

Potomac Valley Diversity, Outreach & Inclusion January 2014 News & Information



I hope everyone is having a successful January and beginning to the 2014 year. Included here are some updates related to the PVS Diversity, Inclusion & Outreach efforts such as - Committee Membership drive, Upcoming events, Resources & Information, New Member Benefits & Useful Links.

Let's continue to Build the Base, Promote the Sport and Achieve Competitive Success for our LSC.

*Merari
PVS Diversity Chair*

PVS Diversity Committee Membership

We are looking for additional dedicated volunteers to join our PVS Diversity Committee. Members will be active in steering our efforts and assisting to create and implement programs supporting our current members and supporting the growth of the LSC through diversity, inclusion and outreach efforts.

I look forward to continuing to work with those of you that have been active and also with additional volunteers that can represent the diversity and interests of our athletes, parents, volunteers, officials, coaches, club owners/team managers and officials. Applicants from all areas of the sport within our LSC are encouraged and welcome to apply. There are several levels at which members can get involved so please consider joining us.

The PVS Diversity Committee will continue to focus on:

“Promoting Inclusion by Creating Opportunities for People of all Ethnicities and Socio-economic Backgrounds to Participate and Advance in the Sport of Swimming”

This is in alignment with USA Swimming goals which are

“to create a culture of inclusion and opportunity for people of diverse backgrounds, including, but not limited to, race, age, income, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexual orientation”.

If you are interested in continuing or becoming a new committee member, please complete the attached form and submit per the instructions included.

For more information on what you can do to get involved in diversity in competitive swimming, visit this page from USA Swimming

<http://www.usaswimming.org/Rainbow/Documents/1435a2e6-2d67-4a02-80ad-cd72468e5048/Diversity%20and%20Inclusion%20Brochure.pdf>

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Upcoming Events: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

FEBRUARY 5, 2014 8:30PM (Wednesday) - PVS Diversity Committee Meeting Conference Call

Participant Access Code: 730897#

Conference Dial-in Number: (530) 881-1000

Subscriber PIN code: 384103#

FEBRUARY 14-16, 2014 - Celebrate and support diversity in swimming at the 28th Annual Black History Swim Meet

<http://www.pvswim.org/1314meet/14-301-ma.pdf>

Takoma Aquatic Center

Washington, DC

OFFICIALS ARE NEEDED

Application to Officiate at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PQwWBLpUa0odDaZ_xJc1M4ov8mYIzcUIGPeYZ-rgNag/viewform?usp=sharing&edit_requested=true

February 18, 2014!! - Deadline to apply

ATHLETE USAS 2014 DIVERSITY SELECT CAMP

<http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=1824>

Each spring, USA Swimming invites 36 athletes (ages 14-16) from underrepresented populations to participate in a three-day camp program which includes pool training, motivational and education sessions and team-building activities. Selection is based on times swum at USA Swimming sanctioned events.

March/April - Tentative Events

- Coach mentoring programs/ clinics
- Volunteer and Officiating Workshop/Mentoring for parents to learn key jobs for getting involved
- New Athlete/Family orientation into the world of PVS competitive swimming
- Athlete swim clinic & workshop

Join our committee to help plan for these!

MAY 15th – International Water Safety Day. - Preliminary planning for a LSC event to showcase our member clubs and promote competitive swimming, water safety and drowning prevention in the DC/MD/VA area... more information to come.. **join the diversity committee to help plan the event!!**

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International Water Safety Day 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. Here are a few ways you can participate and make an impact. <http://internationalwatersafetyday.org/what-can-you-do/>

MAY 22, 2013 - PVS House of Delegates Meeting - [Overlee](#)

Annual Meeting of Potomac Valley Swimming - Important meeting open to all members
Click here to view information from the 2013 HOD meeting
http://www.pvswim.org/hod/2013_HOD_info.html

August – Second Annual Diversity in Aquatics Conference. Provides an opportunity for all Aquatic Sports to gather and address the needs of Water Safety Programs, promotion of the sport to diverse communities and support ange the future. Here is the link to the First Annual Conference to give you an idea of what to expect. Updated information will be shared as soon as it is up on the website <http://www.diversityinaquatics.com/convention>

RESOURCES & INFORMATION & LINKS

PVS Policies & Procedures related to Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach* - For more information visit the [PVS Policies & Procedures Manual](#) and read corresponding policies

Coach Continuing Education Grant Program - Policy A-5 - Coaches, please remember that continuing education is important... don't forget to take advantage of this PVS program in support of our coaches.

Athletic Scholarships and Outreach Policies - Policy A-3. Potomac Valley Swimming has established a scholarship program to assure that every PVS athlete is afforded the opportunity to participate in USA Swimming and PVS programs for which they qualify regardless of their financial situation. **REMEMBER - OUTREACH REGISTRATIONS ARE ONLY \$5 FOR ATHLETES THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH.**

* The PVS Diversity Committee will continue work on implementing a Diversity Grant Program as stated in PVS A-3 to allow and support PVS clubs to implement programs at the club level that support diversity, inclusion and outreach activities.

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Member Benefits

Club Discounts with Bag Tags Inc - All PVS clubs are eligible to receive preferential pricing discount (Gold Level Pricing) with BagTags Inc. for the purchase of their products. In order to receive the discount, clubs should mention that they are a PVS sanctioned club, request the Gold Level Pricing and request to have the PVS logo added to the product (bag tags, event passes, lanyards) visit them at <http://www.bagtagsinc.com>

If you have thoughts or ideas on other discounts or benefits that you would like for our member clubs or athletes, please send an email to meraripvs@gmail.com or diversity@pvswim.org

LINK TO -

PVS Contacts, Resources, Services

Open Water Swimming - Contact Kurt Thiel at swimthiel@erols.com

PVS Disability Swimming

USA SWIMMING DIVERSITY & INCLUSION PAGE

Eastern Zone Swimming Diversity & Inclusion

USA Swimming Safe Sport Handbook

USA Swimming Foundation

OTHER RESOURCES

- **Make A Splash**
- **Diversity in Aquatics**
- **US Olympic Committee Diversity & Inclusion Page**
- **International Water Safety Day**
- **USA Rowing - America Rows**

Build the Base, Promote the Sport and Achieve Competitive Success

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CONTACT:

Merari Chollette
PVS Diversity Chair
301.938.0250
meraripvs@gmail.com
diversity@pvswim.org

Potomac Valley Swimming Mission Statement

Potomac Valley Swimming (PVS) shall promote swimming and foster equal access for competitive opportunities for the benefit of swimmers of all ages and abilities, in accordance with the standards, rules, regulations, policies and procedures of the Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA), USA Swimming (USA-S) and PVS and its Articles of Incorporation. The objectives and primary purpose of PVS shall be the education and assurance of instruction and training of individuals to develop and improve their capabilities in the sport of swimming.

Potomac Valley Swimming Vision Statement

Potomac Valley Swimming (PVS), striving to become the preeminent LSC in the country, actively promotes competitive swimming in the National Capital Area. We enable member clubs to offer high-quality programs to a diverse group of athletes with a wide range of ability levels. We involve parent volunteers in all aspects of PVS operations and provide the support necessary to assure the proper conduct of a variety of competitions.