

## Skip Thompson - Candidate for Vice President of Community Services



The Election Committee has deemed that Skip Thompson is a member in good standing of USMS. The candidate has indicated he is planning to attend the 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:*     Yes     No

*I am planning to attend the HOD Meeting for this election year:*     Yes     No

*I am planning to attend all HOD Meetings during my tenure in office:*     Yes     No

*I have attended more than 1 HOD Meeting in the past five years?*     Yes     No

*I am a resident and a member of the Zone from which I seek election (Director Candidates only):*     Yes     No     NA

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

Attended all from 1988 to Present.

### Section Three: Questions

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

I have been a USMS member for 36 years and have served as an Officer at the Club and LMSC level for 35 years. I have been a National delegate and active committee member for 29 years. I served as a member of the USMS Board of Directors for 8 years, from 1992 through 1999. I have held every elected position in the Michigan LMSC except Registrar. During my tenure with USMS I have been a Swimmer, Coach, Event Host, Meet Director, Official, and Championship Liaison; all of which gives me experience to address the issues and opportunities that best serve our membership.

***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?***

A major issue is the transition from a volunteer lead organization to one in which the Chief Executive Officer and the National Office staff perform operational duties and manage the day to day affairs of USMS. How do we most appropriately balance the workload between staff and the volunteer base? How rapidly should we transfer duties from the volunteers to staff? And, in the future years, does USMS envision itself someday as having the majority of volunteer positions become staff positions? How do the LMSCs and Committees fit into this structure? In the future a balance of volunteer and staff functions must be determined for the overall health of the organization. USMS is dealing with this now and this is one of the main issues to be resolved in the next 5 years.

The growth and survival of Open Water Swimming is, and continues to be, a major issue. In the last 5 years the increase in open water events insurance have created Open Water surcharges for USMS, LMSCs, and host Clubs. This has definitely impacted the vigor and growth of Open Water Swimming (that has been a tradition in USMS). The BOD Task forces and the Open Water and Long Distance Committees are working hard to take USMS Open Water to the next level but we as an organization need to solve this problem because it is not going away.

Another major issue that impacts the future success of USMS (and even the LMSC) is the development of programs for the large part of our membership that does not participate in competition. As an organization, we have a commitment to provide programs in fitness for these members. Membership retention and growth are two areas that are critical to the future health of USMS. The provision of these programs will ensure that we can deliver a valued product, the worth of which can best be reflected by our members' continuing support and membership.

USMS should become more involved and have successful interaction with other bodies such as the YMCA, NSG, FINA, USA-S, USAT, Health Clubs, Fitness Centers, and Park Departments. Our involvement with these organizations could carry USMS to the next level in membership and allow our many resources to be utilized by a much larger constituency.

In addition to developing programs that will increase our membership, we have to continue to expand our 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 sought to assist us as loyal partners needs to be continued and explored in the future.

We need to ensure effective communication between all levels of the organization from the National Office to LMSCs and the LMSCs to the members. The development of effective lines of communication with LMSCs and their respective members is imperative. The LMSC Development Committee's peer to peer conference call meetings is a tremendous start for the LMSCs in the different operation functions as well as the two LMSC Summits that have taken place in the last 3 years. The BOD, National Office, and the LMSCs must be partners in achieving the goals of the 5 year strategic plan for that to be a success.

Another major issue I see is the lack of enough younger and newer volunteer talent to contribute at both the local and national level. This is very important because these individuals will be the leaders of USMS in future. If we do not achieve this, it will become increasingly difficult to acquire adequate leadership for future success of USMS.

***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:***

Championship Committee – 1989 to 1993 Bill Barthold. Zone Committee – 1992 to 1995 Betsy Durrant, 1996 – 1997 Stephanie Walsh Beilman, 1998 – 1999 Hugh Moore. Planning Committee – 1994 to 1995 Stephanie Walsh Beilman, 1996 – 2000 Nancy Miller, 2001 Betsy Durant. Ad Hoc Professional Management Committee 1998 – 1999 Hugh Moore, Coaches Committee 2000 – 2001, Scott Rabalais, 2002 – 2003, Michael Collins, 2004 – 2006 Bob Bruce, 2007 Mo Chambers. Rules Committee 2008 – 2011 Kathy Casey. Legislation Committee 2012 – 2013 Sean Fitzgerald, 2014 – 2015 Meg Smath. History and Archives Committee 2013 – 2015 Megan Wilson. USMS BOD Executive Committee as VP of Coaches, Fitness Education, Sports Medicine Science Committees 2015 – 2017 Patty Miller.

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

#### LMSC Responsibilities

1987 - 1991 - Treasurer of the Michigan LMSC  
1989 - 1991 - Vice Chairman of the Michigan LMSC  
1991 - 1993 - Chairman of the Michigan LMSC  
1993 - 1995 - Fitness Chairman of the Michigan LMSC  
1993 - 1997 - Records & Top Ten Chairman of the Michigan LMSC  
1999 - 2001 - Secretary of the Michigan LMSC  
2001 - 2003 - Vice Chairman of the Michigan LMSC  
2003 - 2005 – Chairman of the Michigan LMSC  
2005 - 2013 - Sanctions Chairman of the Michigan LMSC  
2009 - 2013 - Officials Chairman of the Michigan LMSC  
2010 - 2013 - Records & Top Ten Chairman of the Michigan LMSC  
1984 - 2015 – Coach – Team Representative of the Michigan Masters Club  
2013 - 2015 - Vice Chairman of the Michigan LMSC  
2015 - 2017 - Chairman of the Michigan LMSC

#### Meet Administration

Meet Director – Michigan Masters State Championship Meet – 1985, 1989, 1992, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2013, 2015, and 2016.  
Meet Director - Great Lakes Zone Championship Meet - 1988 LCM, 1990 SCM, and 1997 SCY.  
Meet Director - Local SCY South Oakland Seals Swim Team Meet - 1984 - 2017  
Meet Director – Local LCM Meet – 1984 – Present

#### National Championships Meet Administration

Records/Top Ten National Liaison - 1996 USMS Long Course Nationals – University of Michigan

USMS Championship Committee - Served as a Meet Evaluator/Liaison for the following USMS National Championships - 1990 SC Nationals USC Los Angeles, 1991 LC Nationals Elizabethtown KY, 1992 LC Nationals Federal Way, WA and 1993 LC Nationals, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

USMS Rules Committee – Served as a Rules Evaluator/Liaison for the following USMS National Championships - 2008 SC Nationals, University of Texas, Austin, 2009 LC Nationals, IUPUI Indianapolis, 2010 SC Nationals, Georgia Tech University, Atlanta, and 2011 SC Nationals, Mesa, Arizona.

### Coaching – Team Accomplishments

Coach/Team Representative of the South Oakland Seals from 1984 until 2008. Responsible for administrating workouts 12 months a year. The team has been Michigan Masters State Champions 15 times (82, 85, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 02) more than any other team in Michigan Masters history.

Coach/Team Representative of the Plymouth YMCA from 1988 until 2009. Overall Team Combined National YMCA Champions (1993). Men's National YMCA Championships (1993) and Women's National YMCA Champions (1994).

Coach/Team Representative of the Michigan Masters Club from 1984 until the Present. 1996 USMS Long Course National Champions in Women, Men, and Combined Categories. 2002 USMS Long Course Nationals - Highest Scoring Visiting Club in Women, Men, and Combined Categories. 2004 USMS Short Course Nationals – Women's National Champions. 2009 USMS Long Course Nationals – Regional Club National Champions. 2013 USMS Short Course Nationals – Regional Club National Champions. 2014 Canadian National Championships - Highest scoring Club in the meet. 2015 USMS Long Course Nationals – Regional Club National Champions.

### Committee Projects Assignments and Accomplishments

Championships Committee – USMS Time Standards for National Championship Meets.

Planning and Zone Committee - USMS Election Survey for National Officers.

Great Lakes Zone – Implemented a Zone Championship Meet for all 3 courses.

History and Archives Committee – Contributed as a key member in the early stages of the project.

Coaches Committee - Chair of the USMS Coach of the Year subcommittee from 2001 – 2008.

National Board Review – 2011 Served on the Grievance Panel.

Achieved Level 4 USMS Certification – April 2015.

Selected to serve as a Coach for the 2015 USMS High Performance Camp in Greensboro, North Carolina.

### USMS and Michigan Masters Achievement Awards

1987 - Received the YMCA Service Award from the Greater Detroit Metropolitan YMCA.

1991 - Received the Chetrick Award for Outstanding Service to the Michigan LMSC.

1995 - Received the Lawrence Award for Outstanding Swimming Performances in the Michigan LMSC.

1999 - Received the USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Award for Outstanding Service to USMS.

2000 - Received the USMS National Coach of the Year Award from the USMS Coaches Committee.

2010 - Received the USMS Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award from the USMS Coaches Committee.

2011 - Received the Michigan Masters Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan LMSC.

2011 - Received the USMS Club of the Year as part of the Michigan Masters Club as Coaches Rep.

2013 - Received the Michigan Masters Coach of the Year Award at the LMSC Awards Banquet.

2014 - Received the USMS June Krauser Communications Award from USMS Awards Committee

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

Longest tenured LMSC Volunteer at both the Local and National level in the Michigan LMSC. I have been a Meet Director of the Michigan LMSC State Championships on 14 different occasions. This meet has the largest participation per registered swimmer in the LMSC than any meet in USMS. I, along with Sally Guthrie, initiated one of the most comprehensive LMSC Awards Banquets in USMS. The primary Award given at the banquet is the Continuous Loyalty Membership Award where LMSC members are honored for their continuous loyalty by renewing their LMSC membership for continuous years. Awards are given for 5 to 30 years of membership and swimmers are eligible for awards at 5, 10, 15 20, 25, and 30 years. I organized two stroke clinics with the 2013 NCAA Championship University of Michigan Men's team that featured Mike Bottom and his Olympic-caliber coaches. With 72 swimmers, it was the largest sanctioned clinic that the Michigan LMSC has ever held.

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

I am excited to have the opportunity to run as an incumbent for the position of Vice President of Community Services. My membership in USMS for 36 years and my involvement as a volunteer at the USMS and LMSC level for over 33 years qualifies me to help lead USMS in the future. USMS faces a lot of challenges in the future and I believe I can be an asset to helping USMS address those challenges. USMS has shown great initiative in creating new programs, but will need to continue to create and expand programs to offer new opportunities for adult swimming. Under the leadership of both CEO Dawson Hughes and President Patty Miller, USMS has made great progress to achieve the goal to become the best adult aquatic fitness organization in the world. USMS is a great organization and has greatly added to my quality of life. I want to give back to this organization that has given me so much. I have worked with many outstanding volunteers and USMS Staff in the past and want continue to help build USMS to be the best primary fitness organization in the country. I look forward to helping to promote USMS's mission and values in the future.