



**Potomac Valley Swimming  
Inclusion/Diversity Committee Meeting  
Takoma Park, Washington DC  
Saturday, December 18, 2010**

**Meeting Notes**

In Attendance:

Douglas Carrington	Mark Lewis	Manga Dalizu
Corey Wallace	Rob Green Sr.	Rob Green Jr.
Roger McCoy	John Mason	Angela Cummings
Richard Xue	Naomi Lynch	Henry Xue

**I. 12: 12pm Start/Welcome/ Purpose**

The purpose of the meeting was to start the development of a Potomac Valley Swimming Committee. The committee would meet quarterly to jointly work together to set goals and plan programs for the number of underrepresented and or economically disadvantaged members of USA Swimming in the Potomac Valley LSC. The committee would be responsible for helping to develop and implement strategies, policies and programs that will create a diverse and inclusive environment for swimmers in the LSC, and build on the population of underrepresented coaches, athletes, administrators and sports officials within Potomac Valley Swimming.

The following discussions at the meeting focused on the state of the committee today, updates on USA swimming Diversity actions, sharing of ideas for the future of the PVS Diversity with a look at past and new initiatives in the community that may be community outreach for "Inclusion" and "Make A Splash" objectives.

It was noted in the meeting that we have had success in getting programs out into the community under Diversity in PVS.

**I. Events/Happenings in the LSC Under Diversity 2009-2011  
Past Events**

- a. College Knowledge Event - Successful event open which was to all athletes and parents in PVS and other LSCs (October 2009). Held Howard University with College and USA Swimming coaches and athletes presenting their experiences about college swimming. The forum included a Q and A session with the presenters.
- b. Central Chesapeake Swimming Diversity Seminar (October) -Another successful event. It was conducted by Central Chesapeake Swimming after the All Freestyle Meet. The event was organized by Mr. John Mason, Head Coach of Central Chesapeake Swimming. Dr. Cecil Gordon, Certified Referee and Former Chairman of USA Swimming Diversity Committee, along with Referee Robert Thompson led the discussion with parents and athletes. They both addressed their own experiences and insight on Diversity in the sport as well as address other many topics related volunteerism to other personal questions regarding the sport and its athletes.

- c. Nadar Por Vida (ongoing) continued support for the organization that meets every Saturday and some Fridays. The PVS Committee will try and continue to send support to this organization.
- d. Black History Swim Meet (February) continued support for the meet by the committee. The meet has been posted online under DCPR. DCPR has been in discussion about making the meet less about VIPs and politicians but more about the athletes involved. They are working diligently about making this happen. The meet director, Rob Green Jr. was present at the meeting and will continue to inform the committee concerning help and support for the meet.

## **II. Future Potential Items for 2010-2011 Budget**

### **Budget**

The Committee was presented with the 2010-2011 Diversity Budget as it was set from the previous House of Delegates meeting in May 2010. The 2010-2011 budget has already allocated a portion of the budget towards Water Safety Day and Nadar Por Vida. This year the committee would like to allocate funds to help with the following additional items:

- a. Develop Local Clinics/Camps for coaches, swimmers and volunteers. The committee discussed possibility of working on small camps in the LSC to help educate coaches, swimmers and parents. These camps will be focused in growing the number of diverse individuals in the sport in the PVS area in addition to the larger Zone and National Diversity Camps. The camps would be used to educate parents, swimmers and coaches produce an environment that fosters their growth of swimming within PVS. The type of camps and dates will be finalized during the next committee meeting in late March
  - i. NOTE: National and Eastern Zone Diversity Camp applications will be available in Feb
- b. Diversity Seminar: The Diversity Committee would like to continue supporting the Central Chesapeake's Diversity Seminar conducted in October after the All Freestyle Meet in October. PVS Diversity Committee agreed that the design of John Mason's team seminar can be potentially be used with other events for teams and PVS events. The short seminar would be used as a way for parents of swimmers to become more involved in supporting their athletes and the sport of swimming. Last year, Cecil Gordon, Certified Referee and Chairman of USA Swimming Diversity Committee, along with Referee Robert Thompson led last years discussion. What will be needed to support the Diversity Seminar will be submitted before June.
- c. Travel Team Assistance: Creation of an official Potomac Valley Diversity Travel Team. A great opportunity for PVS swimmers to experience unity in the LSC. Coaches should be selected and supported as any other PVS zone team. This includes status and funding for travel, coaching and officials. Deadline by next committee meeting, March 2011, to review other meets in Atlanta, The Grand Prix with Cinco DeMayo or the Native American Meet/Invite for which the team will be formed. The type of meets, criteria for the selection of coaches and due dates will be finalized during the next committee meeting in late March.

- d. College Knowledge Event (CKE): PVS Diversity Committee agreed that this was a significant event that should continue with a proposed date in May or June 2011. This date was selected as it does not have any major impacts to the swimming schedule for both USA and NCAA Swimming as well as being the date before college coaches are recruiting and swimmers visiting colleges for the summer. It was also discussed that the CKE can be done on a smaller scale for individual teams as needed by the team.
- e. Water Safety Day – conduct another water safety day, try and select a date that works better with the summer schedule. A pool and date will be finalized by the March/April committee meeting

### **III. Other Items Addressed in Meeting**

- a. National Diversity Camp (applications available in Feb) – information and cut off times have been posted for the National Diversity Camp in Colorado Springs, CO. USA Swimming funds cover lodging and airfare expenses for athletes and coaches to attend the camp. It is encouraged that PVS submit both coaches and athletes to participate.
- b. Zone Level Diversity Camp (applications available in Feb) It was noted that in 2011 the Mid-Atlantic (LSC) received nomination to host the 2011 Zone Diversity Swim Camp for the Eastern Zone. USA Swimming will provide additional funding for production of a camp of this size. It is encouraged that the PVS LSC support the diversity zone camp by submitting/nominating athletes and coaches to participate. The committee agreed that it would like to work towards hosting a Zone LSC Diversity Camp in the future.
- c. There was also discussion by the committee to develop a team of volunteers from the committee to conduct outreach to local swim leagues and conducting small clinics sponsored by the PVS Diversity Committee for non USA Swimming leagues around the area. The group will target local recreation centers, summer swim programs and other learn to swim program and mentor the children directly from those programs throughout Virginia, DC and Maryland. In the past this was initiated by conducting time trials throughout DC to encourage participants to join PVS USA Swimming clubs bridging the gap between swim lessons and being on a team.
- d. Washington DC Black History Meet - February 2011 - "Must haves" were captured with Rob Green, meet director, discussing what he needs from everyone to make this event successful. He is looking for volunteers from PVS to be officials and other volunteers for the meet. Lessons learned from other BH meets were discussed and methods of resolving the complexities to make a smooth running meet for the swimmers, coaches and parents are a top priority. Time constraints are considered as many in PVS and beyond participate and use BHM as a qualifier meet for upcoming championship meets.

- e. Developing a one page flyer or insert in BHM swim program for all participants welcoming participants to the PVS area. The letter would be addressed from PVS/Diversity Committee informing them about the committee and upcoming ideas. Deadline for all input and changes are due by 28 January 2011.
- f. All committee members agreed that the PVS Diversity Committee needed a link on the PVS website with links to other diversity sites and USA swimming. Deadline for all input and decision on link to PVS website is March 2011 for the next committee meeting

### **What's Next**

- a. Next Meeting late March/early April

Closing 2:14pm.

**If there are an addition questions or comments, please email Miriam Lynch at [miriamslynch@yahoo.com](mailto:miriamslynch@yahoo.com) or 703-409-9962 (cell).**

**If you have not already done so, sign up for the listserv [pvsminoritycoaches@yahoogroups.com](mailto:pvsminoritycoaches@yahoogroups.com) by emailing Miriam Lynch to stay informed of current events and happenings in USA Swimming and PVS.**