

Bios for the MSO Board of Directors

All candidates have been appointed by acclamation.

Beth Carey, ANC

I have been swimming with Masters since 2013. I was new to the sport and have learned so much and have developed some great friendships. The knowledge I have received as a beginning swimmer has been amazing. There are many like me who are fairly new to Masters and I feel I bring a different perspective. I wanted to be a Board member to give back to this community. I have been the treasurer for the past several years and still feel I have much to offer.

Jake Nesovic, TYMS

I have been master swimmer for las 22 years. I am lever III official. I was a TYMS coach for 5 years. I have been on the board for the last 4 years serving as Vice president.

My current interest is to make MSO the organization that serves all master members, competitive and equally noncompetitive. I also want to make sure that MSO is set up to be self-governing and self-sufficient for years to come, while cooperating in a good feight with any organization that has the master swimming interest as main priority.

I, Jake Nesovic, certify that I am currently a registered Master in good standing, and consent to stand for election, and to serve, if elected, on the Board of Directors of Masters Swimming Ontario.

Phil Rogers, TECH

I have been involved in the sport of swimming for over sixty years. I began as a member of an age group team in Pointe Claire, Quebec. I continued as a member of the varsity team at McGill University. Later, after an interval out of competitive swimming, I joined masters swimming in Ottawa. I've been an active member of two Ottawa masters teams.

I was involved in the administration of MSO as a member of the board for seven years. I began as a regular member and finished as President for three years. Since leaving the board, I have continued to actively support MSO and its board through all of the challenges that it has faced in the last few years from SO and SNC. MSO has shown tremendous dedication and commitment to serving the interests of masters swimmers in Ontario. I am prepared to contribute as a director and help MSO to continue to serve our masters community.

I am now retired, having practiced law for 30 years. I can assist the board in interpretation of statutes, regulations, bylaws etc. and in drafting documents or presentations.

I have served other volunteer sports organizations, most recently completing three years as President of my local tennis club.

Andrea Schwartz Smith, B-TRAIN

I have loved the sport of swimming for over 30 years – as an age groups swimmer, age group coach, swim parent, masters club coach, and club president of a masters club. After my first term on the MSO board, I am eager to continue the work we have undertaken, to push the values of fun, fitness and friendship in the masters swimming community. I remain a passionate and outspoken supporter of masters swimming and MSO.

Michael Sweny, NEP

- Masters swimmer for 25 years
- Swim Official for 30 years (level 5)
- Past President, Nepean Masters Swim Club
- President OSOA
- Former president Nepean-Kanata Barracudas (NKB) (age group club)
- Current MSO Competition Chair

Sue Weir, TYMS

I would like to offer my support to Masters Swimmers by continuing to serve on the board of directors for MSO. I feel strongly about the regrowth of master swimming in ONtairo and across Canada and hope I can help with the process.

My experiences involving Masters athletes and the sport of swimming are many and varied. I've been a competitive master's swimmer and member of MSO for 35 years. I managed the Bright's Grove Open Water Swim Championship for 8 years from 2003 – 2011. I was on the MSO board of directors from 2001-2003 and from 2017 – present. I've coached High School swimming, Masters swimming and currently I'm the head coach of an age group swim club.

Over the years, I have benefitted greatly from being part of the Masters Community. I would like to give back to the Masters community so it can continue to benefit others.

Brigitte Zirger, Nepean

I believe that Ontario masters clubs and swimmers have been well served during MSO's long year history of promoting life-long health and fitness in adults through swimming.

Programs, resources, rules and registration requirements need to be appropriate for all clubs and for the personal performance goals of all swimmers. There should be no unnecessary barriers to participation. There should be no barriers for clubs interested in serving adult swimming, no barriers for swimmers interested in competing in sanctioned events, and no barriers swimmers wishing to swim for fitness.

In 2017-2018 MSO decided to offer a fully insured adult swimming program independent of other swimming organizations. MSO's independence was not by choice. But independence has allowed MSO to focus on policies, programs and activities that serve its membership and welcome anyone interested in participating in MSO sanctioned events. MSO is the only Canadian organization that recognizes and keeps records Short Course Yard events. MSO is the only organization that recognizes and keeps records for the 800 IM. MSO is the only organization that keeps records for 25 SCM and 25 SCY events. If you swim it, MSO records it.

Results, rankings and records are an important part of MSO's commitment to its members and the broader masters swimming community. At a time when these are at risk of being wiped away elsewhere, MSO continues to invest in its database systems so that your results history and the results history of swimmers now gone can continue to inspire us all.

I have the experience, energy and the initiative that MSO needs at this time.

- 2015-present, MSO records keeper, insurance coordinator, registrar (since September 2017). I formally joined the Board of Directors in January 2017 and was elected President following the November 2017 AGM.
- 2013-2014 was on the Board of MSC and MSC's Interim Executive Director for much of that time. I served on MSC's Governance Committee prior to joining the Board. I know bylaws!
- I am a retired federal public servant with extensive executive-level leadership experience in regulatory affairs and policy development.
- I swam competitively at University and as a Masters swimmer upon graduation. You can find my results in the first ever Ontario Provincial Championship – Alderwood 1976 on the MSO web archives. After an absence, I returned to masters swimming in 2002 and have competed every year since then. For me, competition allows me to set goals, see other cities and socialize with old and new friends.