



Sean Fitzgerald – Dixie Candidate At-Large

The Election Committee has deemed that Sean Fitzgerald 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 is planning to attend all HOD Meetings during his tenure in office.

The candidate was nominated by Lisa Watson and received letters of recommendation from Lisa Watson and Rob Copeland. These letters follow the questionnaire.

The candidate provided the following responses on the Candidate Questionnaire/Consent-To-Run Form:

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

I have attended all USMS HOD Meetings from 2000 - 2013.

III. Section Three: Questions

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

After serving as Legislation Chair from 2005 until 2013, a move to serve on the Board of Directors seems like a logical progression. As Chair of the Legislation Committee, I have been an ex-officio member of the Rules Committee. During my tenure, USMS has also split the Long Distance and Open Water Committees. I was involved in the changes to Part 3 of the Rule Book during that time. I was also a member of the Legislation Committee when Part 4 was added. That experience gives me great understanding of the way USMS is governed. Finally, my participation on the Governance Committee has given me insight into the workings of the Board of Directors and some of the long term issues and Strategic plans of the organization.

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?

I think that maintaining the balance of work between the Central Office Staff and our strong volunteer base continues to be an issue. As our membership grows, so does the HOD. At the same time, more of the volunteer positions are being transitioned to the Central Office Staff. This gives us fewer opportunities to engage our volunteers on a national basis throughout the year. We also need a long term plan for the growth of Open Water Swimming. The insurance issue raised this year will be slow to go away, if it ever does. We need to find additional sources of funding not only for Open Water Swims, but for the entire organization.

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:

2000 – 2007 International Committee: June Krauser and Mary Pohlmann served as chair
2003 – 2005 Legislation Committee, Rob Copeland served as chair
2005 – 2013 Legislation Committee Chair
2014 Legislation Committee, Meg Smath serves as chair
2009 – 2013 Governance Committee: Patty Miller, Anthony Thompson, Hugh Moore served as chair
2005 – 2013 Rules Committee ex-officio: Kathy Casey served as chair

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

I have been serving as vice chair of the GA LMSC since 1998. That same year, I was elected Treasurer of International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics for two 2 year terms. In 2003 I was elected as co-chair then co-president of IGLA. In 2005, I was the Meet Director for the 2005 IGLA Championships held at the Georgia Tech Aquatic

Center, organizing the events for Diving, Water Polo, Synchronized Swimming as well as Masters Swimming. After taking a year off, I was elected to be one of IGLA's representatives to the Federation of Gay Games. In 2008, I became the Secretary of the FGG where I served until last year. I am currently the Vice President of Operations for the FGG.

Please list any other information you would like included.

None Provided.

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 for a position on the Board of Directors for United States Masters Swimming. I have been a member of the Legislation Committee for 11 years, including 8 as chair. I have a thorough understanding of the committee structure of USMS. As Chair of Legislation, I was an ex-officio member of the Rules Committee. I also worked with the Open Water and Long Distance Committees as they separated their duties and created a new Part 3 of the Rule Book. On a local level, I acted as meet director for the 2005 IGLA Championships, bringing nearly 1000 athletes to the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. I was also involved in the 2010 USMS Short Course National Championships, hosted by the Georgia LMSC. I believe I would be an asset to the Board as USMS continues to expand and create new opportunities for adult swimming.

I look forward to joining the Board of Directors of USMS.

Attention: Cheryl Gettelfinger 4/8/14
Chair –USMS Election Committee

Dear Cheryl:

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Sean Fitzgerald for the position of Dixie Zone representative to the Board of Directors. Sean has been an active member of our Georgia LMSC and Dixie Zone for many years. He has successfully served as our Vice Chair for 16 years, and during that time has proven to be a valued member of our LMSC Board of Directors. He participates in our monthly conference calls and bi-annual meetings, serves as meet director for our state SCM championship meet as well as another SCY meet, and has created a yearly 'Grand Prix' series for our Georgia swimmers which has proven to be very popular.

In addition to contributions in our Georgia LMSC, Sean has also become a valuable asset to USMS on the national level. Sean has served on various national committees and recently served as Chair of the Legislation Committee for 8 years. This position has obviously required numerous hours of service not just at convention, but throughout each year. Sean is currently serving as Vice Chair to the Legislation Committee. His administrative experience at both the state and national level certainly makes him an excellent candidate for a Director position. I am delighted to endorse his candidacy for Dixie Zone Director, and give my permission for this letter to be advertised to our USMS delegates.

Sincerely,

Lisa Watson
Chair- Georgia LMSC

Rob Copeland
April 23, 2014

Attn: Cheryl Gettelfinger
Election Committee Chair
U.S. Masters Swimming

It is my honor to write this letter of recommendation for Sean Fitzgerald as U.S. Masters Swimming Board of Directors, from the Dixie Zone.

I believe Sean possesses the critical skills, aptitude and experience to serve as a contributing member of our leadership team. While chairing the Legislation Committee for 8 years, Sean developed a deeper understanding of how USMS is governed by our bylaws and how they fit to form the foundation of USMS. Equally as important to understanding the organization and structure of USMS; Sean possesses leadership skills which provide him with the ability to be a key stakeholder in establishing our strategic vision and then turning that vision into reality.

Beyond his institutional knowledge and leadership, Sean continues to be a role model of volunteer spirit; in the 16 years I've known him; Sean has and continues to demonstrate this spirit within his club, the GA-LMSC, USMS and across the broader aquatic community. I am confident this spirit will continue to shine as Sean steps up to the next level of service leadership.

I believe Sean will be active and committed to promoting health, wellness, fitness and competition for adults through swimming and keeping USMS the premier resource for adult aquatic fitness in the United States.

I recommend Sean without reservation to serve as a member of the U.S. Masters Swimming Board of Directors.

Very truly yours,

Rob Copeland

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert H Copeland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

p.s. The USMS ad hoc Election Committee has my permission to reproduce and distribute this letter.