

## Kris Wingenroth – South Central Zone Candidate for At-Large Director



The Election Committee has deemed that Kris Wingenroth is a member in good standing of U.S. Masters Swimming. The candidate has indicated she is planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year and, if elected, is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during her tenure in office.

The candidate was nominated and recommended by *Tom and Carolyn Boak* and received a letter of recommendation from *Nicole Christensen* in accordance with the USMS Election Operating Guidelines.

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

### Section Two: Candidate Qualifications

- I am a member in good standing of USMS in this election year:*       Yes \_\_\_ No
- I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:*       Yes \_\_\_ No
- I am planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office:*       Yes \_\_\_ No
- I have attended 1 or more HOD Meeting in the past five years?*       Yes \_\_\_ No

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

I have attended every USMS National HOD Meeting since at least 1984. (36 years)

### Section Three: Questions

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

I am a recently retired swim coach and psychology teacher. I now have more time to devote to USMS. I am interested in this position because I want to continue my service to USMS and I believe that I have the knowledge and skills to become an effective Board member.

I have been involved in Masters Swimming as a competitor since 1978 and as a volunteer at the local level since the early 1980s. Over the years I have served as Secretary, Sanction Chair, Vice-Chair and Chairman in the Gulf LMSC. I am currently the Chairman. At the national level, I have served on the Finance Committee, Rules Committee and Legislation Committee. I was also the South Central Zone Chairman for many years (starting in the late 1980s). I believe I would be a good candidate for the South Central Director's position because of my long-time service to USMS and my varied experiences and roles in the swimming world. My experiences at so many USMS Conventions and in so many roles in the USMS local and national organization have given me a good overview and understanding of the organization, it's structure and how it functions. This provides me with the ability to quickly become an active and productive member of the BOD.

I also bring a wide perspective of swimming experiences that help me understand the many sides of issues. I have been a career swimming coach, coaching all levels from USA age group, high school, NCAA college (Rice University) and Masters at my local YMCA. I am a USMS Level 3 certified coach. I have been a certified Official and have officiated high school, college and masters meets. Additionally, I have been the meet director for college and masters meets at the local level, hosted several South Central Zone Championships and been the meet director for the National Senior Games when it was held at the University of Houston. I have also held 91 top ten rankings and 3 All America rankings. Since I have experience in swimming as an athlete, coach, official and meet director, I have an understanding of masters swimming from multiple perspectives.

I would bring to the Board a historical memory of the development of USMS and a background with multiple perspectives. My psychology training has helped me become skilled at listening in an unbiased manner to all sides of an argument without becoming emotionally involved. I am analytical and good at thinking "ahead" about ramifications of policies and I am flexible, not afraid of change. I am comfortable in speaking up to be sure my side of an issue is presented but I also listen with an open mind to all sides of arguments. I am excited about the future direction of USMS and will consider it an honor to be able to participate at the Board level.

***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?***

It seems to me the major issue facing USMS is how to move forward to reach out to new members and to continue to serve our current members in the wide variety of programs we offer. We have the challenge of providing more programs to a wider variety of swimmers (learn-to-swim swimmers, fitness swimmers, open water swimmers, competitors from beginners to Olympians) and meeting the needs of members from rural areas to big cities and swimmers of widely differing economic status. USMS must try to find the best path that meets the needs of this diverse group. Additionally, USMS must also find a way to attract and engage hundreds of volunteers. This is quite a challenge. On top of this, we have the unforeseen and unknown challenges of the COVID-19 virus and the shutdown of USMS programs for so long. In April, as I write this, it is too early to know what long term effects COVID-19 will have on our members, program and organization, but I will be ready to think creatively about how to find solutions.

USMS has a vision for its future but making it a reality is going to be a tremendous challenge. We are going to have to find many different methods for keeping our swimmers engaged with USMS and to meet our diverse needs. As the South Central Zone representative, I look forward to being able to help USMS meet these goals. I would strive to understand all these differences and help the organization continue to meet these diverse needs. Good communication between our members, volunteers, officers, and staff is going to be vital. Creativity, flexibility and compromise will also be needed. I will do my best to listen, analyze and be creative in finding solutions so that USMS can grow and continue to be effective in providing swimming programs for all adults.

***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:***

South Central Zone Committee Chairman 1989 - 1993, 1996 - 1998

Marketing Committee 1986 – 1987, Mary Lee Watson, Chairman

Zone Committee 1989 – 1999, Edie Gruender, Pat Maley, Betsy Durant, Hugh Moore, Chairmen

Finance Committee 1985 – 1987, 1989 – 1993 Lucy Johnson, Chairman  
2002 – 2007, Tom Boak and Jeff Moxie, Chairmen

Rules Committee 1997 – 2015, Tom Boak, Leo Letendre and Kathy Casey, Chairmen

I served as the Secretary of the Rules Committee in 1997, 2003 – 2015

Legislation Committee 2016 – 2019, Meg Smath and Richard Garza, Chairmen

\*information from 1994 – 1996 is missing

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

I have been active in the Gulf LMSC since its inception. I wrote the original by-laws with Tom Boak when USMS broke off from the AAU. I have served on the Gulf LMSC Board of Directors in one position or another nearly continuously. I am currently the Gulf LMSC Chairman.

I have been the Meet Director for several South Central Short Course Zone Meets (2001, 2004) and the National Senior Games held at the University of Houston in 2011.

I have attended every USMS National HOD Meeting since at least 1983. (37 years)

I have been the Meet Director for several South Central Short Course Zone Meets and the National Senior Games.

I have been a certified official and officiated high school, college and Masters meets.

I am an ASCA Level 4 and USMS Level 3 certified coach.

I was given a Dorothy Donnelly Award in 2003.

I was given a Gulf LMSC Volunteer Appreciation Award in 2017.

I attended the 2019 Leadership Summit.

***Please list any other information you would like included.***

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

I hope to be able to help continue the core vision of USMS through service on the Board of Directors. I believe my length of involvement in USMS administration (over 35 years), my experience on the Finance, Rules and Legislation Committees, and my wide experience as a competitor, coach, official and meet director give me the ability to view issues from a broad perspective than many members do not have. I am open minded, creative and analytical. I am comfortable both fighting for what I believe but in also compromising with others. I know that I can be a valuable addition to the USMS Board of Directors.

Letter of Nomination

From: Tom and Carolyn Boak

Date: April 19, 2020

Re: Letter of Nomination and Recommendation for Kris Wingenroth  
Position of At-Large Director, South Central Zone

We would like to nominate Kris Wingenroth for the position of At-Large Director, South Central Zone.

Kris Wingenroth has been serving Gulf Masters Swimming and USMS for over thirty years. She has been a serious contributor on the National level as a member of both the Rules and then Legislation Committees, as well as attending the 2019 Leadership Summit. She is strong and never afraid to stand up and raise issues that go against the majority: for example, during the 2019 year, the Legislation Committee passed on a proposal with only Kris questioning it (this proposal was to allow swimmers to change clubs more easily). At Convention, this proposal was soundly defeated by the House of Delegates.

Presently, she is Chair of the Gulf LMSC, she always has a written agenda, reminds members of commitments, and encourages new people to come and participate. One always knows she will ask for everyone's opinion and genuinely listen. She has a respectful mode of leading that does not intimidate.

Because of her background as a coach, she has excellent insight into one of the important pillars of the USMS program - coached workouts. She has been Meet Director for several South Central Zone Meets and the Senior Games. She is both a certified coach and a certified official for High School, College and Masters Meets. She has won several important Zone and National Awards because of her many volunteer contributions.

Kris' history as a High School teacher and coach explains how she can always maintain her composure during heated discussions. It is important to note she has had the experience of writing the LMSC By Laws. She also had willingly taken over an interim Masters coaching position to help maintain the existence of that program. That willingness explains how important she is to Gulf Masters Swimming and will be to the USMS Board of Directors.

Yours truly,

Thomas D. Boak Jr.

USAS Treasurer, USMS Board of Directors

USMS Past President, USMS Past Treasurer, Past Chair of the Finance Committee

Delegate to Gulf LMSC and USMS National Convention

Carolyn Boak

Member of Rules Committee, Recognition and Awards Committee

Delegate to Gulf LMSC and USMS National Convention



**U.S. MASTERS  
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Recommendation Letter for Kris Wingenroth

From: Nicole Christensen, South Central Zone Chair

Date: April 22, 2020

To: The Elections Committee

I am writing to recommend Kris Wingenroth for the Board of Directors, At-Large position.

Kris is a dynamic and responsive leader and would make an exceptional addition to the USMS board. Kris's passion for swimming, and love of Masters swimming, is well known. She looks at problems and projects with a creative eye, intuitively knowing who to include to build consensus to meet the stated goals.

With current events casting uncertainty into people's lives and activities, it is more important than ever to have someone with experience who does not allow changing focus and perspectives to deter them from the short- and long-term goals of USMS.

Kris never acts unilaterally. Her approach is inclusive, seeking to bring in the best proposals from the group, for the benefit of the membership. Always open to new ideas, she will consider both tried and true methods as well as fresh approaches to see if there can be a synergy that makes the end result more advantageous for USMS.

Her depth of knowledge, that comes from her long history with USMS, as well as her strong analytical and organizations skills, have been of great value to not just myself but many others at the local, regional and national levels. Her experience with college, USA Swimming and USMS, as well as being a swimmer herself throughout her life, enables her to look at any situation with a holistic point of view. I wholeheartedly endorse Kris for the USMS BOD.

Yours truly,

Nicole Christensen

South Central Zone Chair