



## **General Chair's Report to the Potomac Valley House of Delegates**

**April 10, 2022**

A lot has happened in the two years since the pandemic began. There was a total shutdown, then a gradual reopening. Last season, we were able to hold a large number of meets with lots of smaller sessions. This season, we have been running a more normal schedule, but with some limitations on session sizes and spectator limits.

The facility capacity limits for competitors have been mostly eased or eliminated altogether. More and more facilities are now allowing spectators to some degree. We are almost, but not quite back to pre-pandemic meet procedures. I appreciate the patience of all (coaches, athletes, parents, volunteers) throughout these last two difficult years.

The pandemic did require us to rethink some swim meet procedures. Some of these procedures will be retained to improve the running of our meets. Two come to mind immediately:

- a) The use of a Clerk of Course to organize swimmers has resulted in less crowding behind the starting blocks. It has also reduced the number of swimmers missing their swims or swimming in the wrong heat and/or lane.
- b) The use of a Virtual Scratch Table has allowed for a more efficient way for coaches and athletes to scratch from finals and to monitor the progress of scratches from finals without having to visit and crowd around a physical scratch table.

The pandemic brought increased communication from USA Swimming headquarters. I continue to attend monthly meetings with USA Swimming staff and other LSC leaders. This collaboration with my colleagues in other LSCs has been valuable. USA Swimming committee meetings are now advertised in advance and available for virtual attendance. Later this month, seven PVS members will be attending the first in-person USA Swimming workshop in more than 2-1/2 years. We will be certain to bring back new information and ideas.

I increased communication within the LSC during the pandemic with weekly meetings with club leaders and weekly updates to the membership. With the increased number of swim meets I've been officiating this year in PVS, that communication has decreased. But, I hope to maintain regular contact with our membership over the next year.

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### **PVS Mission Statement**

PVS supports and promotes excellence for all through competition, education, inclusion, and leadership in a safe, equitable environment.

### **PVS Vision Statement**

PVS aims to achieve excellence in and out of the pool as a diverse community grounded in a shared love of competitive swimming.



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Potomac Valley Swimming is back to 46 registered clubs for 2022. Our athlete registration numbers have rebounded to more than 95% of our 2019 pre-pandemic levels. Limitations of available practice space and coaches still are the limiting factors in our growth. Swimming continues to remain strong in the DMV area.

A major concern is that our number of officials is way below 2019. We had a year and a half of not being able to train new officials to replace our normal 20% per year attrition rate. The Officials Committee is working hard, offering many online officials clinics to make it easy for new officials to start the process. The numbers are growing this year, but it will take time to return to pre-pandemic levels. I thank all the current officials for working extra hard to make all these meets happen.

After 19 years of service to Potomac Valley, Sumie Emory retired as our Registrar. Applications were sought for a replacement. The Personnel Committee reviewed the applications, selected three candidates to interview, then selected Kelly Rowell for the position. All registration-related functions are now handled by the Registrar. The pre-meet recon process has been improved to the point where we are not seeing unregistered swimmers competing at meets, and there are fewer errors loading the meet results into SWIMS. The problems with coach registrations that occurred this year should be corrected for next year.

USA Swimming is planning on implementing Online Member Registration beginning in September 2022 for the 2023 registration year. We will have much more information about this after the workshop at the end of this month. I plan to hold an LSC town hall/information session on this topic next month.

PVS still has challenges, but overall we are doing well. As I head into my last year as General Chair, I want to thank all the board members, club leaders, officials, and other volunteers for their support.

Tim Husson  
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