



Roberta Saint-Amour – Colonies Candidate At-Large

The Election Committee has deemed that Roberta Saint-Amour is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated she is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during her tenure in office.

The candidate was nominated by Jeff Strahota and received letters of recommendation from Chris Stevenson and Jon Einsidler. These letters follow the questionnaire.

The candidate provided the following responses on the Candidate Questionnaire/Consent-To-Run Form:

Please list the USMS National HOD Meetings you have attended, including the dates of attendance:

2009- Chicago USMS Convention
2012- Greensboro, NC USMS Convention
2013- California- Anaheim USMS Convention

III. Section Three: Questions

Why are you interested in this position and why do you believe you would be a good candidate?

I am interested in becoming the Colonies At-Large Director because I want to make a difference in our swimming community. As former Treasurer, Vice Chairman, and current Chairman of Metro LMSC, I have identified and helped to make significant changes within my LMSC. I redefined our goals, priorities and fiscal responsibilities. I currently hear many of the same issues, concerns and questions voiced at convention, peer-to-peer conference calls and amongst volunteers in general throughout USMS. My experiences within Metro LMSC will allow me to contribute for the benefit and welfare of all.

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?

Communication. I have personally felt the frustration of our communication system. I realize that as an all-volunteer network, everyone prioritizes the responsibility differently. Holding an elected USMS position I will try to unify volunteers by amping up our communication.

This has been a central concern at Metro. When 99% of our individual swimmers AND clubs, did not know who or what our LMSC is or the functions of USMS, we knew we had problems. We need better succession education starting with USMS. We need to establish LMSC/USMS protocol for information and questions that need to trickle down to our individual swimmers. We need a reference site for LMSCs to compare activity. We need a secure and safe site to co-mingle ideas and questions. The peer-to-peers calls have been great and the forums are a good start, but we need to go further. We need to involve viable volunteers.

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:

I served for a year on the Long Distance Open Water committee in 2010. I served under Heather Hagadorn. However, we faced many problems within the Metro LMSC that I had to devote my time and resources to bettering our LMSC first; so I stepped away from volunteering on a larger scale within the USMS organization, until now.

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

After graduating from Wellesley College I went to work on Wall Street for the last 7 years specializing in mergers and acquisitions for multimillion dollar transactions. I have been given large responsibility beyond my years to lead companies through important transitions. My work experience will only help guide me with taking on important issues within the USMS organization.

Please list any other information you would like included.

I know I can make a difference within our organization! I am fresh, young and willing to take the necessary steps to making our USMS community the best it could be!

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

It would be an honor and a privilege to serve as the Colonies At-Large Director. My broad base of swimming and leadership experiences, reflects a majority of master swimmers and will allow me to represent them with realistic concerns, problem solving abilities and positivity.

I am currently the youngest LMSC Chairman and was first elected Metro LMSC Treasurer at 22 directly from college. I was elected Vice Chair and am currently Chairman. While I honor all of our volunteers for their wealth and depth of information and experience, I see a lack of participation in my age group. I believe that I can represent the younger generation and bring the needs and concerns of this age group into USMS for broader inclusion.

Serving on the Metro BOD was not my first experience with USMS. My Dad, Craig Saint-Amour has been a master swimmer since after college, and as a child, I cheered for him and volunteered as a timer in many events including Worlds. My Dad encouraged my love for swimming and competition since I was 6 years old. I swam through USS/USA, High School, Maccabis, and college. It was a natural progression for me to join masters. I jumped right in and started achieving USMS Top ten and All-American rankings. My career started to become more demanding of my time and I was forced to change my focus to fitness swimming. This gives me the rare ability to understand the needs of both the competition swimmers and the fitness swimmers and represent them both fairly.

My function on the Metro Board allowed me to pinpoint areas that were not working effectively. I am proud of the changes that we were able to make in our LMSC including a total revision of our By-Laws and FOG. Today, we have an inclusive Board that represents a broader base of our clubs. We have successfully increased club numbers, membership, readership of our newsletter, attendance at our events and volunteerism. I feel that through open and honest communication, I can share these same ideas to better our swimming community.

I hope that you will vote for me and allow me to continue contributing to the sport I love. Thank you.

Re: Nominations for At Large Directors

Dear Election Committee,

I would like to nominate Roberta C. Saint-Amour for the At Large Director position from the Colonies Zone.

Thank you,

Jeff Strahota, Potomac Valley LMSC

Attention: Cheryl Gettelfinger, chair USMS Elections Committee

I am pleased to write a letter in support of the nomination of **Roberta (RC) Saint-Amour** as at-large director from the Colonies Zone. RC first became involved with the administrative side of USMS as the Metro LMSC Treasurer in 2008, followed by stints as vice-chair (2011) and chair (2012), her current position.

Although I am not a member of Metro, I have dealt with RC over the past year in my role as VP of Local Operations. RC is passionate about swimming and has proven her dedication to expanding the services that her LMSC provides for its members. She has also participated in several webinars produced by the LMSC Development Committee, evidence of her desire to collaborate with leaders from other LMSCs and use knowledge thus gained to improve her LMSC.

Chris Stevenson

VA LMSC Top 10 Recorder and Webmaster

USMS VP of Local Operations

Note: I consent to publishing this letter.

April 28, 2014

To whom it may concern:

I recommend RC Saint-Amour for Zone Colonies Director because she has done a remarkable job in turning around Metropolitan LMSC from a highly problematic and insular LMSC into one that is swimmer-oriented with participation from a broad spectrum of teams, age groups, and geography in our LMSC.

For the dozen or so years prior to RC becoming Chair, a handful of people ran Metro for their own benefit. There was no reaching out to other teams, the number of swimming events declined, as did the participation at the remaining ones. This handful of officers received salaries from Metro as well as a monthly stipend for phone expenses whether for Metro or personal. Annual meetings, when they were held, had less than ten people. Convention delegate selection was a handful of friends planning a road trip. Huge amounts of t-shirts, towels, flip flops and medals were bought as giveaways for meets but were used for only a few select meets, and a storage facility was rented to hold this inventory.

The change under RC is nothing short of remarkable. She asked me to become secretary a little over a year ago. My first exposure was at the semi annual meeting (yes we had a semi annual meeting). RC had reached out to all teams, and I was blown away at the turn out. Nearly 50 members representing over 20 teams showed up. I saw people I had not seen in years. The agenda laid out the road map that would end up getting accomplished over the following six months. From her discussions with swimmers, she found out what they truly wanted. Here are some of the things accomplished:

- insurance surcharge from USMS for open water events was picked up by Metro to keep entry fees low
- program was set up for meet directors to provide a budget and Metro would provide a stipend to lower entry fees by \$5 per swimmer for pool events
- clinics were put on with Metro subsidizing over 75% of the cost
- complete rewrites of the by-laws, financial operating guidelines, and general procedures
- convention delegate selection was transparent with accountability for delegates in writing reports when they returned along with tight budget restrictions on expenses
- stipends provided to individual teams to help their programs (required application with uses)
- regular newsletter, socials after meets/open water, annual party
- record turn outs for open water swims and pool meets

These were accomplished by doing away with salaries and benefits for officers (other than registrar and top ten), better controls on expenses at convention. Also using up the excess inventory by giving it away at meets and selling the balance allowed Metro to get rid of the storage facility. Metro is now providing programs for its members that

are second to none. RC is also an active participant in the USMS conference calls.

Sincerely,

Jon Einsidler, Vice Chairman, Metro

You have my permission to publish this letter.