



# U.S. MASTERS SWIMMING

## Board of Directors Candidate Application Form

Date Submitted Thursday, June 20, 2024

### Section 1: Candidate Information

Board Position Title

At-Large Director-Great Lakes Zone

Candidate Name (as on USMS registration)

Christopher Rushman

Preferred Name

C.J.

Preferred Pronouns

He/Him/His

Profile Photo Upload



CJ Rushman.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

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

Susan Ehringer

##### Second Recommender

##### Recommender 2: Name

Caitlin Gagnon

##### Recommender 2 LMSC or N/A

Ohio

##### Recommender 1 LMSC

Kentucky

### Section 4: USMS Background

USMS Permanent Member Number      CJRUS

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

Current LMSC      Kentucky

Years as a USMS Member      28

#### Service at the LMSC Level

How many years have you served your LMSC?      10+

#### LMSC Service History

LMSC Position/Committee	Length of Service (Years)
KY LMSC Chair	7
KY LMSC Secretary	7
Ohio LMSC Chair	9

LMSC Position/Committee	Length of Service (Years)
Ohio LMSC Secretary	4

**Service at the Zone Level**

**How many years have you served at the Zone level?** 1-5

**Zone Service History**

Zone Position/Committee	Length of Service (Years)
Great Lakes Zone Chair	4

**Service at the National Level**

**How many years have you served at the National level?** 1-5

**National Service History**

National Position/Committee	Length of Service (Years)
USMS National Corporate Secretary	4
At Large Director	1

**Section 5: General Questions for all Candidates**

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

I believe that the leadership experiences I have gained in the military and corporate world combined with the experience of serving USMS at both the local and national level will make a good combination for providing leadership to the organization.

My twenty nine years in compliance and project management within managing organizations, both large and small, through periods of change will be of great value in the role of at-large director for the Great Lakes Zone. If elected, I would like to focus on transparent communication as a means to improve USMS and promote strategic growth with the intent of increasing our membership. We need to focus the organization on truly marketing our brand and getting the message out that USMS has something to offer everyone. We need to stop telling ourselves how great swimming is. We need to step outside of the swimming world and really promote to non-swimmers the benefits of our sport.

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

What I love about the mission is the simplicity. "Empower adults to improve their lives through swimming." People get the support they need that is right for them. They are respected and confident in their communities.

I have been and still am a card-carrying member of United States Masters Swimming since May 1st, 1996. My life has certainly been affected by this sport. Like Doctor Suess's book, "Oh the Places You Will Go", my swimming life mirrors that story. I would not be the person I am without the people I have met and still yet to encounter in my swimming life. All of my dearest friends, some dating back to my childhood, are due to being involved in the sport of swimming.

**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?**

The focus should be Membership, specifically retention and growth. Both are critical to the future health of

USMS. We need to attract new members as well as keep those who have joined in the past. The organization needs to develop a consistent balance of interests for both groups for their continued membership in USMS. Consistent programs for all members will ensure that USMS can deliver a valued product. This will be reflected by our members' continuing support and membership.

In addition to developing programs that will increase our membership, we must continue marketing concepts to broaden our financial base so that we do not rely strictly on registration, club, and program fees to run our organization. Support of corporate sponsors who have looked to aid us as loyal partners needs to continue and explore new opportunities for the future.

## 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?**

- Volunteer Task Force: 2018–2019. Chaired by Laura Winslow.
- USMS LMSC Leadership Summit Task Force: 2018–2019. Co-led with Lisa Brown.
- USMS LMSC Development Committee: 2016–2019. Chaired by Michael Moore.
- USMS Great Lakes Zone Chair from 2015–2019.
- USMS At-Large Director (filled vacancy): 2013–2014.
- USMS Secretary: 2009–2013. Served under Presidents Jeff Moxie and Nadine Day.
- Information Technology (IT) Liaison to the Board of Directors: with Chris McGiffin and Jim Matysek. Oversaw the production of the development of the in-house registration system for USMS.
- Ex-Officio to Coaches Committee: 2012–2015. Chaired by Scott Bay.
- Championship Committee: 2002–2009. Chaired by Mark Moore. Served as co-meet liaison with Carolyn Boak to USMS Short Course Nationals at the University of Texas, Austin, Texas, 2008.
- Publications Committee (descendent of the Rule Book Committee): 2002–2009. Chaired by Meg Smath and Susan Ehringer.
- Swim Kentucky Masters club president: 2009–present
- Kentucky LMSC Chair: 2017–2023
- Kentucky LMSC Secretary: 2011–2017
- Ohio LMSC Chair: 2001–2007
- Ohio LMSC Secretary: 1999-2007
- Ohio LMSC Vice Chair: 2009-2011, & 2018-2022.
- Ohio LMSC Fitness and Safety Officer: 2007–2009
- Founder of Anderson Barracuda Masters (Cincinnati, Ohio):
- USA/YMCA certified swimming official
- Officiated the 2019 College Club Championship meet at Ohio State University.
- American Swimming Coaches Association life member.
- U.S. Masters Swimming Certified Coach Level 3(achieved Oct. 2013)
- Adult-Learn-to-Swim certified instructor (achieved Feb. 16, 2020)
- USA Triathlon Certified Level 1 Coach (achieved Oct. 2016)

### **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.**

One way is to stay focused on the Overall and Shared Goals of the group. Make sure you truly understand the real goal. Embrace difference: ask questions to reduce confirmation bias. Sometimes we avoid people or ways of thinking that are different from our own. Try taking the opposite approach and ask questions about why someone has a different view or way of working. And here's the one mistake in the question: Progress grows not despite differences but because of differences. Without differences, we seldom find new and better ways. It is by embracing differences, by exercising differences that we find new ways – and so we progress in all we do.

## 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 be 'C. J. R...'.

**Date Signed** Thursday, June 20, 2024



## Board of Directors Nomination/Recommendation Form

Submitted on

Thursday, June 20, 2024

### Section 1: Nominator/Recommender Information

Name

Susan Ehringer

LMSC or N/A

Kentucky

Zone or N/A

Great Lakes

USMS Permanent Member Number

01WF7

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### Section 2: Candidate Information

Board Position Title

At-Large Director-Great Lakes Zone

Candidate Name (as on their USMS registration)

C.J. Rushman

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### Section 3: Nomination & Recommendation

**How do you know the candidate?**

We are teammates on Swim Kentucky Masters and serve on the LMSC Board together.

**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?**

He has previously served on the Board of Directors, Zone Chair, LMSC Chair, and a variety of committees at the national level. C.J. understands the business of U.S. Masters Swimming. He cares about the organization, the sport, and his fellow swimmers.

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### Section 4: Agreements & Submission

**Nominator/First Recommender**

Accepted

**Second Recommender**

Accepted

**Attestation**

Accepted

**Consent to Publish**

Accepted

**Signature**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Emiger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'Emiger'.

**Date Signed**

Thursday, June 20, 2024



# U.S. MASTERS SWIMMING

## Board of Directors Nomination/Recommendation Form

Submitted on

Thursday, June 20, 2024

### Section 1: Nominator/Recommender Information

Name

Caitlin Gagnon

LMSC or N/A

Ohio

Zone or N/A

Great Lakes

USMS Permanent Member Number

0ANR8

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### Section 2: Candidate Information

Board Position Title

At-Large Director-Great Lakes Zone

Candidate Name (as on their USMS registration)

CJ Rushman

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### Section 3: Nomination & Recommendation

How do you know the candidate?

I met CJ through masters swimming in 2017, and he encouraged me to volunteer for USMS in 2022.

**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?**

CJ is great at making things happen. He is a doer. He is also fantastic at identifying more volunteers who can further the mission of USMS. He is definitely a leader in this region.

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### Section 4: Agreements & Submission

Second Recommender

Accepted

Attestation

Accepted



**Consent to Publish**

Accepted

**Signature**

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

**Date Signed**

Thursday, June 20, 2024