of the organization. In some cases, there is clear and mutual fit, and then an easier path into the delivery pipeline. Other times, it can be challenging to move other valuable concepts forward. Since our successful implementation of the USMS Registration System ("Esther"), there has been no shortage of priority IT work as our committees can now see with the quarterly distribution of the USMS IT Project List. I look forward to continuing the work with the other VPs, Jim Matysek, Rob Butcher, and the IT Staff and to see how we can improve our strategies for managing the workload and delivering more benefits to our members.

Second, with the help of my colleagues on the BOD Open Water Task Force (OWTF), I am committed to finding a solution to the current issue of our high insurance costs. The OWTF is in the process of finalizing a sustainable funding model for Board of Directors' consideration, and then onto the House of Delegates for their review/discussion/vote. Our Open Water Sanction product has endured three consecutive years of insurance surcharge billing - an expense that impacted a large number of our LMSCs, their Event Directors, and the wider open water member community. It is time to view the cost of General and Umbrella/Excess Liability differently, and to allocate its funding in a more equitable manner. I look forward to working with my colleagues at the Board level to get these changes drafted, and with a clear rationale, so that my fellow HOD volunteers can support it based on its merits.

Last, as I have said in a prior nomination packet, I worry about our progress related to improving access to swimming facilities for our members and for our future, potential members. There seems to be stories every year of pools getting closed, collegiate varsity programs shutting down, and others that speak to the challenges retaining Masters/Adult Aquatic Fitness programs. I urge us not to be complacent and not to overlook this issue. While new concepts like USMS Adult Learn To Swim programs take flight, we need to secure our facility connections and work at building new ones if we expect membership to grow more than 5% each year. Yes, we spend time/resources on encouraging adults to swim, but we need to broaden that vision to include encouraging more and stronger connections to the facilities that will enable us to sustain it.

Please list USMS committees on which you have served. Include the dates you were on the committees and the names of the committee chairs under whom you served:

USMS Legislation Committee member (under Rob Copeland and Sean Fitzgerald): 2005 - 2011
USMS Marketing Committee member (under Tom Boyd): 2006-2007
USMS Marketing Committee Chair: 2008 - 2009
USMS LMSC Development Committee member (currently under Paige Buehler): 2010-2013
USMS Board of Directors, At-Large Director, Colonies Zone: 2011-2013
USMS Board of Directors, VP Programs, 2014 – present

Please list any other experience that relates to your qualifications for the position.

Continuous USMS Member since 1995 (20 years!!): Berkeley Aquatic Masters, Berkeley Heights, NJ
National Top Ten finisher
LMSC Record holder
Club Planner for Annual Holiday Party
Club Treasurer
Club Coach - USMS Level 2 Certified
NJ LMSC Chair: 2004 - 2009
NJ LMSC Vice Chair: 2010-present
NJ LMSC Co-Registrar: 2011-present
Facilitated LMSC bylaw updates
Implemented LMSC Membership Promotion Campaign

Developed an LMSC Continuous Membership Recognition Awards Program
Helped to create the Lou Abel Distinguished Service Award
Helped to create an Annual LMSC Awards Banquet
Led efforts to sanction the first LMSC Open Water event
Club Development Workshop: Mentor program (Dallas, TX) attendee/graduate
BOD Experience:
 Served as a member of multiple BOD Grievance Panels
 Served as Chair of the Volunteer Roles Task Force (VRTF)
 Serving as member of the BOD IT Liaisons
 Serving as a member of the BOD Open Water Task Force

Please write a short summary statement that will be posted on the display board with your photograph at the HOD Meeting

Chris McGiffin, candidate for USMS Vice President of Programs. As a USMS member since 1995, I have served or currently serve in volunteer and leadership positions at the Club, LMSC, and national levels of the USMS organization. I am committed to working with the USMS Board of Directors and other volunteer leaders across the country to serve our membership and to support the mission, vision and values of USMS.