

2012-2013 HOD Report
Diversity and Inclusion Committee

During the 2012-2013 swim season the Diversity Committee transferred leadership to a new Diversity Chair, Merari Hall-Chollette (as of February Board meeting). Under the new leadership the Diversity Committee has been able to accomplish the goals as set forth and were able to provide educational programs for the athletes and families of PVS. We continue to celebrate and promote diversity and inclusion in swimming.

The accomplishments for the 2012-2013 year include:

Support for Local Teams/ Diversity Programs

- Diversity and Inclusion Clinic. This year we held our **1st Diversity and Inclusion Officials clinic**. The clinic was a success as it has helped to certify a number of new parents. Cecil Gordon and Local PVS Official John Fraser were the instructors for the day.
- Continued to support the **Black History Swim Meet** held at Takoma Aquatic Center in Washington, DC in February 2013.
- On April 21th, 2013 the PVS Diversity Committee conducted a “**Born to Swim**” swim clinic at the PG Sports & Learning Complex in Landover, MD with **World Record Breaker Sabir Muhammad**. This event was open to both experienced and developing swimmers. We were able to accomplish the goal of creating a positive environment that empowered, motivated and educated swimmers from a diverse background to continue in the sport and to reach for their goals. The event hosted 57 swimmers.
- Hosted a swim clinic for the participants of the **NC Black Heritage Meet** on April 14, 2012 at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. There were 65 PVS athletes that attended this clinic.
- PVS is providing financial support for the meet entry fees for PVS athletes that travel to compete in the **National Black Heritage Meet in NC**. The travel date is May 23 – 25, 2012. As of April 16 there were 104 PVS athletes signed up for the travel team. There are 9 PVS coaches from various teams (4 DCPR, 1 HEAL, 1 NCAP, 3 ERSC) traveling and coaching these athletes. **The 104 athletes are :**
 - **58 female and 46 male**
 - 10 and under = 36 swimmers (19 female and 17 male),
 - 11 - 12 = 30 (22 female and only 8 male),
 - 13 - 14's = 18 (10 female, 8 male),
 - 15 and over = 20 (7 female, 13 male)

These athletes represent 8 teams in Potomac Valley

- DCPR (60)
- ERSC (16)

- HEAL (13)
- NCAP (7)
- FAST (3)*
- RMSC (2)
- SDS (2)
- HACC (1)*

*This is the first year we've had representation from these teams

- Plans continue to be made for the Eastern Zone Diversity Camp to be held **June 20-23rd** in Boston, MA. PVS will select 2 athletes, a Diversity Chair and Coach to attend the camp.

Other Work

- We continue to utilize the **PVS Diversity Web Page** and have plans for reformatting the page to make it more effective in communicating Diversity initiatives, programs and information and resources. We have started the **Eastern Zone Diversity and Inclusion** Website with the help of Tim Husson. The committee has also converted PVS Group to expand communication and participation in our programs.

Since the February 2013 transition:

- We are working closely with USA Swimming Diversity Consultants and Eastern Zone resources to establish a yearly “**International Water Safety Day**” event as part of our outreach, social responsibility and education to the local community.
- We are researching **Diversity Training** Resources to create programs that educate our parents, swimmers and coaches on diversity in sport of swimming in order for PVS to continue to be an LSC that encourages and fosters a a diverse and inclusive environment for our constituents.
- We are researching strategies that have worked for other LSC’s to ensure that **Outreach Athlete Registrations** are being encouraged
- We are working on developing new communication strategies for ensuring that all PVS clubs are aware of the **Outreach & Inclusion policies** and the related programs available to them.
- We are developing a **Grant Program** that would make the availability of funding for the development of club programs to promote the involvement of underrepresented and economically disadvantage youth and volunteers in swimming open to all PVS members.

During this initial time of transition within the Diversity Chair position, if anyone has questions or concerns in regards to the information presented, please do not hesitate to contact, **Merari Chollette** or **Miriam Lynch** using the information provided. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merari Chollette and Miriam Lynch
Potomac Valley Swimming

