

GENERAL CHAIR REPORT

1. Virginia Swimming Awards Celebration

- Congratulations to Lisa Liston, Jessica Simons, Kara McHaney, and Mary Turner for the success of our annual awards event. This was a major undertaking for a completely different approach to the recognition of Virginia Swimming athletes.
- Are we going to continue with this format going forward? In not, do we cycle through with more traditional awards events with a special event such as this past year?
- We received numerous accolades over the handling of the event and the inclusion of so many more athletes. Are there some itinerary adjustments necessary to ensure proper flow and less distraction from our awards presentation and the guest speaker?
- Single issue raised was over the use of the term All-State versus All-Star. Since we are an LSC, the opinion expressed that we should use All-Star versus All-State.
- Do we look to other venues or is Kings Dominion singularly suited for our event?

2. Eastern Zone Meeting

- Learned the state of Pennsylvania has enacted new background check requirements for all volunteers working with youth sports and activities.
 - It requires an FBI background investigation which includes fingerprinting.
 - Background investigation cost is \$120 and Pennsylvania will not recognize USA Swimming background investigation.
 - This measure would also include such volunteers as timers at meets, or any adult who comes in contact with swimmers in any capacity.
 - Other states are considering similar legislation.
- 2015 Eastern Zone Championship meets:
 - Eastern Zone LC Age Group Championships will be held at CSAC in Richmond, VA on August 5-8. Poseidon Swimming will be the local host team.
 - Eastern Zone Open Water Championship will be held at Atlantic City, NJ on June 27.
 - Eastern Zone LC Super Sectional Championship will be held at Ithaca University, NY on July 16-19.
 - Eastern Zone LC Senior Championship will be held at Erie Community College, Buffalo, NY on August 6-9.
- 2016 Eastern Zone Championship meets
 - Niagara Swimming has been awarded the Eastern Zone SC Age Group Championships to be held March 24-26 at Webster, NY
 - Metro Swimming has been awarded the Eastern Zone LC Age Group Championships at the East Meadow Aquatic Center, Eisenhower Park, Long Island, NY, August 3-6.
 - Virginia Swimming has been awarded the Spring LC Southern Region Sectional Champs to be held March 31-April 3, 2016. The local host will be Poseidon Swimming and the venue will be the CSAC.
 - Niagara Swimming was awarded the Spring SC Super Sectional to be hosted at Ithaca University, NY, March 31-April 3, 2016.

Submitted by:
Steve Hennessy
General Chair, VSI
June 1, 2015

- LC Super Sectional for summer 2016 has not been awarded. Likewise the Eastern Zone Senior Championship has not be awarded. No bids have been received for the aforementioned championship meets.
 - Eastern Zone Elections. The following individuals were nominated:
 - Non-Coach Director: John McIlhargy, Metropolitan Swimming and Mary Turner, Virginia Swimming
 - Technical Planning Chair: Tristan Formon, New Jersey Swimming
 - Age Group Chair: Edgar Perez, Metropolitan Swimming
3. PVS and VSI General Chair meeting regarding PVS teams encroaching into the VSI north district and the effects on pool space availability for hosting swim meets and running swim team practices.
- Met with Bill Marlin, PVS General Chair, to outline issues and concerns of VSI regarding our north district teams' loss of pool time, ability to host meets within the north district, and loss of swimmers to PVS teams due to the ability to provide local competition and local training.
 - Discussed the possibility to opening up PVS open meets (up to five meets per year, 3 SC and 2 LC meets) to VSI north district teams. PVS agreed to concept for the coming year and pledged to work out details for meet support. Still awaiting word on the feasibility
 - Discussed the possibility of a combined senior championship meet. Possibly rotating venues between the LSCs and formatting to provide for 3-tiered finals, top-16 VSI, top-16 PVS, and top-8 overall. Discussed a variety of possible scoring options
 - We operated under the belief if local competition is available then travel expenses could be reduced and staying with current VSI team would still allow for swimmers to compete with and against their "friends" on PVS teams.
 - Discussed loss of pool time by various VSI teams to PVS teams renting pool time in facilities with the north district portion of our LSC.
 - PVS as a matter of policy does not seek to control member teams or seek to implement policy meant to restrict member teams' business approach.
 - PVS does share similar concerns over some of their teams' aggressive pursuit of pool time and the effects upon other member teams' survival. So they did acknowledge that it is a concern but as a matter of policy they do not seek to control such activities.
4. Spoke with the management staff for Stafford County pools, George Mason University – Freedom Center, Warrenton Aquatics and Recreation Facility, and Claude Moore pool. Still hoping to speak with the management staff at Chinn Center and Dale City.
- Each facility has a long history of supporting VSI teams. Would love to continue supporting VSI teams. However, in most cases VSI teams have either reduced their practice time or left the facility. Facilities having to face a financial loss needed to seek other potential revenue sources.
 - In some cases, VSI teams have left the facility with a poor relationship with the facility this is to include but not limited to a balance due the facility which in some cases still has not been satisfied.
 - Reviewing the process of how PVS teams have entered these facilities and over time increased their presence and in some cases becoming the dominant tenant, no favoritism or irregularities could be discerned.
 - The most typical pattern of their expansion has been a team would seek space. The facility would offer what limited space they had available, and over time would take on any space made available by the teams reducing space.

- PVS teams seem to be planning well in advance of the current year needs. They seek out their opportunities by planning, investigating, and relationship building.
5. Awards/Recognition of Volunteers: The following is a list of awards or recognition along with the group that identifies individuals to be honored:
 - Walter Smith Service Award: Virginia Swimming recognition of members who, by reason of exceptional service, personal effort, and unselfish interest, have made distinguished contributions beyond the immediate responsibilities of their position or office to their communities outside of swimming (Special Committee)
 - Maxwell Award: Outstanding Service as an USA Swimming Official (Officials Committee submits a nominee to USA Swimming)
 - Conoco Phillips Outstanding Service Award: Outstanding volunteer service to the Virginia Swimming community (Past Recipients)
 - USA Swimming Lifetime Membership: Awarded for outstanding sustained service to USA Swimming and Virginia Swimming (Past Recipients)
 - Adolf Kiefer Award: Recognizes outstanding achievement in aquatics safety (Board submits a nominee to USA Swimming)
 6. Zone Team administrative requirements and management concerns.
 - Last year we implemented a new process by which swimmer apply for consideration for the Virginia Swimming Zone Team.
 - This fall we modified this process in order to consider newly qualified swimmers beyond the application period.
 - To further advance this process we were to provide an application for the zone team head coach and zone team coaching staff.
 - The zone team head coach should be identified by January of the competitive year and the staff named by the start of the LC season.
 - This would aid in the promotion of the team, selection and vetting of coaching staff, and aid the zone team manager and head coach in the execution of support for the team.
 - Currently we do not have a head coach identified. No coaching staff has been identified. When inquiries were made as to why, there seemed to be a misunderstanding as to who was responsible for picking the head coach and naming the staff.
 - The Age Group Division and the Age Group Chair is responsible for developing the zone team policies and procedures.
 - The staffing, based on our by-laws is the responsibility of our Coach Reps. Because of this duality we have a situation in which one believes the other is taking care of these responsibilities.
 - We need to resolve this as soon as possible, affix primary responsibility and once this year's staff is resolved (head coach and then coaching staff), set up the application process for 2016.
 7. I will be attending the USA Swimming Safe Sport Workshop in Denver, CO on behalf of VSI and our Safe Sport Coordinator, Jerry Hayes.
 8. USA Swimming has announced a Mighty Mid-Size LSC Workshop. The workshop will be held at USA Swimming in Colorado Spring, CO, on November 14, 2015. They are looking for two representatives from each LSC. They prefer one up and coming new leader and one veteran (coach and non-coach).

9. We will be looking towards setting our delegation for the USA Swimming Convention being held in Kansas City, MO, September 27-October 3, 2015.
 - Our voting members are the General Chair, Admin Vice Chair, Age Group Vice Chair, Senior Vice Chair, Senior Coach Rep, and Senior Athlete Rep.
 - If you are a voting member and cannot go or cannot stay for the HOD meeting we will need to establish a proxy for your vote well in advance of the convention.
 - We have had a number of other members included in our delegation depending on need. This includes but is not limited to individuals serving on national committees, Junior Coach Rep, Junior Athlete Rep, and anyone receiving an at-large vote.
10. USA Swimming Consultant Services – LSC Governance Session (Strategic Planning Session)
 - Started the process in August 2011; we never completed our strategic planning
 - Opportunity to have USA Swimming consultant lead us through a view of processes; provide some recommendations on organization direction; help with improving any areas of systemic challenge
 - The following are available dates:
 - September 5-6 (Labor Day weekend)
 - October 17-18 or 24-25
 - November 7-8 or 21-22
 - December 5-6 or 12-13 (major championship meets & mid-season taper meets)