

Year End Report 2011-2012 General Chair

To begin, I would like to extend my appreciation for the help, assistance and support from the members of the Board of Directors and our staff. Being new to the position as General Chair would have been difficult to say the least without their effort. I definitely have a new appreciation for the complexities of Potomac Valley Swimming.

This past year, again, saw growth in our membership. Although PVS is the smallest LSC geographically it is again in the top 10 in membership. With over 10,000 athletes and continued growth it is not unrealistic to expect our LSC to exceed the 11,000 mark by the end of 2012. We are one of the few top 10 LSC's to still be exhibiting growth.

With growth in athlete numbers comes challenges. Pool space and availability are at a premium. Rental cost for prime facilities are increasing at a faster pace than ever before. With more Clubs participating in meet management, availability of space has gone down. The positive side of our growth has been the continued improvement in our athlete's performance. What was once viewed, as a fast time is now in many cases very average.

From an organizational perspective our growth continues to put stress on our volunteers. PVS has one of if not the best officiating groups in the country. They are literally tireless in their efforts to provide superior meet operation and coverage. However, it is important to realize it is the responsibility of clubs and parents to increase the numbers of active officials at every level, from timers to referee. Without growth in our officiating numbers commensurate with our growth in athlete numbers and club sponsored meets we face very real difficulties in the future to adequately support the number of meets on our calendar.

Throughout the year the Board of Directors has discussed issues ranging from equipment and budget to communications and pool use. Also, our Policy and Procedure document continues to be an on going project. Athlete safety and protection is and will be a continued priority for the BOD.

We are currently working on issues related to equipment storage and maintenance. With the greater volume of meets equipment rentals has increased. This puts a great deal of stress on touchpads, computers and Colorado systems that are not designed to be moved, stored and be moved again. Equipment replacement is expensive.

We have added two committees to the Board, an Athlete Protection Committee and the Technical Committee. The Athlete Protection Committee is headed by our immediate past General Chair Greg York, who is also currently serving as a member of the National Safe Sport Committee. Tim Husson is heading up our Technical

Committee, overseeing the technical aspects of the meet announcement production and meet management. Additionally, Kurt Thiel has taken on the position of PVS Safety Officer; Kurt is also involved on the national level with Open Water swimming.

We have recently added to the PVS website the opportunity to join email lists you are eligible for, to improve communication between PVS and our members.

In closing, I would encourage all clubs to continue to develop their volunteer base. The Board of Directors is a group of volunteers that has the good of swimming as their core value. Without the support of others whether they be timers or other officials, members of clubs that take care of hospitality or other activities PVS will not be able to provide the outstanding level of swimming that we enjoy today.

Thank you for your continued support,
Riley Eaton
PVS General Chair