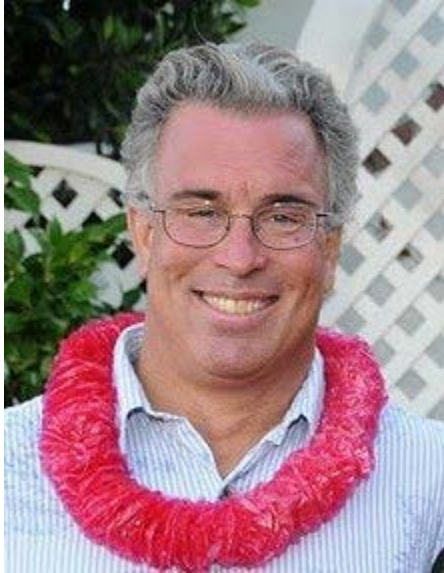


Michael Heather – Candidate for President



The Election Committee has deemed that Michael Heather is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated he is planning to attend the HOD meeting for this election year and is planning to attend all HOD meetings during his tenure in office.

Please see the following pages for the candidate's letters of nomination and recommendation and the candidate's responses on the Candidate Questionnaire.

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE/CONSENT-TO-RUN FORM

All candidates must complete the entire questionnaire. You may use as much space as you choose in answering your questions. Candidates should return this form **by email** with your other attachments to the Chair of the Election Committee (Cheryl Gettelfinger, Elections@usms.org), by **April 30, 2015**. Candidates nominated from the floor must return this form with attachments immediately after nomination.

I. Section One: Consent-to-Run

Name: Michael Heather

LMSC: SPMS

Consent-to-Run: I am running for :

President

Section Two: Candidate Qualifications

I am a member in good standing of USMS in 2015: Yes No

I am planning to attend the annual meeting of the HOD in 2015: Yes No

I am Planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office: Yes No

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

1986-2014 (28 years). Every day of every meeting. I arrived a day early (Tuesday) 99.9% of the time, attended Sunday HOD and other meetings, chaired Wrap up meetings twice.

II. Section Three: Questions

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

I believe that USMS needs the leadership I am prepared to give. A good leader gives credit and takes responsibility. I have a plan and a vision that is simple, clear, and consistent. Not big changes, but changes that will make a difference.

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?

Membership stagnation is one. I would encourage a national advertisement and media campaign, including support for nationwide free swimming lessons for adults. Programs that may be wasting time or money that could be better used elsewhere need to be reviewed. Membership dues rise without apparent need or commensurate services. New membership will remove the need for more increases. There are vast areas of the country without Masters programs, I want to put clubs everywhere that there are pools and people to use them. The administration of USMS needs to be transparent, including the operation of the National Board of Review. I would stop sanitizing BOD minutes and post activities of the NBR. National committees need more time face to face in order to create understanding for their emails and conference calls. I would not only give them more meeting time at convention, but end the convention day at 5 pm, stop scheduling unopposed meetings and reduce the number of HOD meetings to those that are necessary. Insurance premiums are ghastly, we should reposition ourselves to reduce the apparent risk in operations and promote our safety record.

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:

Rules - 1988-1990 - June Krauser

Planning - 1996-2004 - Betsy Durrant & Nancy Miller

Marketing - 1992-1994 - Rich Burns

Convention - 1986-2004 - Bill Tingley, Michael Heather (co-chair 1990-92, chair 1993-2004)

Championship (EC Liaison) - 2010 - 2013 - Jeff Roddin

Fitness Education (EC Liaison) 2005-2008

Coaches (EC Liaison) 2005-2008

Sports Medicine and Science (EC Liaison) 2005-2008

Legislation (EC Liaison) - 2010 - 2013 - Sean Fitzgerald

Registration (EC Liaison) - 2010-2013 - George Simon, Leo Letendre

Rules (EC Liaison) - 2010-2013 - Kathy Casey

Long Distance - 2014 - Donn Livoni

Legislation - 2015 - Meg Smath

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

I was a disaster responder for the American Red Cross for 4 years, held chair, vice chair and treasurer positions in my LMSC, was meet director for championship meets, hosted open water events. Opened and still own my own business since 1984. I also participated in the original Governance and Structure task force in 2003-4 Chaired by Betsy Durrant, all three membership dues task forces (chairing the second one in 2011), participated in the first national office search task force chaired by Laura Winslow, was on the Endowment Board of Governors 2005-10. Participated on Job Description Task force 2012-3 chaired by Chris McGiffin. I hosted the first Masters aquatic roundtable at the USAS convention in 2007.

Please list any other information you would like included.

USMS deserves to grow and thrive in ways we have not yet considered. We have had a habit of selling ourselves to us, and although we are a rapt audience, the larger sports/fitness world knows little about us. This must change if we are to thrive in the future.

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

The sport of swimming is the single greatest and complete exercise that anyone could design and it is ours. What we do with it now is crucial to the future of the sport. If we are thoughtful and diligent, we can add to the legacy that we have inherited.

Letter of Nomination and Recommendation

From: Meg Smath

Date: August 28, 2015

Subject Line: Nomination of Michael Heather

To: The Elections Committee

I nominate Michael Heather for the office of president of USMS. I also recommend him for this office.

I first met Mike in 1991, and know him to be a devoted and impassioned advocate for the organization. We do not always agree on the issues, but his position is always the result of thoughtful deliberation, and he respects my opinion when we disagree.

I worked most closely with Mike on the Convention Committee, and found him to be unflappable in the face of ever-changing situations. He almost always came through, no matter how difficult or odd the request. In fact, he usually anticipated the needs of the committee chairs or delegates, and already had just what was needed in his handy briefcase. This is a quality that would serve him well as president.

Mike was a member of the Board of Directors for more than 20 years, worked long and hard in every position he has held and with every task he was given, and wants to continue to serve the organization.

Sincerely,

Meg Smath, Vice-Chair, Kentucky LMSC

Letter of Support

From: Kathy Casey

Date: September 18, 2015

To: The Elections Committee

This letter of support is based on Michael Heather's efforts for committee chairs he worked with as a vice president and on his ability to listen to logic and weigh the evidence, even though his opinion may have initially been different than indicated by that evidence.

Michael was the vice president overseeing the Rules Committee for four years. He gave the Rules Committee great support and gave me great support in my position as Rules Chair during those years.

If I thought he or the board erred, based on the rules, he listened carefully, read the applicable rules, and ensured that the rules were followed. In some troubling times for us, the Rules Committee received tremendous support from Michael when efforts were made to interpret, change, or override rules by some without authority. It took many hours and delicate political maneuvering over a significant span of time to resolve the situation, but Michael persevered until the situation was resolved.

Michael endeavored to foster a good working relationship with his committee chairs.

Kathy Casey
Rules Chair