

## IN MEMORIAM

Spencer Quinn, age 59, of Manassas, Virginia passed away Saturday August 31, 2019 surrounded by his loving family and close friends in Berlin, Maryland. Born in Philadelphia, he was the son of the late James Edward Quinn, Jr. and Shirley (Jenkins) Quinn.

He is survived by his wife Jo-Anne Quinn of Manassas, Virginia, his daughters Casey Quinn and Erin Quinn, and brothers Jim Quinn of Glen Allen, Virginia and Kevin Quinn of Vienna, Virginia.

From early beginnings in swimming and lifeguarding at the Twin Farms Club in Silver Spring, Maryland (where he still holds two records) he became a USA Swimming official in 2007, an NCAP and Osbourn High School swim coach, and loved being on the pool deck watching the kids and mentoring his peers.



Spencer learned to fly in a Cessna 152 and a Skyhawk 172 from his dad before he was old enough to drive and enjoyed flying with friends for many years. He also enjoyed golfing even though he may have lost a few too many wagers more than he would have liked.

Spencer's love for his wife and his two girls was very evident as he would brag on them incessantly while spending time with his family, friends, and his Golden Retriever, Biscuit. Spencer made everyone laugh and his infectious smile will be missed.

Cremation arrangements have been entrusted to The Burbage Funeral Home. A memorial service to celebrate the life of Spencer will be held on September 21, 2019, at 1:00 pm at Grace United Methodist Church, 9750 Wellington Road, in

Manassas, Virginia followed by a reception at a TBD location.

Condolences may be made via: [www.burbagefuneralhome.com](http://www.burbagefuneralhome.com).

### Goodbye, Friend

by Paul Jampole

POTOMAC VALLEY - On August 31st Potomac Valley Swimming lost a great friend when Spencer Quinn passed away. If you've officiated a session in PVS, it is likely you met Spencer. He was a presence on deck, and I'm not sure I knew a more upbeat, cheerful, and friendly official. Personally, I owe him a huge debt for all of the mentoring he gave me.

Spencer was always there when I needed help and I know that it was the same for many of you. With his hearty laugh, he was quick to lighten the mood (just ask any of his friends about why he was called Col Mustard!) I am deeply saddened at losing my friend and I know many of you feel the same.

I would ask that you say a prayer for his family, and that you remember him in your own personal way when you return to the deck this fall. Spencer, I'm going to miss you. It won't be the same with you gone. ☹️

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PVS OFFICIAL'S COMMITTEE

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**20 Years of Service to PVS**

*MAY: Kenneth Vierral (MACH)*

*JUNE: Dave DiNardo (MACH)*

**5 Years of Service to PVS**

*March: Missie Farrace (YORK)*

*David Goldberg (TOLL)*

*Jim Mello (SDS)*

*Judy Ziems (ASA)*

*May: Heather Purk (UN)*

**10 Years of Service to PVS**

*April: Kristine Frohman (RMSC)*

*Lou Pisone (MSSC)*

*April: May Chava (MACH)*

*Patrick Donahue (ASA)*

*Paul Lemar (ASA)*

*Sara Sullivan (YORK)*

*July: Bill Marlin (PM)*



Congratulations to Tom Allison, PVS' 2018-2019 Official of the Year! In the three years since Tom first certified as a Stroke & Turn judge, he has become a frequent presence at PVS meets being among the officials with the most PVS sessions. Supporting meets in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, Tom knows no geographical boundaries when he volunteers. Supporting meets hosted by a wide variety of clubs and at all levels, he happily works any position and is often tapped to share his knowledge and experience as a mentor to newly certifying and advancing officials. In his three year tenure, he has continued to expand his officiating skills with certifications at Starter, Chief Judge, HyTek Operator, and Electronic Timing System (ETS) Operator. Tom has become an important asset to PVS and we thank him for the many meets he works. 😊

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CONTINUUM

# USA Swimming Announces Certification Requirement

by Gina Mensay

COLORADO SPRINGS -Though several states have previously passed concussion education requirements, USA Swimming will now require all coaches and officials to complete Concussion Protocol Training by January 1, 2020.

In order to minimize duplication, courses from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), as well as individual states' required courses will satisfy the USA Swimming requirement.

For USA Swimming membership, coaches and officials must successfully complete concussion and head injury education at least once.


For example, if a coach lives or coaches in a state with a concussion education requirement, he or she must only complete the state requirement and will not need to complete an additional course. High school coaches having already completed the NFHS training may submit proof of this training to meet the USA-S requirement.

Individual states may require annual or



continuing education and coaches or officials must abide by the requirements of the state or states in which they coach or officiate.

This requirement is necessary to avoid personal liability for concussion or head strike incidents, ensuring our insurers will continue to provide liability insurance protection to USA Swimming, coaches, officials, and clubs.

Please direct questions about Concussion Protocol Training to George Ward at [gward@usaswimming.org](mailto:gward@usaswimming.org). A FAQ document on this subject is posted on the USA-S website. 

## Thoughts From the Chair

by Rich McMillen

Some might have heard a rumor that I donned a kilt for the 2019 LC Age Group Champs. It's a shame so few actually witnessed it. What it will undoubtedly be a new fashion trend at swim



meets for officials of all gender identities, most are probably asking them self, "Where exactly did *this* idea come from?"

It all started back in 2014 at the Maryland Swimming SCY Championships held at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. After a prelims session, I was invited to walk downtown Annapolis with a group of other Maryland Swimming officials when I brought up the idea that at many prelims finals meets we always ramp up the uniform standards a bit, namely that men wear long pants, while women can wear pants, skirts, or skorts. The social injustice of this common practice at finals had me asking the question, could male officials be allowed to wear kilts?

There were some in the group who questioned my gender identity, and still others actually contemplating the idea and asking questions.

(continued NEXT page)

## CONTINUUM

**Thoughts**

(continued from PAGE 3)

One immediate question pondered, what color kilt would one wear since all Scottish kilts are made from the family's tartan? Being the ever conscious-of-the-rules official, I stated that one could probably find a simple navy-blue kilt to go along with the proscribed uniform color for bottoms in Maryland Swimming.

After lunch we happened to pass a Scottish clothing store and, as a group, we ventured inside looking for kilts. After talking with the store staff, they recommended looking at a utility kilt, which of course they did not sell. Sometime later I searched Amazon.com for utility kilts and was surprised at how widely available they were; however, as that was the last prelims/finals meet in the LSC for a while, I didn't see any reason to act on impulse.

Since that initial incident, I had thought about kilt wearing each time I worked an LSC prelims/finals championship meet, but never acted on it.

It wasn't until working the LC Open Championship in July that I again was talking with other officials about the idea. I had already signed up for the LC Age Group Champs the following weekend, so now I had some near-term motivation. I again researched the utility kilts on Amazon.com and after some required measuring; I ordered a navy-blue cotton utility kilt for about \$55. Seeing as I'm the official's chair, I wanted to make sure the meet referee was OK with the idea, as they are in charge of all the officials at the meet. After chuckling/laughing a bit he approved of the idea. Having never worn a kilt, I guess I didn't realize there's nothing to prevent someone from seeing up my kilt, which I guess answers the question; exactly what do Scotsmen wear underneath one?

The meet referee made this vital inquiry of me, the implication being that 'McMillen' is Irish and so I couldn't claim a religious exemption. I decide to wear a male jammer swimsuit I have, which brought the meet referee down from the precipice. While

probably not an original idea, I have now termed the combination a *skilt* after the skort for women. Since I did spend \$55 on the kilt, I do intend to continue its use at LSC prelims/finals meets where the uniform bottom is blue and men are supposedly only allowed to wear pants at finals, pending permission of course, of the meet referee.

## What's New In PVS Certification Requirements

by Barb Ship

Your Official's Committee has been working hard during the past year to examine and review all the various certification and recertification requirements. Here is a summary of some of the important changes.

All official positions currently require an evaluation. In the past, some official candidates have arranged for an evaluation before they have met all the requirements for such an evaluation. Therefore, the Officials' Committee is instituting a pre-approval process prior to setting up an evaluation. This process will verify that the candidate has fulfilled all the prerequisite requirements prior to setting up an evaluation. The official candidate will need to submit a request via a link on the PVS website prior to setting up an evaluation. This will allow our certification officer to verify that all requirements have been met. Once the pre-approval has been granted, the official candidate will be able to set up an evaluation. This pre-approval process may take up to seven days, so an evaluation cannot be set up at the same meet when the candidate is fulfilling the final training requirements.

All official positions have updated certification requirements. The PVS website has been updated to include all changes. You can reference the PVS website URL <http://pvswim.org/official/certification.html> to review all requirements. Please note that if you began your training under the old

(continued next page)

## CONTINUUM

requirements, you may complete your training under those requirements. You will, however, need to adhere to the pre-approval process outlined above prior in setting up your evaluation session.

If you are a mentor for an official or an evaluator, please carefully review the training/evaluation form prior to the session. The PVS website includes guidance for being a good mentor, which may be found at: <http://pvswim.org/official/training/MentoringApprenticeOfficials.pdf>.

Ensure you are qualified to be a mentor or an evaluator for the candidate in that position. For example, Stroke and Turn apprentices are unable to make unobserved DQ calls during apprentice sessions except during the evaluation. During training sessions, the mentor must be qualified to observe the call for it to be valid.

When acting as a Stroke and Turn Judge evaluator, you must shadow the candidate the entire session and will be unable to perform any other role during that session. You are limited to evaluating one stroke and turn candidate at a session. In other mentoring situations, you may be able to fulfill another role, but with the caveat that you are fully committed and able to mentor or evaluate the candidate.

Most training/evaluation forms have "Notes for Mentors" fields. If you are mentoring, please review these prior to each mentoring session. Remember that starter candidates must perform hearing impaired starts during the final evaluation and are encouraged to do so during all training sessions.

All recertification requirements have been updated during the past year. The Officials' Committee wanted to ensure that we are compliant with USA Swimming's Minimum Standards Guidelines for each position. Please refer to the PVS website for updated requirements. In addition, something new this year is that recertification for wet side and dry side positions are now separate. If you recertify for your highest position on the wet side (wet side certifications include ST, SR, CJ, and DR),

this will renew all other wet side certifications. Note that CJ and SR are considered comparable positions. If you recertify as a CJ, this will recertify your SR role, and vice versa. If you recertify for your highest position on the dry side (dry side certifications include AO as well as Hy-Tek Computer Operator and ETS Operator), this will renew all other dry side certifications.

If you are not an AO but are certified as both a Computer Operator and ETS Operator, you will need to work at least 2 sessions on each per year to renew both certifications, but no additional testing or training is required. ☺

## Lesson Learned – My Timing Mistake As A DR

by Izumi Horikawa

I recall some years ago Jim Thompson, one of the officials I respect the most, shared his experience with us in a series of the PVS officials' newsletters, which was very instructive to me and many others. I am much less experienced than Jim and other senior PVS officials, but I thought my doing the same might still be of interest to some of you. This time I just copy and paste my Referee Session Report on November 3, 2012.

*"In the first heat of 13-14 Boys 200-yard Breaststroke with three swimmers, the leading swimmer miscounted laps and stopped at 150 yards, which induced the second swimmer to also stop at 150. At this point I was confused and mistakenly made a few chirps of whistle when the third swimmer passed the backstroke flag, likely making him upset and stopping the race with a stroke violation. Although counting laps and completing the designated distance is swimmers' responsibility, the third swimmer would be able to complete the 200-yard race legally without my wrong chirps. The Meet Referee (Scott Witkin) and I decided to give an opportunity of re-swim not only to the third swimmer but also to the other two. Considering that the first and second swimmers had no*

*(see Lesson NEXT page)*

## FINALE

## Letters to the Editor

### When Girls Had One

Just an interesting side note. Our intermediate school in Michigan (the former high school) had a pool and swimming was part of the PE curriculum. Boys and girls swam separately, but even from 1974-76, the boys swam nude with the school providing and washed the girls suits. We moved after that, so I don't know how long it lasted

- **Janet Schiavone**

### Very Sad to Hear

I worked a few meets with Spencer but didn't know him well. I did know that his mischievous grin and positive attitude brought a joy to meets and officiating that we all greatly appreciated. He will be sorely missed.

Thanks so much for the opportunity to remember a great guy!

- **Tom Williams**

## Lesson

(continued from Page 5)

*reason for disqualification before exiting the pool, I think that we made the right decision."*

This was a good learning experience for me. To avoid this kind of issue, a Deck Referee can do the following (I did so during the rest of the session and have kept doing so): (1) Keep monitoring laps carefully even in older age group sessions. (2) Check with the Colorado operator, Starter, or the scoreboard; and (3) most importantly, do not hesitate to use time for certainty, instead of going ahead with uncertainty.

Now 7 years after this mistake, I still keep it in my mind and practice the above points. Working with certainty and confidence is prioritized over keeping up with the timeline. 🙄

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Obituary text for Spencer Quinn provided by Burbage Funeral Home.

*"Swimming is a confusing sport because sometimes you do it for fun, and other times you do it not to die. And, when I'm swimming, sometimes I'm not sure which one it is."*

-**Demetri Martin**

