

## Susan Ehringer – Great Lakes Zone Candidate for At-Large Director



The Election Committee has deemed that Susan Ehringer 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 was nominated and recommended by *Meg Smath* and received a letter of recommendation from *Chris Ottati* 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:***

Orlando Sept. 15-19, 2004; Greensboro Sept. 14-18, 2005; Greensboro Sept. 14-18, 2005; Dearborn Sept. 13-17, 2006; Anaheim Sept. 26-30; Atlanta Sept. 24-28, 2008; Chicago Sept. 16-20, 2009; Dallas Sept. 15-19, 2010; Jacksonville Sept. 14-18, 2011; Greensboro Sept. 12-16, 2012; Anaheim Sept. 11-15, 2013; Jacksonville Sept. 17-21, 2014; Kansas City Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 2015; Atlanta Sept. 21-25, 2016; Dallas Sept. 13-17, 2018; Jacksonville Sept. 26-30, 2018; St. Louis Sept. 11-15, 2019; Virtual Sept. 25-27, 2020, Virtual Sept. 20-23, 2021.

### Section Three: Questions

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

Since I joined U.S. Masters Swimming, I have been striving to repay my fellow sport. I started by simply attending a Kentucky LMSC meeting and eventually worked my way up to becoming the Chair of the LMSC. In 2004, I attended my first U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting. I was pleasantly surprised by the number of smart volunteers who cared so much for the organization that they would spend countless hours devoted to making U.S. Masters Swimming the great organization it is. I was so inspired that I have continued to volunteer for several committees and even became a Chair of the Membership Committee. I have seen us grow from a nearly all-volunteer organization to hiring a Chief Executive Officer who eventually hired a full staff at National Office.

I know I would be a good candidate because I have been mentored by several of the existing and past board members and worked closely with many of the existing Board Members and National Office Staff. I

have a great understanding of the organization and how it functions. I have numerous relationships with people inside the Great Lakes Zone and across the country. I not only have my own opinions of how things should be run, but I listen to others about how they believe the organization can be its. I want to do right by our membership.

I believe my skills as a facilitator of change management and conflict resolution will serve to enhance the board.

***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?***

Membership. If we don't continue to grow, to retain our existing members, get back our former members and continue to recruit new members, we cannot continue to be sustainable. I believe we have lost sight of our base of competitive swimmers. I want to capture the excitement of swimming. The excitement we see during the Olympics. The excitement we experience when records are broken. We have an opportunity to attract new swimmers and bring back our old swimmers by creating new events. Events that people want to come to not just to compete in, but to watch, coach, officiate, and volunteer.

***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:***

- Elections Committee 2016-2021 (Erin Sullivan, Cheryl Gettlefinger)
- LMSC Development Committee 2021 (Maddie Siblia)
- Swimming Saves Lives Foundation 2018-2019
- Legislation Committee Associate 2015, Legislation Committee Ex-Officio 2006-2014 (Rob Copeland, Meg Smath, Sean Fitzgerald, Richard Garza)
- Long Distance Committee Ex-Officio 2006-2014 (Marsha Cleveland, Heather Haggadorn)
- Membership Committee 2008-2013, 2016-2018, Membership Committee Vice Chair 2014, Membership Committee Chair 2018-2020 (George Simon, Leo Letendre)
- Rules Committee Associate 2015, Rules Committee Ex-Officio 2006-2014 (Kathy Casey, Charles Cockrell)
- Communications Committee 2005-2009 (Hugh Moore)
- Marketing Committee 2005-2006 (Doug Garcia)

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

- Chair of Kentucky LMSC
- Membership Coordinator and Registrar of Kentucky LMSC

***Please list any other information you would like included.***

- As Rule Book Editor/Coordinator I reduced the size of the Rule Book and introduced spiral binding.
- Swam collegiately at the University of Evansville 1986-1990

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

I have been a U.S. Masters Member for 20 years. I volunteer to teach ALTS and coach at the local level. I enjoy devoting my volunteer time to U.S. Masters at the national and local level. I want to up my level of contribution from a delegate and volunteer to become an active member of the Board of Directors. If elected I will listen to the membership, bring fresh ideas, make appropriate recommendations and sound decisions.

From: Meg Smath, Secretary, Kentucky LMSC

Date: April 27, 2022

Subject: Recommendation for Susan Ehringer's candidacy, At-Large Director from the Great Lakes Zone


To: The Elections Committee

It is my honor to nominate and recommend Susan Ehringer as candidate for At-Large Director from the Great Lakes Zone. I have known her for more than 20 years, and worked closely with her at the LMSC and national level. In all the years I've known her, we have always worked together well and had a great deal of fun while doing it. Susan has been our LMSC's registrar for decades and not only been spectacular at that job but come up with many innovations, both in her capacity as the Kentucky registrar and as a member and ultimately chair of the Membership Committee (formerly the Registration Committee). She has also been a member of the Elections Committee for several years and also been hard-working and innovative there.

The USMS position she held that was dearest to my heart was as editor of the rule book. I was editor for 12 years myself, and when I was elected secretary of USMS and had to give up being editor, the first person I thought of to take my place was Susan. She was an excellent editor, and I believe held the position longer than I did. She is literally up for any challenge.

She also has been part of two virtual long distance championships hosted by the Kentucky LMSC, both bidding for them and administering them, and has said "yes" anytime anyone asked her to do anything else having to do with USMS. She has given so much to the organization and still has much more to give. She would be a tremendous member of the Board of Directors, and she has my complete support.

Sincerely,



Meg Smath  
Secretary, Kentucky LMSC



**U.S. MASTERS  
SWIMMING**

Nomination \* \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation\*\* \_\_\_x\_\_\_

Both/Combo\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Chris Ottati, Pacific LMSC, Administrator (Membership, Top 10, etc)

To: Elections Committee,

Date: April 28, 2022

FROM: Chris Ottati, Pacific LMSC, Administrator (Membership, Top 10, etc)

Subject: Susan Ehringer recommendation, At-Large board position

To: Elections Committee,

I am happily recommending Susan Erhinger for an At-Large USMS Board of Directors position. I worked with Susan for several years on the Membership Committee (formerly Registrars Committee). I found Susan to be organized and thorough. Additionally, Susan was open to all voices and opinions of committee members and always responded in a thoughtful way.

But most of all, I know how passionate about and committed to USMS Susan is. She has spent years as a dedicated volunteer for her Kentucky LMSC. Susan understands USMS and, most importantly, Susan understands the needs of our membership.

I believe Susan is the perfect person to help USMS grow and become the organization it strives to be for all our members and future members.

Closing,

Chris Ottati, Pacific LMSC, Administrator (Membership, Top 10, etc)