



## **PVS General Chair**

### **HOD State of the LSC Report**

**5-14-24**

The 2023-2024 season has been a season filled with learning and reflection. I first want to thank the Board and committee members for joining me on this adventure and being willing to jump into the unknown for many of us. I, personally, appreciate all your hard work this season and advice along the way! I also want to thank our two employees, Kim Bullers, who handles all the daily money matters and Terri Marlin, our LSC Services Manager, who acts as the LSC's daily contact point as well as stepping in this year as the LSC Registrar. Both have done an outstanding job this year and we greatly appreciate your help and support in keeping the LSC running daily.

PVS continues to thrive! Our athlete numbers have remained almost level for this season (12,896 athletes) with 591 coaches (just a little less than last year) and our officials' numbers have grown to 640 officials. Attached are graphs provided by USA Swimming showing the growth and retention through time.

PVS has a long history of sending athletes, coaches and officials to the Olympic Trials and Olympics. Indy Trials and Paris Olympics 2024 will see this again. Congratulations to our athletes and their coaches for a successful journey in qualifying for Trials in June and good luck! The members of PVS will be cheering you on! Also, congratulations to our officials who will be working at trials: Ellen Colket (Starter), Rich McMillen (Team Lead CJ), and Stroke and Turns: Tom Allison, Paul Jampole and Dave DiNardo.

We soon enter a new quad to begin preparing for 2028! It is important that we focus on the entire life-cycle of a swimmer to nurture our 2028 and 2032 qualifiers. That kid starting with your team next year may be Trials bound in 2032! The individual swimmer's tenacity, the parents' support, the coaches' encouragement, and tough love, all play a part in the plan. PVS' job is to help support the teams and provide the tools and training necessary to accomplish the goals of our swimmers. Whether it be future Trials and Olympic opportunities or just the enjoyment of being in the water and having some great friends that help us learn to navigate the world we live in and learn skills to help us in our future accomplishments, PVS is here to help.

In September, several of us travelled to Colorado Springs for the USA Swimming Annual Business Meeting. Besides voting on important legislation, we also attended workshops. A General Chair Resource and Education Program kicked off at the event and has continued through the year with various online workshops involving governance and idea sharing amongst the LSCs. The information and ideas have been shared with the other Board members and we have all been

attending various trainings established by USA Swimming that are specific to our positions as well as attending the LSC Leader meetings monthly.

During the year, the Board worked through some growing pains and forged ahead accomplishing many important tasks. We updated the online Policies & Procedures manual to include all changes that had been passed by the Board since June 2020. We then began scrubbing the document for any additional changes needed. The document is on the website's About Us page and provides guidance on all facets of the LSC. It is a living document that changes as recommendations are provided to and approved by the Board. Board members also focused on updating their portions of the PVS website by coordinating requested changes through our diligent webmaster, Tim Husson. Thank you, Tim, for the assistance in getting everything updated and continuing to support PVS with the website. The Board also began working on a synopsis of each Board position, defining the required work processes, and building a continuity book. We are still in the process of completing this task. We have also been working with Virginia Swimming and USA-Swimming to come to an agreement regarding the VSI Surcharge applied to PVS meets located in VSI territory (i.e. Loudon, Fauquier and Prince William counties). This is still ongoing as well.

Throughout this season, PVS committees and working groups quietly worked behind the scenes to review current policies and procedures and develop suggestions for the Board. The LSC Open working group focused on the structure of the PVS Opens and Championship meets, and we are slowly introducing some changes recommended by the group. They also investigated the hardship that PVS endures in finding teams to host the PVS Opens (Oct, Nov, Jan, Distance meets, LC1 and LC 2) as well as the Championship meets, and brought to the Board a recommendation to increase the meet management fees provided to the host teams. We hope this encourages more teams to step forward to help. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me and we will help you with the process and understanding the responsibilities!

A working group analyzed the current process for choosing the PVS Outstanding Athlete Awards and developed a proposed streamlined process that is less cumbersome and ensures all athletes are included.

The Officials Committee worked hard to keep up with the ever-changing officials' certification process as a result of the adoption of R-9. They have been prompt in providing officials with updates as the changes occurred and revamped our long-standing training processes to be sure they were in line with the new USA Swimming requirements. As the landscape of officials' training changes, our committee has been prepared and able to seamlessly adapt to the changes while making sure we are continuing to grow our officials corp.

A new committee stood up in December to address the changing ways that athletes, coaches, and parents obtain information. The new Technology and Social Media committee initiated their work by focusing on the social media portion of providing information. Thank you to our committee members who have revived the Instagram and Facebook accounts for PVS and who have been posting on a regular basis to provide pertinent and interesting information for the stakeholders within the LSC. We encourage all teams to tag us in their posts so we can show all the great work going on within the LSC. We also ask that you let us know what you want to see! [socialmedia@pvswim.org](mailto:socialmedia@pvswim.org)

Our Open Water Committee was revived with members from several teams. Through their hard work and diligence, a PVS team will be hosting our first Open Water race event for the LSC on May 19. We are hoping that their hard work will encourage other teams to step into the Open Water arena as well. Members of the committee can help guide teams through the approval process and steps necessary. The Board also created a grant process to support up to 3 Open Water events each year (Sept-Aug).

The Finance Committee worked diligently this year to ensure our finances are adequately aligned and even created an endowment that will be used for college scholarships for our graduating athletes. The finance chair encouraged a thorough scrub of the budget starting from the bottom up to make sure plans are in the works for requested funding.

The Governance Committee worked closely with the Board to complete the PVS LEAP. USA Swimming's LEAP (LSC Evaluation and Achievement Program) must be completed every two years as a way for each LSC to evaluate their progress in relation to Governance, Programming and Communication. The process was a huge learning experience for the Board members as we worked through the process with the Governance Committee. Governance was also tasked to work with all the LSC elections (Board of Directors, Coaches Rep, Athlete Rep and Officials Rep) to streamline the election process and teach each group the mechanics and tools available to create parallel elections. Each group runs their own election with oversight from Governance; however, the procedure for voting is the same within each election. This process brings more transparency to the process and nominations.

A new website is on the horizon. Prior to the COVID shutdown, the Board had voted to move to a Team Unify website and a contract was signed to accomplish the task. We are finally implementing the voted upon move. Several emails have gone out looking for input on design and functionality requested from our stakeholders (you!). We hope to transition to it before the beginning of September.

Finally, we are YOUR Board of Directors! Looking forward, we are looking for more involvement from you, our stakeholders. We are trying to listen to both your concerns and joy with what happens in the LSC. We would like to know how we are doing, and we are always looking for suggestions for the betterment of the LSC. Please drop us a note using the PVS Virtual Mailbox (green button on the main page of the website). We are trying to gather a comprehensive list of athlete reps for EVERY team. We want the athletes to have the opportunity to work on the athlete committee with the elected athlete reps to bring forward their ideas and provide them with opportunities to serve on other LSC committees as well. It looks great on a college application! For next year we plan to focus on Strategic Planning – what does the LSC need and what should we focus our effort on? We have a lot of exciting things we hope to work on next year and we want you to be a part of it!

Respectfully submitted,

Cherlynn Venit

PVS General Chair