

Carrie Stolar – Breadbasket Zone Candidate for At-Large Director



The Election Committee has deemed that Carrie Stolar 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 is running for reelection and is not required to provide a letter of nomination or letters of recommendation 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:* X Yes ___ No
- I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:* X Yes ___ No
- I am planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office:* X Yes ___ No
- I have attended 1 or more HOD Meeting in the past five years?* X Yes ___ No

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

Kansas City (2015), Atlanta (2016), Dallas (2017), Jacksonville (2018), St. Louis (2019)

Section Three: Questions

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

Like many of you, I am a swimmer, a coach, and a volunteer within USMS who is passionate about swimming. Because of a nagging elbow injury and subsequent surgery, coaching and volunteering have outshined the swimmer in me over the last two years. During that time, I have had the privilege of serving as the At-Large Director from the Breadbasket Zone, a role that I would like to continue. After climbing the learning curve as a new Board member, I feel that I have become a valued contributing member who has gained a better understanding of the pulse of the organization. Like many, I bring a strong foundation of business skills to the Board. However, my understanding of ALTS programming, based on my experiences as a certified instructor as well chair of the Minnesota and USMS ALTS Programming committees, gives me a unique perspective that allows me to represent ALTS issues to the BOD. In my varied roles of coach, At-Large Director, and ALTS instructor, I believe that my strengths of leadership, flexibility, attention to detail, communication, listening skills, and teamwork/relationship building will allow me to continue to effectively serve the Masters Swimming community as I give back to the sport that I love.

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?

1. How can USMS support its members during the COVID-19 shutdown and assist its members, clubs, and workout groups once facilities are allowed to reopen? Reemerging from this shutdown is going to be unique for every program. Frequent and regular communication between and among the USMS Committees, the Board of Directors, the National Office, and LMSCs will be necessary to help get coaches and programs back in business. Connecting and sharing will be critical – from local to national and everything in between. During this stay-at-home period, we have become very skilled at connecting remotely. This will be a critical skill as we begin to resume our activities and face new challenges of bringing clubs and workout groups back to life. Keeping the information flow moving and being willing and able to talk and listen to members/coaches/programs will be important and necessary lifelines.
2. How can USMS sustain and grow its membership? USMS needs to offer benefits and programming to enhance the experience of its existing membership to retain them. By continuing to gather and analyze membership data, USMS will be able to better understand and offer more specific/greater value to members. USMS also needs to continue to attract younger members through opportunities such as College Club Swimming, a program that has tremendous growth potential. Other pipelines need to be more thoroughly explored as potential membership opportunities like ALTS programming graduates. Providing online written workouts for these beginning swimmers might be one incentive for them to join USMS. Fitness members cannot be overlooked as they make up a large and important part of our membership. Including relevant content in Swimmer magazine and online workout options might be incentives for them to join or renew.

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:

SSLF (2020-, Jay Definis, chair)

ALTS Programming Committee (2020-, Carrie Stolar, chair)

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

Swimming:

Breadbasket Zone, At-Large Director, USMS (2018 – present)

MN LMSC: Secretary (3/2016 – 12/2018), ALTS Program Founder and Current Chair (2016 – present); Coordinator for swim angels for local triathlons (2015 – present)

Steering Committee, 2017 Long Course Summer Nationals; Coach (USMS Level 1 and 2 and USA Swimming certified) at Minnetonka Masters; Attendee, 2016 USMS National Coaches Clinic; Open water and pool competitive swimmer; Volunteer, 2018 NCAA Men's Division 1 Swimming Championships and 2020 Mountain West Swimming Championships, held at the University of Minnesota

Other Volunteer Experience:

Captain (Volunteer supervisor), 2018 Super Bowl VII in Minneapolis; Point Guard (Volunteer supervisor), 2019 NCAA Basketball Final Four, Minneapolis; Team Manager, Excelsior Legion Baseball, Summers (2012-2016, 2018-2019); Treasurer, Minnetonka Volleyball Booster Club (2018-2020)

Professional:

Marketing (Consumer packaged goods, small business and non-profit), Project Management, Event Planning

Please list any other information you would like included.

Recipient of the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award, 2016

BA, Vanderbilt University

MBA, Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University

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

When something has been taken away from us, we realize just how important it is to us. This year has underscored that for all of us. While I haven't been able to be in the water, I have focused my energy on continuing to give back to the sport that I love by volunteering and trying to help our organization serve its members as best as possible. I believe my skills and my experience with ALTS bring an important perspective to the USMS Board. I look forward to getting to know even more amazing swimmers, coaches, and volunteers and am excited by the opportunity to continue to serve USMS and its members as the Breadbasket Zone At-Large Director.