

# Convention 2018 Report

10/13/2018

Meegan Wilson

Special thanks to all our convention hospitality volunteers including delegates who brought in much appreciated supplies. In alphabetical order, thanks to Scott Bay, Steve Butler, Joannie Campbell, John Conlon, Margaret Dodson, Jack and Laura Groselle, Bob Jennings, Penny Knutzen, Cheryl Kupan, David Miner, Peter Nickodem, Doug and Maggie Rowe, Jillian Wilkins, and David Wilson. The Florida LMSC could not have done this time consuming job without your help!!!!



Jessica Reilly, Senior Director of USMS Membership Acquisition & Services, was very helpful setting up the bagel deliveries and delivery of the Hyatt hotel pizzas. She also arranged for the tables and a microwave oven in the room. We were disappointed that there was no TV as there had been in the past. On further investigation the cost of having a TV would have been \$400/day which is cost prohibitive. Special thanks to David Wilson and our Chair Bob Jennings for helping to bring in all the supplies to the suite and to Bob for all his shopping prior to convention. Bob also supplied bagels and water to the early morning swimmers. Get some much needed sleep Bob!



The USMS delegates seemed to appreciate what we offered during the day and evening as well as our "Let's Flamingo Dessert Social" Thursday evening from 8-10 pm. Although the House of Delegate's meeting ran over by 20 minutes, we were able to get things set up in time. I hope the delegates were still able to eat out as planned. Thanks to those who provided desserts for the social. There was very little left by the end of the evening, but we did not run out. The wine was appreciated as well.

Since it is difficult to bring all the supplies one needs to feed over 200 delegates, plus not having enough room in the car – we had to make several shopping runs. Special, special thanks to Scott Bay and David Wilson for replenishing some of our supplies daily.

Since I had volunteered to oversee the hospitality suite this year, I spent most of my time in there helping out. We were lucky that we had 7 volunteers from Jacksonville who filled in when our delegates were otherwise involved in meetings and other activities. Convention will be in Jacksonville again in 2020 – USMS's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

I attended the History and Archives committee meeting as vice chair. History and Archives has accomplished a lot this year and Barbara Dunbar ran an exceptional meeting. One issue that H&A has been fighting since the new registration system was implemented in April is retaining permanent IDs for members. Since the role out of club registrations in October, we are also concerned with keeping our permanent Club IDs. These IDs are very important because Top Tens and meet results are associated with them and allow swimmers to find their accomplishments on the website. See H&A minutes: <https://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/hist-2018-9-27-1.pdf>

Dixie Zone minutes can be found here: <https://www.usms.org/admin/minutes/dixie-2018-9-27-1.pdf> I was disappointed that our own Jack Groselle did not win his bid for Dixie Zone At Large Director. Dixie Zone Championships were awarded to the following: SCY - Auburn, TX; LCM - Greenville, SC; SCM - Orlando, FL; Open Water - Sarasota, FL. Committee Chair Ed Saltzman did a great job running the meeting.

The International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame induction ceremony was really nice. The food was exceptional and the presentations by Tom Boak were very enjoyable. He always does a terrific job. Congratulations to Walt Reid, Maurine Kornfeld, and Jurgen Schmidt.

I attended all the House of Delegates (HOD) meetings. I was surprised that one of the legislation proposed rules changes which allowed College Club swimmers to register with USMS at a reduced rate of \$25 per year, had already been enacted by the Board of Directors (BOD) in August. This was not reflected in any of the BOD minutes prior to convention. Micheal Heather pointed it out to the HOD. President Patty Miller stated that if the House of Delegates does not approve this change, then those College Club swimmers who have already registered at the reduced rate, about 50 I believe, will have their money refunded to them and their registration negated. This legislation rule change was approved in the HOD, but I take exception to the way the BOD handled this. If the BOD promised decreased membership to these College Club Swimmers, then those that had been processed prior to HOD approval should be honored instead of putting a guilt trip on the HOD to approve it. Transparency seems to be lacking.

The Remembrance slide show of those swimmers who died since the 2017 convention was very moving and the awards ceremonies were well done. Pat Baker received the first Officials Excellence Award. Congratulations Pat!!!

I attended the USMS 3.0 – Digital Transformation Workshop. There have been a lot of changes to the USMS website – all seem to be geared toward a potential USMS member and marketing current members. However these changes are also causing more time and energy for it's volunteers because a lot of problems have developed. There does not seem to be any plan to make the changes needed to reverse this trend.

Individual membership registration will increase by \$2 in 2019. This is the last year that it is scheduled to increase. Membership has gone up \$10 over the past 5 years from \$35 to \$45. This may be one reason that individual memberships are decreasing. In 2017 club and workout registration fees increased by 64%, from \$25 to \$41. For some reason the \$2 yearly increase has been added to club and workout group registrations as well. Both are \$45 for 2019. I do not remember explicitly voting on this yearly increase in the HOD. Perhaps I have missed something.

The Aquatics Awards Banquet was really nice as well. Bob Jennings did a great job presenting the Coach of the Year Award to April Cheadle. Ransom Award recipient Ed Tsukuzi's convention skit presentation was fun. However, the Banquet Awards Ceremonies ran over as well – I believe we will have to rethink the hospitality scheduling in 2020 – assuming that we will still be involved.