

GRIN Election Nominees – March 2018

Per the GRIN By-Laws, an election to select the GRIN Officers for a two-year term is held in even years. As such, the election of GRIN Officers will be held in March 2018. The following positions are up for election: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Per the By-Laws, nominations had to be made and seconded by Club Representatives by February 1. One nomination was received for each position and the nominees will be running unopposed.



GRIN Chair - Lisa Brown

Lisa Brown is the current GRIN Chair and is also a USMS Level 3 Certified Coach, Certified Adult Learn to Swim Lead Instructor, and Head Coach of the Zionsville Aquatic Masters.

Lisa took the office of GRIN Chair in April 2015. Since then, she has resolved grievances, organized and led the By-Laws updates, and is invested in making GRIN a leader within USMS. She has worked to help new and existing clubs grow and offer better programming to their members. One such programming feature that Lisa has spearheaded within Indiana is the Adult Learn-to-Swim program to help other adults learn to be safe and learn to love the water as we do.

Lisa began as a competitive swimmer at the age of 6. After taking a few years away from competitive swimming for career and family experiences, she is back in the pool full time and brings her swimming and corporate training together to help swimmers achieve their fitness and competitive goals. Lisa has competed in eleven Big Shoulders swims, several Manhattan Beach Pier to Pier swims, as well as the 25K and 10K Championships held at Morse Reservoir over the past few years. A graduate of Michigan State University, Lisa formed a Masters team in Zionsville and serves as its Head Coach and as the Aquatics Director of the Zionsville Aquatic Center. Lisa holds several certifications in training and development. She is involved in the community – holding leadership positions on PTO Boards and Homeowners Association Boards, as coaching and managing youth sports teams. Lisa has resided in the Indianapolis area for the over 20 years with her husband and two children.

GRIN Vice Chair - Michael Carlson

Michael Carlson is the current Vice-Chair for GRIN. He is a Masters swimmer with the Munster Masters Association.

Mike started when he was 6 years old on the age group team of the Lake Central Barracudas in St. John, Indiana, and continued swimming through high school. Graduating in 1987, Mike joined the US Navy and volunteered on small boat crews and as a rescue swimmer. After 6 years in the Navy, life took over and swimming became a memory. About 4 ½ years ago, Mike found his way back to the pool for an Alumni Meet at Lake Central. To prepare, he joined the Masters program at Munster and has been in the pool ever since. And Michael has passed his

love of swimming on to his daughter Mia, who joined the Lake Central age group team at the age of 4!

Michael is a highly motivated and passionate person who has poured his heart into swimming. He continues to compete both in Indiana and Illinois and is looking forward to both the GRIN State Meet and the USMS Spring Nationals in Indianapolis this year.

Since joining the Munster Masters Association, Mike has not only streamlined their programming, but serves as the MMA Administration Chair. He also spearheaded their efforts to bring both the Illinois State Meet to Munster and open water racing to Northern Indiana.

On the GRIN Board, Mike served on the GRIN By-Law Committee and helped to draft and approved our current By-Laws. He has also been instrumental in organizing the Board's outreach programming, searching for additional methods to support open water events in the state, streamlining the State Meet bidding process, and surveying GRIN members to ensure that our LSC meets and, hopefully, exceeds their needs. Moving forward, Mike would like to see GRIN better support our smaller teams, as well as our coaches. Growing the swimming base in Indiana serves us all and Mike continues to brainstorm ways to get the word out about USMS and swimming in general. Indiana has always been known to produce some of the greatest swimmers in the country, and Michael's goal is to make our LMSC the most efficient and supportive to our swimmers!

GRIN Secretary - Karen Gernert

Karen is the Administrative Assistant and Assistant Coach for the Fishers Area Swimming Tigers, working with both 11-12 beginning swimmers and the high school boys and girls teams. She is also an Assistant Coach with Indy Aquatic Masters. A USA Swimming Level 3 and USMS Level 3 Certified Coach, Karen currently serves as the GRIN Secretary, Registrar, and Communications Chair. On the national level, Karen serves on the USMS Fitness Committee.

Karen initially joined Masters Swimming in August 2009 after watching her oldest 2 daughters swim with an age group program. Once in the water, she fell in love with the sport and began competing in swim meets for the first time in her life. Her first ever swim meet was the 2010 New Year's Resolution Meet at Ball State and she has since competed in local meets, the GRIN State Meet, Y Nationals, and USMS Nationals. When a torn rotator cuff forced her out of the water for several months, she had the opportunity to coach a few Masters practices, found a love for coaching, and has been on deck ever since. Coaching Masters down to 11 year-olds, Karen truly enjoy the challenge of working with all ages and abilities.

Since being elected the GRIN Secretary, her interest in providing leadership to the entire Masters community has only increased. Karen's background in administration and communication enhances her ability to serve as Secretary, Registrar, and Communications Chair, as she seeks to enhance Masters Swimming in Indiana. Information is disseminated in a timely fashion, the website is relevant and current, and memberships are processed smoothly.

GRIN Treasurer - Sue Pollard

Sue is the current GRIN Treasurer, has been a USMS member for over twenty years, and swims with the Indy Aquatic Masters. She actively participates in practices, clinics, meets, and social events, and is an enthusiastic volunteer.

Being a member of US Masters Swimming and Indy Aquatic Masters has greatly influenced Sue's life. In the past, she has participated in the Eagle Creek Mile Swim, State USMS meets, National USMS meets, National YMCA meets, and the One Hour Postal Swims. Sue is a certified Level 1 & 2 Coach, as well as a certified ALTS instructor. Sue currently works with the IAM Adult Learn-to-Swim Program at Butler, which she finds both fun and rewarding.

Sue's work-related experience is in banking, management, training, teaching, bookkeeping, and customer service. She has served as GRIN Treasurer since 2015 and is eager to serve the swimmers of our state. Since retiring, Sue has more time and is willing to be of use and give back a sport that has been such an important part of her life. SUE LOVES TO SWIM!