

MASTERS... Swimming for life

This is a convention theme with which we can all agree and identify. It is the passion and commitment that brings us to San Diego to use our talents and time to make this organization the best it can be. Congratulations for being selected as a delegate to our national convention! If you are a first-time delegate, I look forward to getting to know you and your capabilities. You will be paired up with a member of the Executive Committee who will be most happy to help you in any way. If you are returning as a delegate, expect a warm welcome from the friends you have made in the past and a busy schedule of work and fun - as usual!

The suggestions made at the wrap-up session of last year's convention were duly noted, considered, and incorporated into this year's convention and schedule. I thank you for your valuable input and hope that these changes will make this year's meetings more pleasant and efficient. One of the suggestions was to have breakout groups that related to the operation of the LMSC. This year our groups center on the following themes:

Making Masters Fun!

LMSC Communication (Newsletters/Websites)

LMSC Public Relations/Outreach

The LMSC in a Leadership Role

LMSC Events (Pool, Open Water, Clinics, Workshops, Camps)

Each breakout group will have its own room and will be facilitated by an individual with specialized experience who can assist your group in developing creative and useable ideas for your own LMSC.

Our work this year has at its core, the examination of the structure and code of our organization. The Legislation Committee, chaired by Elin Zander, has attempted to bring all of Parts 4, 5, and 6 of the USMS Rule Book to reflect current practices and do away with inconsistencies. Additionally, each committee chairman was asked to evaluate their committee's description in the Rule Book and submit an accurate summary for the present work of the committee. Many of our committees have new ideas and projects which they have developed during the year and the Executive Committee has incorporated changes in our structure, as directed, and developed a USMS Strategic Plan for the next two years. You will find all of these and more in this booklet.

San Diego will be a wonderful place to visit. We have planned time for socializing, seeing some sites, and we will have the option of swimming in a pool or in the ocean! Mike Heather and his Convention Committee, along with volunteers from the San Diego/Imperial LMSC, promise us pleasant working conditions and opportunities for fun!

I thank you personally, and on behalf of the Executive Committee, our Committee Chairmen, and the Board of Directors, for the opportunity over the past two years to serve and lead USMS toward even more effectiveness in bringing our program to the American public's awareness and promoting "Swimming for life." I look forward to being with all of you again, to marvel at my good fortune in being surrounded by so many gifted and dedicated people, and to moving ahead in our quest to meet the challenges that lay before us. I thank you all for taking the time to make our program the very best it can be!

See you in San Diego!

Nancy Ridout, President
United States Masters Swimming