

Chris Colburn - Candidate for Vice President of Administration



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 *Peter Guadagni* and received a letter of recommendation from *Jim Clemmons* 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 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:

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)

Dallas, TX (September 13-17, 2017)
Jacksonville, FL (September 26-30, 2018)

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 Administration 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.

During two terms as Secretary and one term as Vice President of Local Operations, I have learned a great deal about not only the present workings of our organization, but the work of both the National Office and all of the volunteer infrastructure to bring about positive change. 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, and in doing my part to help us to support our current membership and programs while leading us into the future.

I believe I will be a good candidate because I am passionate about our products and services, as well as our abilities to provide unique perspectives to contribute to and deliver those products and services to the 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 Administration division 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-pronged approach that focuses on attracting new members and retaining those who have already joined us. Over the last two years, our retention numbers have been at record levels, while we have not been as successful in attracting new members. This has resulted in a two-year slide in membership that we must continue to work to reverse. I believe that we must strike a more consistent balance between what we do to attract new members and what we do to retain existing ones. Further, we need to find better ways to do that simultaneously, not only through the National Office, but throughout the organization. Over time, I believe this balance of initiatives will help USMS to stabilize its current membership numbers and to grow more consistently over time.

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 continue 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 Volunteers Task Force has done some important work in the past two years to understand the needs of our membership and our volunteers, and to make recommendations that can help us to effect positive change for the organization. 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 Administration, I want to continue to work 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 and Executive Committee:

- Secretary, September 2013 – September 2017 (Nadine Day, President 2013-15; Patty Miller, President 2015 - present)
- Vice President of Local Operations, September 2017 – present (Patty Miller, President)

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)

History and Archives Committee

- 2017 – Present (EC Liaison: Barbara Dunbar, Chair)

LMSC Development Committee

- 2017 – Present (EC Liaison : Michael Moore, Chair)

Records and Tabulation Committee

- 2017 – Present (EC Liaison : Jeanne Seidler, Chair 2017-8 ; MJ Caswell, Chair 2019 – present)

Recognition and Awards Committee

- 2017 – Present (EC Liaison : Ray Novitske, Chair 2017-8 ; Megan Lassen, Chair 2019 – present)

Governance Committee

- 2019 – Present (Jim Miller, 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, 2016-2017
- USMS Convention Rules Task Force, 2016-2017
- USMS LMSC Leadership Summit Task Force, 2018-2019

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 cars and driving (especially Mustangs and Thunderbirds); watching sci-fi (*Dr. Who* and *Star Trek: Discovery* 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 for many years, I have volunteered at the local, regional, and national levels in three different LMSCs since 1998. Most recently, I am finishing a term as Vice President of Local Operations. 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 Administration. 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, I am interested in helping USMS evolve as an organization that can support and promote positive change for the 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 members.

From: Peter M. Guadagni, Vice President of Administration
Date: March 25, 2019
Subject: Nomination of and Recommendation for Chris Coburn

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Chris Coburn for Vice President of Administration and recommend him for that position.

Already a member of the USMS leadership team, Chris has the experience and knowledge to continue his service in a new role. As the previous Secretary and current Vice President of Local Operations he has been a member of the Board and Executive Committee for over 5 years. He is well versed in the challenges and opportunities facing USMS and the organization's current programs and strategies for the future. He brings an upbeat attitude to meetings and a level of energy that is infectious. Chris is particularly well qualified to be VP of Administration having been a member of three of the committees the position oversees (Legislation, Registration, and Rules) and his participation in multiple national championship meets gives him an appreciation for the work of the position's fourth committee (Championship).

Although Chris has recently served in national roles, he knows the ultimate success of USMS is dependent on robust local programs and the volunteers who support them. As a past LMSC leader and contributor and current Vice President of Local Operations, he has first-hand knowledge of the role LMSCs and clubs play in delivering member value. This perspective is important as a board member and particularly so for the Vice President of Administration since the actions of the Legislation, Registration, and Rules Committees can have their biggest impact at the local level.

One of Chris's most important qualifications is his background as an on-deck coach. The coach-swimmer relationship is a core component of the USMS experience. Like most of our coaches, he knows which programs support his efforts and resonate with his swimmers. The Championship, Legislation, Registration and Rules Committees can have a significant impact on our members and as Vice President of Administration, Chris can insure the coaches' viewpoint is included in committee deliberations.

Chris is passionate about the USMS mission and I enthusiastically recommend him to be our next Vice President of Administration.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Guadagni

From: Jim Clemmons, Championship Committee Chair
Date: April 13, 2019
Subject: Letter of Recommendation, Christopher (Chris) Colburn
To: The Elections Committee

This letter of recommendation is on behalf of Chris Colburn for the position of Vice President of Administration.

Chris has demonstrated a passion for supporting not only masters swimming but swimming in general, having coached age group, high school, and masters teams. In addition to coaching, Chris has served to further swimming both at the local level, as well as at the national level. He has attended the national convention every year since 2006. He has filled numerous roles within teams he has started or coached, participated in LMSC structures as well as having served on the BOD continuously since 2013 to the present as Secretary and now VP of Local Operations. Through the years, Chris has been a member of a number of Committees including coaches, rules, legislation and registration.

I had the pleasure of first working with Chris while on the Board of Directors as the at-Large Director, Oceana Zone, while he was Secretary in 2013 and 2014. Chris immediately demonstrated to me that he is the consummate professional. He has the ability to accurately capture minutes of BOD discussions and conference calls even with conversations occurring quickly on multiple topics. Whether a meeting was held in person or over the phone, Chris was still able to participate in the discussions offering valued input while capturing the essence of the discussions for the minutes. He would publish the first draft of the minutes quickly, within a day or two of the meeting.

Chris is personable, friendly and a key resource to provide information and guidance to people new and "old" within the organization. He has strong communication skills, is able to have respectful dialog and has developed good relationships with people across the country. Chris has proven that he has a good sense of how decisions at the national level affect all facets of the organization. He has strong analytical and organizational skills that will be valuable in his role as VP Admin.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Clemmons
Chair, Championship Committee
Chair, Snake River LMSC

Permission is granted by the author for the elections committee to publish this letter for election purposes.