

## Potomac Valley Swimming Diversity & Inclusion Report

March 18, 2013

Submitted by Merari Chollette- PVS Diversity Chair

- Participated in a conference call hosted by the Eastern Zone Diversity Coordinator last week. The meeting was to increase communication with LSC Diversity and General Chairs about programs, coaches and athletes happening in the Eastern Zone. Meetings will be on a recurring basis. Special presenter was from International Water Safety Day Initiative.
- Researching and exploring strategies for increasing PVS reach in all encompassing diversity & inclusion
- Evaluating diversity resources in areas of gender, socio-economics, culture, race, lifestyle, religion, etc and how these affect decisions about swimming - looking to use data along with goals to develop the PVS Diversity & Inclusion strategy
- Researching development & implementation of Diversity & Inclusion training for PVS
- Exploring ideas for how to make the committee organization more effective
- Reviewing a need for updating the Policies and Procedures under Outreach and Athlete Assistance. (On Going) current policies and procedures may be outdated, inconvenient and not fully address the needs for teams in PVS.
- PVS Diversity budget - will be based on a proposal for upcoming year..will present at April Board meeting
- Anticipate participation in:
  - Eastern Zone Meeting - May
  - Eastern Zone Diversity Clinic - June
  - Diversity in Aquatics Conference - July -

### Upcoming PVS Diversity events:

- **College Knowledge - March 23 at Takoma Aquatic Center**- event to assist athletes in navigating the college recruiting process and learning more about swimming in college. contact is Doug Carrington. PVS Diversity ALlocated \$500 for facilities, materials & equipment
- **Going for the Gold - Diversity Day Clinic** - this year the proposed special guest is – Sabir Muhammad. The proposed date is on **April 21** at PG Sports & Learning Complex. PVS athletes will be invited to work with Sabir who will provide stroke techniques and motivation to PVS athletes in order to instill in them to reach for the gold. ***There is an outstanding request for \$2,000.00 PVS Diversity Funds to pay for the athlete appearance and \$200 for snacks. Site for event being sponsored by an unknown entity. Gifts and prizes also being provided by and unknown sponsors.***
- **May 15th – International Water Safety Day.** <http://internationalwatersafetyday.org>
  - **International Water Safety Day (IWSD)** is designed to educate in becoming safer in and around the water while spreading global awareness

of this ongoing pandemic. With over 30,000 deaths monthly, the lack of water safety education has propelled drowning to the 3rd leading cause of accidental injury death worldwide.

- There will be a meeting on the Hill in congress with representatives from USAS, Water Safety Experts, American Red Cross, etc.. More details will be available in about 2 weeks. I am securing an invitation to the PVS board so that PVS is represented at his meeting. ***PVS Diversity will be communicating to all clubs/coaches with ideas on how to promote International Water Safety Day as a community service for the club and social responsibility for our coaches and swimmers. Also, this can be used a public relations for PVS to position us as a voice for water safety locally and to expand our reach for diversity and inclusion into the sport. For our clubs its a great opportunity to serve the community while marketing themselves and increase their base of registered athletes.***
- ***We have endorsement letters to share for IWSD*** - from the National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA), the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE), and the USA Swimming Foundation.
- **Would like to have PVS formally endorse this initiative....can we? what is the process if any?**
  
- **PVS Diversity Travel Team** - Plans continue to be made for the Combined Travel Team representing PVS for the Black Heritage Meet in Cary, NC over the Memorial Day holiday (**May 24-26th**). Last year there were 120 athletes and their parents to participate in the 2 day meet. This year so far there are 95 athletes registered from 7 teams (DCPR, ERSC, FAST, HEAL, NCAL, RMSC, SDS). and 6 Coaches. There is a group of 24 volunteers working on this project. ***PVS Diversity Funds will be allocated to pay for athlete meet entry fees up to a maximum of \$6600. These funds help to reduce the overall cost per athlete to participate.***
  
- **Eastern Zone Diversity-**
  - PVS Diversity Chair participated in a conference call hosted by the Eastern Zone Diversity Coordinator last week. The meeting was to Increase communication with LSC Diversity and General Chairs about programs, coaches and athletes happening in the Eastern Zone. Meetings will be on a recurring basis.
  - **Eastern Zone Diversity Clinic - June June 20 - 23rd** - This year the Eastern Zone will have its **2nd Zone Diversity Camp and Summit**. The camp will be held in June 20-23rd in Boston, MA at both MIT and Northeastern University. Two Athletes from each LSC (1 Male and 1 Female) ages 13 - 16 will be selected to represent their LSC at the camp. In addition they are encouraging each LSCs to send their Diversity Chair and a Coach to participate in a Summit portion. They have some speakers who will come conduct workshops and information sessions with participants. **\$350 per person to attend and includes, housing, meals, activities (does not include transportation). Anticipate requesting funds from PVS Camps & Clinics budget. for this event.**