

## USMS CONVENTION – Orlando, FL 2004

Block #3

Cmte. report #: 

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Minutes recorded by: Meg Smath

Wednesday, September 15, 8:45 pm

Committee Chairs: Hugh Moore (Communications), Doug Garcia (Marketing), Anna Lea Roof (Registration), Meg Smath (Publications)

Number of committee members present: \_\_\_\_\_ Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of other delegates at this meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

### MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 p.m.

1. New delegates were recognized and all attendees introduced themselves.
2. Nancy Ridout summarized the process the task force on governance went through, beginning with the VVMOST process. The premise was that the current structure of USMS has served us well over the years, but our needs have changed and our Board of Directors has become unwieldy. Most of the recommendations of the task force are still being discussed, but if we are going to restructure the Executive Committee, it must be done this year, or we will have to wait five years to make another change. Maria Doelger, also a member of the task force and a new delegate last year, spoke about how frustrated she was after last year's convention that change was so slow in USMS, and how that motivated her to present ideas for change.
3. Jennifer Parks asked if the task force anticipated difficulty in assigning committees to particular vice presidents under the new structure. Nancy said that was deliberately left vague in order to leave room for input from delegates at this convention. One of the goals for the vice presidents is to take some of the load off of the president. The typical USMS president is actually working two jobs (their "real" job and the presidency); it is also essentially an eight-year commitment.
4. Anna Lea asked Nancy which positions would be salaried in the proposed new structure. Nancy answered that only the executive director would be paid, but that position is several years down the line. This person would deal with sponsors, the public, and basically be the "front man" for USMS. Anna Lea asked Nancy what the job description was for each vice president. Nancy answered that there would be vice presidents for member services, community services, national operations, and local operations. The vice presidents would assume the function of the current Executive Committee liaisons. Nancy noted that under the new structure, the Registration Committee would probably be assigned to a different vice president than the Communications, Marketing, and Publications Committees.
5. The audience commented on potential impacts of the new structure. Most felt that it would enhance the flow of information. The vice presidents could also be a conduit, so that people would know who to go to for information. The new structure could also help prevent volunteer burnout. We would still have committees, but perhaps some of the committees could be combined. A more detailed plan would be presented as legislation in 2005.
6. The proposed restructuring of the Board of Directions was discussed. One way of electing directors would be by regions, which would not replace our current zones. Each region would have approximately the same number of members, so that the different regions would have equal representation on the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.