

Year End Report General Chair

The past year has been one of growth, change and learning in Potomac Valley Swimming.

As an LSC we have reached the 11,000 athlete mark. This is somewhat of a milestone. It represents the largest the LSC has been but also represents continued growth. Unlike many LSC's throughout the country PVS has a positive growth percentage that indicates continued interest and support for swimming in general and increases in club membership throughout the LSC. PVS has added several new clubs and our established clubs are growing. Potomac Valley Swimming is among the top 5 LSC's in athlete numbers yet, is the smallest LSC in geographic size. These two factors have led to many challenges. Meet sizes have grown in numbers, pool space has become more of a premium, and expenses for operations have increased accordingly. The Board of Directors and Competition Committee are continually challenged to maintain a schedule of meets that offer opportunities for all PVS athletes.

During the past year we have worked to develop a new equipment management program. By moving out of the storage facility that formally held all of the timing equipment and hiring an equipment manager we have succeeded in insuring that equipment is in good working order, kept in a secure environment and is current and accounted for both in delivery and return. This has led to a cost savings and a more manageable system of rental. We are in process of fully integrating databases of contacts with clubs, coaches and our membership. As this is more fully developed we hope to be able to get information to specific groups more readily and improve communications. Modifications in our meet venue for Age Group Championship made this year's meet far more manageable.

In the fall of 2012 PVS hosted our Swimposium. This was a fantastic opportunity for all segments of our swimming community to gather together for a day of activity and learning. Workshops were held for parents, coaches, and officials. Athletes were given a chance to meet and learn from former Olympians both in the pool and out. Athletes were also given a chance to greet the latest PVS Olympic gold medalist Katie Ledecky who graciously signed autographs.

Moving forward PVS will continue to be faced with the challenges of a growing athlete population and a somewhat stable number of facilities to use for competition. Growing meet size and competition for pool space makes increasing meet costs and demands for use of premier facilities inevitable. Organizationally the BOD will need to examine Policies and Procedures (an ongoing process); explore new opportunities for our athletes (Open Water for one); expand our efforts in diversity; and continue our efforts in the area of Safe Sport.

