



U.S. MASTERS SWIMMING

Board of Directors Candidate Application Form

Date Submitted Monday, June 10, 2024

Section 1: Candidate Information

Board Position Title

At-Large Director-Southwest Zone

Candidate Name (as on USMS registration)

Jeff Commings

Preferred Pronouns

He/Him/His

Profile Photo Upload



Jeff1.jpg

Section 2: Qualification Questions

I am a current USMS member in good standing in this election year.

Yes

I have attended one or more annual meetings in the past five years.

Yes

USMS annual meetings attended in the last 5 years

Year Attended
2023
2022
2021
2020

Year Attended
2019

I plan to attend the Annual Meeting this year.

Yes

I plan to attend all Annual Meetings, Board of Director meetings, and other assigned meetings during my tenure.

Yes

I have the technological capability to fully participate in USMS videoconference meetings.

Yes

For at-large director positions: I am a member of an LMSC within my zone of candidacy.

Yes

Section 3: Nomination and Recommendations

First Nominator and Recommender

Recommender 1: Name

Judy Gillies

Second Recommender

Recommender 2: Name

Steve Landau

Recommender 2 LMSC or N/A

Arizona

Recommender 1 LMSC

Arizona

Section 4: USMS Background

USMS Permanent Member Number 0310T

USMS Profile URL <https://www.usms.org/people/0310T>

Current LMSC Arizona

Years as a USMS Member 25

Service at the LMSC Level

How many years have you served your LMSC? 6-10

LMSC Service History

LMSC Position/Committee	Length of Service (Years)
Elections	6

Service at the Zone Level

How many years have you served at the Zone level?

0

Service at the National Level

How many years have you served at the National level?

6-10

National Service History

National Position/Committee	Length of Service (Years)
Diversity and Inclusion Task Force/Committee	8
Board of directors	2

Section 5: General Questions for all Candidates

Please state why you are interested in serving on the USMS Board of Directors.

I have enjoyed my first term on the board directors, and would like to continue serving in this role to help the organization realize its goals of being the best adult swimming organization in the country through its values and mission.

What does USMS's mission mean to you? Please share a personal story.

It means a lot the USMS works hard to foster an environment that makes people feel welcomed. As a person of color, it has not always been easy to feel that on a pool deck, but from the first moment I became a Masters swimmer, I have felt that sense of community. It is the reason why I have remained a Masters swimmer for 25 years.

What do you consider to be USMS's greatest opportunities for the next 2 to 4 years? How would you advocate for these opportunities on the national board level?

Opportunities for growth can happen if the organization strives to look beyond budgets and focus on the people. I understand that an organization's survival is dependent on a good financial statement, but a sports organization also needs to be very aware of its members.

Section 6: Position-Specific Questions

What makes you a good candidate for a USMS at-large director? What skills, experiences, and attributes do you have that will contribute to the success of USMS?

I want to be a voice for the Southwest Zone, which has the second-largest LMSC in USMS, as well as one of the smallest. That enforces the idea that no area of the country should be left out because of its location or membership numbers. Everyone can thrive. My time as a member (and now chair) of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee has allowed me the opportunity to see the people in USMS and how we can make the membership look more like society.

Describe a situation where you had to balance your own perspective with input from individuals representing various viewpoints, and how you ensured that all perspectives were considered.

In conversations I have in our monthly Diversity and Inclusion meetings, I hear perspectives from the members who talk about their experiences as disabled people, or as women, or as people of color. It forces me to look outside my perceived bias, and allows me to understand that many issues are not simply either/or. That helps me in board meetings where I often hear from fellow board members with perspectives that I had not considered. I feel that I am able to listen with an open mind, which is a big asset for a member of the board of directors.

Section 7: Agreements and Submission

Election Operating Guidelines Accepted

Board Standards Accepted

Conflict of Interest Policy and Questionnaire Accepted

Code of Conduct Accepted

Unsporting Conduct Accepted

Attestation Accepted

Consent to Publish Accepted

Consent to Run Accepted

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jen C.", written in a cursive style.

Date Signed Monday, June 10, 2024



U.S. MASTERS SWIMMING

Board of Directors Nomination/Recommendation Form

Submitted on

Monday, June 10, 2024

Section 1: Nominator/Recommender Information

Name

Judy Gillies

LMSC or N/A

Arizona

Zone or N/A

Southwest

USMS Permanent Member Number

400FR

Section 2: Candidate Information

Board Position Title

At-Large Director-Southwest Zone

Candidate Name (as on their USMS registration)

Jeff Commings

Section 3: Nomination & Recommendation

How do you know the candidate?

I have know Jeff since he first moved to AZ about 30 years ago! As the AZ LMSC Chairman & a Referee, I watched & officiated Jeff for years! I've taken private lessons from him through his Dolphins of the Desert program!

What makes this person a good candidate for this position? What skills, experiences, or attributes do they bring that will contribute to the success of USMS in this role?

Jeff, is perfect for this position because he has a huge background in swimming! He is a record breaking swimmer, a top coach & a great private teacher of swimming!

He is a good listener, and learner! He wants to become involved and share his experience & learn more about what is done & can be done at the national level! And he is a calm, rational person who is open to hearing all aspects is a subject!

Section 4: Agreements & Submission

Nominator/First Recommender

Accepted

Attestation

Accepted

Consent to Publish

Accepted

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "F".

Date Signed

Monday, June 10, 2024



U.S. MASTERS SWIMMING

Board of Directors Nomination/Recommendation Form

Submitted on

Monday, June 10, 2024

Section 1: Nominator/Recommender Information

Name

Steve Landau

LMSC or N/A

Arizona

Zone or N/A

Southwest

USMS Permanent Member Number

02F7B

Section 2: Candidate Information

Board Position Title

At-Large Director-Southwest Zone

Candidate Name (as on their USMS registration)

Jeff Commings

Section 3: Nomination & Recommendation

How do you know the candidate?

I am a member of Jeff's swim team as well as his daily workout partner.

What makes this person a good candidate for this position? What skills, experiences, or attributes do they bring that will contribute to the success of USMS in this role?

Jeff bleeds swimming and he continually does everything he can do to insure that the sport thrives for all levels of swimmers. His passions lie in teaching, for some that so they are water safe and for others to rise in their abilities for competition.

I have yet to meet anyone who cares so much for the sport and that people from all walks of life have the opportunity to enjoy swimming. Inclusion seems to be his main goal.

Dolphins of the Desert is Jeff's swim team and it has grown exponentially over the past years. Last year there were maybe 7-10 Dolphin swimmers at USMS meets. This year, there have been nearly 30 at each event, with nearly 10 at national meets. The camaraderie he has encouraged has made this team one of inclusion, new friendships, and lots of good times together.

Our USMS board will always benefit from forward thinking people like Jeff Commings. I highly recommend him!

Section 4: Agreements & Submission

Second Recommender

Accepted

Attestation

Accepted

Consent to Publish

Accepted

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized letter 'M' with a vertical line extending downwards from its center, and a horizontal line extending to the right from the top of the 'M'.

Date Signed

Monday, June 10, 2024