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# USMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

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## PRESIDENT – Jim Miller, MD

I cannot start this report without telling all of you how proud I am of our organization and the trust that you bestow on me as your President. Discussions are at times heated because we are all so dedicated to a sport that is ours. I am sure that you will have examples of that during this convention.

The prospect of the 11<sup>th</sup> FINA Masters World Championships taking place in the U.S. in 2006 is becoming a reality. Last year's convention set the tone for USMS to take on such a monumental project in conjunction with the other Masters disciplines. We shall be testing the concept of 'Teaming Together' for the next several years. Presentations to FINA have been very positive. I was invited to attend a USAS reception for FINA in Barcelona this past July for that purpose. I traveled there as the team physician to the U.S. Open Water Team for the FINA World Championships and stayed on for two days to meet with FINA delegates. Also, while there I met with ASUA, presenting the topic of developing a Masters PanAm Games, which would include all aquatic disciplines. This proposal came from the Central American countries to me.

The World Championships were very exciting in many ways. Through a cooperative effort with FINA and USAS, we were able to try out an exciting new marketing tool. Eighty-three spots featured USMS on ESPN and ESPN2, driving home the idea of why you should join USMS. We are trying hard to break the 'Best Kept Secret' mold. The opportunities are endless for us to service, educate, and build. Data is being kept by the national office about the success of this new marketing tool.

This past January I attended the opening of the Masters Hall of Fame at the International Swimming Hall of Fame. The presentations highlighting the accomplishments of the honored athletes were inspiring. They were all pleased that USMS had remembered them and attended their special moment. I also participated in the ISHOF board meeting. The debates regarding the fate of the Hall of Fame in Ft. Lauderdale continue. Local and national politics make it difficult to predict where the Hall will end up. It may stay right where it is.

I am always excited to present achievement awards, as you shall see at this convention. It was with great honor that I could present the 2003 Ransom Arthur Award to Sandi Rousseau at Short Course Nationals in Tempe, Oregon and all of USMS is enhanced by all that she has done over the years. Now, will she survive the presentation at this convention?

This year is an election year. To me it represents a time to take account of our direction. Many of the projects that this Executive Committee have started are under development at this time. I welcome your input about our vision for USMS. My door is always open to you. I anticipate accelerating the pace of our efforts (for example, the Data Base Task Force and greater involvement internationally, to name a few). This Executive Committee remains committed to open communication with USMS members, whether it is during the Open Forums at nationals or posting minutes timely on the internet. These are exciting times. Join us!

### AGENDA

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:30 pm

Meeting Room – SAN DIEGO

1. Convention Overview
  - Block Party
  - Core Objectives
2. International Events
  - 11<sup>th</sup> FINA Masters World Championships
  - ASUA
3. Part IV
4. Recognition and Thank you

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- USMS Board of Directors
- Safety Education Committee
- New Delegates Committee

5. Over budget items
6. Approval of seed funding for the FINA Worlds
7. Notification of contentious topics likely to appear
8. Grievance

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## VICE PRESIDENT – Scott Rabalais

It has been a pleasure serving as your Vice President over the past year and associating with a hard-working and productive Executive Committee.

During the past year, I have focused my efforts on the development of ideas relating to our newly accepted core objectives: *Service, Educate and Build the Membership*. These ideas were formulated and passed through the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and House of Delegates. Feedback was reviewed; the core objectives proposal were modified and subsequently were given near unanimous support by the Board of Directors. You will hear far more about the administration's core objectives at convention, plus witness the first steps of their implementation.

I continue to serve as a co-coordinator for the Masters track at the ASCA World Clinic, which precedes our convention in San Diego. As it applies to our core objectives, this is an extremely valuable opportunity for Masters coaches to become more educated about our profession. Also, we aim to draw more coaches, whether from the college, age group or high school ranks, into Masters swimming. Our first experience at the 2002 ASCA Clinic was very successful, and we anticipate another great response in San Diego. In particular, we are very excited about our "TYR Coaches Panel," where top-name coaches David Salo, David March, Jim Montgomery and Michael Collins will address a large audience of coaches on topics pertaining to Masters swimming.

Keep up the good work, and I look forward to seeing you in SoCal!

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## SECRETARY – Sally Ann Dillon

It has been a stimulating and rewarding year serving USMS as it's Corporate Secretary and I thank you all again for affording me the honor. I am enjoying being an elected leader of our great organization and also the opportunities to interact with individuals across the country. Since last convention I have continued to fulfill one of my primary responsibilities - recording minutes at Executive Committee meetings and preparing them for approval and distribution. Members of the Board of Directors, special assignments, and vice chairs receive the minutes electronically and they are posted on the USMS web site as well. I hope you have found time to read them.

In recent months I've been busy compiling delegate lists for the upcoming convention and working with the LMSCs to assure that everyone is signed up properly. I have also assisted President Miller with his selections of the At-Large Delegates. It appears that we could have over 220 delegates in San Diego this year but at the time this report is being written (7/20) there are still fourteen LMSCs that have not submitted their delegate information. An untimely selection will put the delegates at a disadvantage for making hotel and flight reservations and may cause them to have to pay a higher USAS registration fee. I strongly encourage all LMSCs to make an effort to make their selections by June 30 next year.

Since last convention I have been the EC liaison to the History & Archives, Officials, Publications, and Rules Committees and it has been a pleasure to work with the committee chairs and to be involved in their various

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activities. Sincere thanks to Carl House, David Diehl, Meg Smath, Leo Letendre, and their committee members for all of their hard work this past year.

One of my projects this past year has been to organize and catalog documents that should be in the Secretary's possession. It is my goal to see that all of the minutes from the House of Delegates, Board of Directors, and Executive Committee meetings are accounted for. Unfortunately, at this point in time, they are not. I am also organizing materials from conventions so that the history of the actions of the various committees is not lost. I've received significant help from Jane Moore and Ginger Pierson in recent months - thankfully they had kept their convention materials since the mid-'80's. I am still missing a number of documents though; particularly those from the 70's and early '80's. I hope a few of our veteran delegates have some of the missing documents in their garages or basements. If you can help, please contact me and I'll see that you get the list that I have prepared that indicates what I am missing.

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## TREASURER – Doug Church

The Treasurer's report will be sent at a later date.

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## ZONE CHAIRMAN – Lynn Hazlewood

It's been another busy year. Besides my duties as a member of the Executive Committee, I am Chair of the Zone Committee, Vice Chair of the Database Task Force, Chair of the Election Committee, Liaison to Long Distance and Communications, and a Web Site Administrator. You can read about these activities in reports elsewhere in this packet. For this year's topic, I'd like to address the legislation that has been proposed to eliminate the Zone Committee. I'm not going to respond to the specifics of the proposal and its rationale. I will address specifics in the Legislation committee meetings. Rather, I would like to present some insight into the value of the Zone Committee and provide a point of view for HOD members to consider when evaluating this legislation.

Do we need a Zone Committee? This question has been kicking around for a few years now. It's a fair question and totally appropriate for an organization to look at itself periodically. Before we can determine if a committee is needed, we have to ask ourselves some questions. What is a committee? What is it there for? What is its purpose in the organization? How does it relate to our recently adopted Core Objectives of Service, Educate, and Build? Until we answer these questions in the context of the totality of USMS, we cannot hope to determine where the Zone Committee fits into our organization and whether it is necessary.

A partial answer can be found by examining the nature of our national committees. We have three types of committees in USMS. The first type comprises those committees with very specific and substantial tasks, such as Legislation, Rules, and Long Distance (Type 1). The second type of committee has a philosophical charge, such as Planning and Communications (Type 2). The third type of committee provides a framework for groupings of officials with common interests to communicate and work in support of each other (Type 3). Committees such as Registration and Zone belong to this type.

Since no-one is questioning the value of the Registration committee, we can safely assume that a Type 3 committee is acceptable in our current environment. I agree with this position. I don't think we should underestimate the value of providing a structure for officials to network together. I also don't believe these types of committees should be doing projects. The primary responsibility of the members of Type 3 committees is toward their constituents and energy should not be siphoned off into other avenues. On this point, I agree with the rationale given for the legislation in question. I simply disagree with the solution (i.e. to eliminate the Zone Committee). The authors of this legislation labor under the misconception that zones are independent entities. They are not. Zones are part of USMS corporate structure and should remain integrated at the national level through the Zone Committee.

The function of the Zone Committee should be to enhance the ability of its members to work together and support each other in their respective endeavors. The creation of the Zone Rep Job Description, which we will finalize and approve in our convention meeting, is a step in this direction. The next step will be to improve communications and exchange of information within the committee so that zones can benefit from the

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experience and capabilities of other zones. This will enable us to assist Zone Reps in the development of projects inside their zones. These projects should be aimed at Servicing, Educating, and Building our membership through the local level. At the same time, the Zone Chair will have the opportunity to mentor new USMS leaders (zones have recently been treating the Zone Rep position as an entry level leadership spot). Of course, if the committee disappears after this convention, that plan will never come to fruition.

The issue of which committees provide value for USMS and which do not is more complex than the proposed legislation or the accompanying discussion forums imply. When discussing governance, and that's what this legislation addresses, we need to view USMS as a whole organism and not a conglomeration of independent parts, each one expendable if no perceived value attaches. To pick off a single committee will buy USMS very little. Changes need to be accomplished in the context of an overall review of our structure with the Core Objectives as a benchmark to guide us. There is no harm done by the existence of the Zone Committee, but it's hasty elimination may result in the loss of opportunity that we will only discover after the fact.

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## PAST PRESIDENT – Nancy Ridout

Time seems to have flown by this year! Our last convention in Dallas seems a long time ago.

As a continuing member of the Executive Committee I have contributed to the ongoing business of USMS through monthly (or more) conference calls, the January mid-year meeting in Phoenix, and as the Executive Committee Liaison to the Marketing, Records and Tabulation, and Registration committees. I have also worked closely with the USMS SWIM Magazine Editor in the areas of editorial calendar development, articles, editing, and resources.

In May, I represented USMS at the 2003 International Swimming Hall of Fame Inductions in Ft. Lauderdale. It was an exciting and rewarding experience to participate in the induction activities, attend the ISHOF Congress and Board of Directors meetings, and to support the induction of Laura Val, an Honoree Swimmer and outstanding competitor in USMS. Laura gave a fine acceptance speech and was an exceptional recipient of which USMS can be very proud.

Also in May, I attended (as a spectator) the Short Course National Championships and a meeting with SWIM Magazine personnel and the USMS SWIM Editor and President. This meeting was invaluable to our continuing partnership and business practices. It was determined that this same group should meet again in San Diego, prior to the start of the USMS convention, to continue the progress begun in May.

I have had the pleasure, over the last two years, of working closely with the Chairs of Marketing (Rich Burns), Records and Tabulation (Pieter Cath), Registration (Anna Lea Roof), and the USMS Swim Magazine Editor (Bill Volckening) as Liaison from the Executive Committee. These chairs are doing fine jobs on behalf of USMS and for the 43,000 swimmers in our ranks.

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## LEGAL COUNSEL – Patty Powis

The Legal Counsel report is contained within the Ad Hoc Legal Counselors Committee report.

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