

Peter Guadagni - Candidate for President



The Election Committee has deemed that Peter Guadagni is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated he is planning to attend the USMS National HOD Meeting for this election year and, if elected, is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his tenure in office.

The candidate is running for reelection and is not required to provide a letter of nomination or letters of recommendation.

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 Meetings in the past five years?* **X** Yes ____ No

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

I have attended every annual meeting from 2010 through 2020. I was present for all HOD sessions at each annual meeting.

Section Three: Questions

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

It should go without saying that my first term as president did not proceed as expected. When I stood for election in 2019, no one could have imagined we would soon be facing a global pandemic that would dramatically alter our daily lives let alone the operations of USMS. One of things I have missed most in the last year was the camaraderie I would find at my local club, pool competitions, open water swims, volunteer groups and most recently as a member of the

national leadership team. The joy I have received from my USMS membership has made me passionate about its mission. As I said in my candidate statement from two years ago, I want to be president to further serve the organization. I believe the past year has demonstrated I have the skills and experience to lead USMS out of the challenges of the recent past and toward a bright future.

As president I have relied on my volunteer experience leading one of USMS' most prominent clubs, chairing its largest LMSC, and serving as one of its officers along with my varied professional experience to inform my judgments. We have faced many challenges this past year. But with each challenge I have seen an opportunity; changes brought on by necessity can often result in new ideas that revitalize the organization.

My optimistic attitude and unshakeable belief that our programs should be fun for participants and volunteers are some of my key qualifications. As president one of my most important barometers of success would be the smiles I see at our events and meetings. Hopefully, I will get to see those smiles in person should I be honored to serve a second term.

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?

Recovery. As I write this in early spring, many clubs are still not permitted to use their home facilities. Others have restrictions on lane use and on deck coaching. Events with restrictions are just starting to be scheduled. Hopefully, by fall most of these external impediments will be removed allowing clubs and events to return to their pre-pandemic operations. However, the road to full recovery will take time. As returning president, I will continue to make helping our programs make a full recovery a top priority.

Local Programs. In my initial candidate statement for president, I highlighted the importance of local programs. Very few people join USMS solely to become members of our national organization. Most of us join a local program and learn USMS membership is required to attend practices or participate in events. Therefore, a primary mission of USMS nationally must be to help local clubs and work out groups grow and thrive. During a second term, I hope to increase support for local programs through focused volunteer development, enhanced coach training and mentoring, continued marketing, and a greater emphasis in an updated strategic plan.

Alignment. In talking to members and volunteer leaders, I am often surprised by the commonality in what people value in USMS. There seems widespread agreement in the benefits we should be striving to deliver to our members. Yet when we come together, there is frequently a focus on our differences, even when they are small. In a second term, I want to improve the alignment between our Board, Committees, LMSCs and National Office.

Listening. Listening to our members and stakeholders has never been more important as we seek to recover from the pandemic and build a future USMS. Providing effective local support and member services that deliver value can only happen if we understand our audience. As president, I have tried to challenge the board and staff to spend more time listening to our constituencies, exploring systematic methods to better understand and track member interests, and encouraging volunteers to listen and be open to ideas that may be different from their own. If re-elected, I plan to place an even greater emphasis on listening.

Fun. Finally, while we need to take our mission seriously, our involvement in USMS should bring us joy. Sometimes we forget that the staff and our fellow volunteers care for the organization as much as we do. As president, I will remind everyone that our participation should be fun and if we are not smiling, something is wrong.

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:

Legislation Committee, 2011-2013, Sean Fitzgerald Chair

Finance Committee, 2014-present, Jeanne Ensign Chair

Executive Committee, 2017-present, Chairs: Patty Miller (2017-2019), P Guadagni (2019-2021)

USMS Board of Directors, 2017-present, Chairs: Patty Miller (2017-2019), P Guadagni (2019-2021)

As Vice President of Administration I was an ex officio member of the Championship (Jeff Roddin & Jim Clemmons Chairs), Legislation (Richard Garza Chair), Registration (Susan Ehringer Chair), and Rules (Charles Cockrell Chair) Committees during my term from 2017 to 2019.

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

Team Captain/President, Walnut Creek Masters, 2007 – 2010

Chair, Pacific Masters Swimming, 2012 – 2015

Certified Official (USA Swimming 2007 – 2019, USMS 2017 – present)

Meet Director, Pacific Masters Short Course Yards Championships, 2007-2010, 2016, 2017

Co-founder, Walnut Creek Aquatics Fund/Foundation

Chair, Finance subcommittee on Sanction Fees, 2015

Member, planning committee for first LMSC Leadership Summit, 2015

Member, Finance subcommittee on Use of Reserves, 2016

Chair, Finance subcommittee on Budget and Fees, 2017

Pacific Masters Meet Operations and Sanction Coordinator, 2017 - 2019

President, Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association, 2 years

Board member, Playhouse West (local theater group), 3 years

30 years management experience at senior leadership levels

Please list any other information you would like included.

Creator of Coach Appreciation Week, first at local club, Walnut Creek Masters, and later extended to the Pacific Masters LMSC. It has since been adopted by USMS.

My proudest accomplishments relate to volunteer recognition; I have written the nomination letters for 10 Donnelly Award winners, 1 Fitness Award Winner, 2 Open Water Service Award Winners and 2 Krauser Award Winner and contributed to the nominations of 2 USMS Coach of the Year Winners and 2 Ransom Arthur Award Winners.

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

As your president I will strive to reflect your passion for swimming and channel our joint efforts to fulfill the USMS vision. Together with the CEO, my fellow officers and Board members I hope guide the organization in its pursuit of its goals and objectives while being responsive to member needs.