

Bruce Hopson - Candidate for Secretary



The Election Committee has deemed that Bruce Hopson 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 *Chris Colburn* and received a letter of recommendation from *Jim Goodwin* 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:

I have attended every USMS National HOD Meeting beginning with the 2001 Meeting in Louisville, KY, through the 2016 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

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 this position and believe I would be a good candidate because I have been committed to public service for the last twenty years as a practicing attorney. I believe that my almost 40 years of swimming (15 of which as a Master) along with 15 years of bar service on the local, state and national level would make me a good candidate. In addition to my swimming, my background as both a lawyer and a bar leader would allow me to contribute my

critical thinking and organizational skills to USMS. Furthermore, I have a degree in journalism, and for several years I was the minute taker for the Long Distance Committee.

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?

I believe the major issues presently facing USMS will be how to sustain itself and maintain its relevancy in era in which people are becoming more and more reluctant to join organizations. In a similar fashion, USMS will need to figure out how it can be competitive or collaborate with other existing organizations such as USA Triathlon and to stay ahead of organizations not currently around. Finally, I see there will still be a continued focus on how to balance the interests of the fitness swimmer against those of the competitive swimmer.

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:

I served on the USMS BOD as the Director at-large from the Breadbasket Zone under the leadership of Nadine Day (2012-2015) and Patty Miller (2015-2016).. Additional from 2003-2015, I served on the Long Distance Committee under the leadership of Peter Crumbine, Marcia Cleveland, Heather Hagadorn, and then Donn Livoni. I have previously been on the legal advisors ad hoc committee under Patti Miller, and the records and tabulations committee under Ed Tsuzuki. I also have served on the Governance Committee from 2014 to present) under Leianne Crittenden, and the Elections committee from 2012-2014, and 2015-2016 (the break being because I ran for re-election) under Sheryl Gettelfinger.

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

I served as president of my club, St. Louis Area Masters Swimming from 2000-2006, and chair of the Ozark LMSC from 2004-2006. Additionally, I was co-president of IGLA from 2005-2006. In the non-swimming world, I served from 2011-2012 as president of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis, which is a 6,000-member voluntary bar.

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 believe I would make a good director because I have a long background in swimming as an age group swimmer, an NCAA Division I swimmer and a master swimmer. I have previously served 4 years on the BOD (2012-2016). As an attorney, I would be able to provide needed critical thinking to board discussions. Finally, I have had 15 years of bar leadership experience on the local, state and the American Bar Association.

From: Chris Colburn

Date: April 29, 2017

Subject: Combination Nomination and Recommendation for USMS Secretary Candidate, Bruce Hopson, Ozark LMSC

To: The Elections Committee

I hereby nominate Bruce Hopson for the office of USMS Secretary.

Further, I am writing to recommend Bruce Hopson for the office of USMS Secretary. My work with Bruce on the USMS Board of Directors, and his professional and volunteer experience, lead me to believe he has the skills and experience necessary to execute the position's duties. Bruce's professional background as an attorney requires excellent communication skills, and those skills transfer into this role as well. Bruce has taken minutes in USMS settings before on the Long Distance Committee, so he is familiar with the mechanics of the role. Further, Bruce's previous work on the Board gives him some insight into the strategic work of the organization, as well as the evolving nature of the role.

Therefore, I feel that Bruce is capable of doing an admirable job in the role of USMS Secretary.

Sincerely,

Chris Colburn
USMS Secretary
Head Coach, Academy Bullets Masters (IL)

From: Jim Goodwin

Date: April 29, 2017

Subject: Recommendation of Bruce Hopson for USMS Secretary

To: The Elections Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Bruce Hopson of Ozark LMSC in support of his seeking the USMS Treasurer position. I have known Bruce for over 10 years and feel confident he would be good for this position.

He has a strong history of service, not only to swimming, but to the wider community as well. As a lifelong swimming advocate, Bruce's passion for the sport is contagious, as he has consistently drawn people back to the sport – as well as those new to swimming. He has been an active member and leader in IGLA, an associate member organization to USMS, highlighted by his term as Co-President in 2005/6. He has also been actively involved with the Saint Louis Area Masters (SLAM) serving in a variety of roles. He brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the position, and I highly recommend Bruce for the USMS Secretary position.

Coming from a long line of lawyers, Bruce is adept at critical assessment, thinking and advocating for the best of his clients, and member groups. Over the years, including just last year, he has received numerous awards citing his leadership skills.

Outside of swimming, he is very active in both the American Bar Association (ABA) as well as the local bar, the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL).

Sincerely,

Jim Goodwin

You may publish this letter.