

Chris Colburn - Candidate for Vice President of Local Operations



The Election Committee has deemed that Chris Colburn 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, if elected, is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his tenure in office.

The candidate was nominated and recommended by *Jeanne Seidler* and received a letter of recommendation from *Tim Waud* in accordance with our 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 more than 1 HOD Meeting in the past five years? Yes No

I am a resident and a member of the Zone from which I seek election (Director Candidates only): Yes No NA

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

- Dearborn, MI (September 13-17, 2006)
- Anaheim, CA (September 26-30, 2007)
- Atlanta, GA (September 24-28, 2008)
- Chicago, IL (September 16-20, 2009)
- Dallas, TX (September 15-19, 2010)
- Jacksonville, FL (September 14-18, 2011)
- Greensboro, NC (September 12-16, 2012)
- Anaheim, CA (September 11-15, 2013)
- Jacksonville, FL (September 17-21, 2014)
- Kansas City, MO (September 30 – October 4, 2015)
- Atlanta, GA (September 21-25, 2016)

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 the office of Vice President of Local Operations because I firmly believe in giving back to the sport that has had such a positive impact on my life. Besides the obvious health and wellness benefits of swimming, Masters Swimming has afforded me lasting friendships and an extended family of like-minded individuals who are passionate about participating in and giving back to the sport we love. I have been and would continue to be honored to serve among their ranks.

Apart from the experience gained in my two terms as Secretary, I believe I would make a good candidate because I maintain a deep interest in the both the strategic plan and the operational workings of U.S. Masters Swimming.

I believe I will be a good candidate because I am passionate about our products and services, as well as our LMSCs' abilities to provide unique local perspectives to contribute to and deliver those products and services to their membership. I have formed good working relationships with many members of both the volunteer and staff leadership that can facilitate collaboration between the local and national levels to strengthen and evolve the LMSCs and the committees that work with them for the benefit of our members.

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?

In recent years, we have worked to grow the membership through a two approaches that focus on attracting new members and retaining those who have already joined us. As we further develop this strategy, I think we need to strike a consistent balance between what we do to attract new members and what we do to retain existing ones, and find better ways to do that simultaneously, not only through the National Office, but throughout the organization. This balance of initiatives will help USMS to grow more consistently.

As USMS grows, we must evolve along with our changing membership. As a strategic leadership body, the Board, in conjunction with the National Office, needs to pay attention to data related to membership numbers, trends in event and program attendance, and other key indicators to ensure that we can both listen to our membership and allocate resources (both human and financial) toward those areas that will best serve our membership.

An important step in that evolution comes with it the evolution of the volunteer infrastructure. The Futures Task Force, of which I am a member, has looked at our aging volunteer base, and strives to find new and better ways to engage both new and veteran volunteers, while adapting the roles of our volunteers to those that can focus more on brand advocacy and membership services. As our membership evolves at both the local and national levels, some of our infrastructure must begin to change to support that shift in focus. As Vice President of Local Operations, I want to better define what that shift can and should look like at the LMSC and National levels so we continue to attract and engage ALL our volunteers to promote and support USMS at every level of the organization.

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:

Board of Directors:

- Secretary, September 2013 – present (Nadine Day, President 2013-15; Patty Miller, President 2015 - present)

Coaches Committee:

- 2000 (Scott Rabalais, Chair)
- 2007 – May 2008 (Vice Chair; Mo Chambers, Chair)
- June 2008 – 2010 (Chair; Chuck Burr, Scott Bay, Kerry O'Brien, Vice Chairs)
- 2011 (Craig Keller, Chair)

Registration Committee:

- 2014 (Leo Letendre, Chair)

Legislation Committee

- 2016 (Meg Smath, Chair)

Rules Committee

- 2017 (Charles Cockrell, Chair)

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

- Head Coach, Delaware Swim Team Old Dawgs, 1996-1999
- Pilot Coordinator, Colonies Zone Regional On-Deck Coaching Program, 1999
- USMS On-Deck Coaching Coordinator, 2000, 2007-2010
- Illinois LMSC Vice Chair, 2005-2009
- Illinois LMSC Webmaster/IT Director, 2005-2011
- Head Coach, Academy Bullets Masters, 2006-present
- USMS Club Development Task Force, 2008-2009
- Illinois LMSC Chair, 2009-2011
- Illinois LMSC/ILMSA Coach of the Year, 2009
- USMS Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award, 2009
- USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Award, 2009
- Allegheny Mountain LMSC Vice-Chair, 2011
- USMS Discussion Forums Task Force, 2014
- USMS Discussion Forums Moderator, 2014-present
- USMS Futures Task Force, 2016-present
- USMS Convention Rules Task Force, 2016-present

Please list any other information you would like included.

When I'm not hanging out with my kids, coaching, swimming, or working with technology, my hobbies include driving (especially Mustangs); cycling (on- and off-road); watching sci-fi (*Dr. Who* and *Continuum* are current favorites); checking out new and different eateries; and NEVER wearing a red shirt on an away mission.

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

In addition to coaching Masters swimmers in four LMSCs over 27 years, I have volunteered at the local, regional, and national levels in three different LMSCs since 1998. Most recently, I am finishing my second term as USMS Secretary. I have given back to Masters Swimming wherever possible in coaching, leadership, and communications-related roles, and hope to continue to do so as the next Vice President of Local Operations. I have a deep interest in the strategic and operational workings of U.S. Masters Swimming at both the local and the National

levels. Further, am interested in helping USMS evolve as an organization that can support, promote, and change as needed for its ever-growing and ever-changing membership. My experiences with technology, linguistics, and coaching have given me the organizational, communications, collaborative, and strategic thinking skills to succeed in this position. If I am elected, I will continue to work with all levels of our staff and volunteer infrastructure to bring about a better future for our sport and our membership.

From: Jeanne Seidler

Date: April 28, 2017

Subject: Combined Letter of Nomination and Recommendation for USMS Vice President of Local Operations
Candidate, Christopher M. Colburn, Illinois LMSC

To: The Elections Committee

By this letter, it is my pleasure to nominate USMS member, Christopher M. Colburn, as a candidate for the position of USMS Vice President of Local Operations.

By this letter, also, I am recommending and endorsing Christopher M. Colburn for the subject position. This recommendation is based on my long term association and experience with Chris through the community and camaraderie of U.S. Masters Swimming.

Chris' accomplishments in USMS and coaching are extensive as summarized in this nomination packet.

What my recommendation emphasizes is the human side that makes Chris a great candidate for almost any position in USMS. It has been my observation that Chris is truly interested in not only the future of U.S. Masters Swimming on the national level but he is also interested in applying the grass roots efforts to coach and keep swimmers interested on the local level. While the national level develops the programs for coaches and swimmers to follow, the local level is where the programs are executed. Chris is a master of execution. It takes a lot of effort and energy to coach, to swim, to take the swimmers to meets and encourage the swimmers to try new events. And then this effort is multiplied by all the different levels of swimmers in the club. Chris handles everything so well that he makes it look easy to wear multiple hats that range from the VP on a national level to coach and swimmer on the local level.

For his limitless energy to develop the concept on the national level and follow through to the very important execution on the local level, I'm pleased to both nominate and recommend Chris for the position of USMS Vice President of Local Operations.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Seidler
Chair of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee

From: Tim Waud, Chair/President Oregon Masters Swimming

Date: April 29, 2017

Subject Line: Letter of Recommendation for Chris Colburn, Vice President of Local Operations

To: The Elections Committee

I am writing this letter of recommendation to support Chris Colburn for the position Vice President of Local Operations for U.S. Masters Swimming. I have known Chris since we first met at the 2008 U.S. Masters Swimming Summer National Championship in Gresham, Oregon. My first impression of Chris was that of pure passion for the sport of Masters swimming. Chris was very friendly, easy to talk to, and we quickly developed a friendship that has lasted nearly ten years.

On the local level, Chris has worked tirelessly as a swim coach in many capacities. Not only has he worked hard developing his workout group the Academy Bullets Masters, Chris has a variety of experience coaching at the high school and collegiate level. This is a valuable asset to Chris as USMS is looking to reach this demographic and increase our younger generation membership.

Chris has an outstanding record of leadership at the LMSC level. He served as a LMSC Chair and Vice Chair in his LMSC, Chris has gained extensive knowledge on how to govern an LMSC. Having been a LMSC Chair and Vice-chair, I know the time and dedication needed to work with a board of directors, and provide the services our members desire. These key leadership positions are vital to the stability of a successful LMSC and to USMS as a whole.

On the USMS national level, Chris has experience in a wide variety of committee and task force appointments. Having attended the last ten consecutive USAS conventions, he has volunteered for numerous committees including: rules, futures task force, legislation, discussion forms, registration, and club development. Chris has done an excellent job as Secretary for USMS. I have submitted and amended many meeting minutes at USAS and Chris has posted and re-posted my submissions within minutes of receiving those documents.

Chris is an outstanding leader in many capacities. He has the knowledge and the ambition to be a successful candidate for the VPLO position. His passion for Masters swimming is infectious, and I always look forward to seeing him at Nationals or the annual USAS Convention. Chris is always willing and able to help me understand the mechanics of USMS and how it operates. This in turn, is an asset to our membership, a representative who is always there to listen and voice the concerns of those he represents. Please consider Chris Colburn when you want a representative who is always available, eager to help, and punctual when it comes to getting things done.

Sincerely yours,

Tim Waud
Chair/President Oregon Masters Swimming