



“To have a nationally recognized competitive aquatics program that teaches and trains all levels of swimmers, emphasizing individual progress, team unity, family participation, and competition at the highest individual level.”

## **A Letter to the Membership**

As we transition to long course season, the Board and Coaching Staff wanted to provide the SAC membership with an update on:

- 2007 – 2008 season highlights
- Key upcoming events
- Board of Directors Elections
- SAC Member Feedback summary

### **A VERY SUCCESSFUL 2007-2008 Short Course Season**

Once again, our kids amazed and humbled us with their feats in and out of the pool – the fast times were coupled with a team spirit and sportsmanship that makes them examples for other teams and swimmers to emulate. The countless laps in the pool, situps / dryland exercises, team-building events and mental toughness produced another year of stellar swimming. We can't begin to document all of the successes that were had across our 220+ kids, but some of the highlights include:

- **An 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row TEAM WIN at the Age Group State Championships**
- **An impressive 6<sup>th</sup> place TEAM effort at the Western Region Senior Sectional Championships**
- **47 team records broken over the course of the year**
- **A very strong team representing SAC at the prestigious Far Western Championships**
- **2 new Junior Nationals qualifiers, for a total of 9 swimmers qualified**
- **2 new SC Nationals qualifiers, for a total of 7 swimmers qualified**

### **Key Upcoming Events**

Make sure your calendars are marked and your family is excited for:

- SAC Team Banquet on April 25<sup>th</sup>: a fun event for us to celebrate our team's and children's success
- Cactus Classic May 23<sup>rd</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup>: our biggest meet event of the year and an exceptional venue for each family to rack up their volunteer points

### **Board of Directors Elections**

Want to get even more deeply involved with our club? Consider running for one of the four open slots on the SAC Board of Directors. Key dates:

- By April 15<sup>th</sup>, please submit your interest and brief resume/experience summary to Todd LaPorte at [laportefamily@cox.net](mailto:laportefamily@cox.net) or to Judy at [sac6coach@aol.com](mailto:sac6coach@aol.com).
- Elections will be held at the Banquet on April 25<sup>th</sup>: in this year of exciting elections, make sure your vote is counted / voice is heard at SAC!



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### **SAC Member Feedback Summary**

The response was impressive – 84 members responded with thoughtful and thought-provoking insight. There was so much valuable insight delivered that the Board and Coaching Staff will be using this feedback as a guide for club improvements for quite awhile. Here are the common themes we heard from you:

- **Member satisfaction is very high:**
  - According to current research, responses to a question regarding a person’s willingness to “recommend” something (e.g., product, service, company, swim team), is the best indicator of future success of that thing.
  - **82% of our membership rated us as a 7 or higher ... considered to be a great measure of being satisfied to highly satisfied with SAC**
  - While we’d certainly like to see these numbers higher and we recognize we have some areas to improve upon, **the state of our club is very strong**
  
- **Coaching satisfaction is high**
  - We gathered feedback across a number of key characteristics, including Leadership, Motivation/Inspiration, Approachability and Communication
  - Across all of these metrics and coaches, the membership views our staff as well above “meeting expectations” tending towards “strong”
  - For some coaches and many characteristics, the feedback was exceptionally positive – comments such as: “a gem,” “what an asset to the club,” and “tremendous leadership.”
  - One overwhelming theme emerging on our coaching staff was that it is a team of coaches who are working well together, each with strong points individually whose cohesiveness makes them collectively even stronger
  
- **But we’re not resting on our laurels and the membership identified key areas we can improve upon to make us even stronger:**
  - **Fun**...even more fun, especially for the younger kids. Games that can teach and be social. Time to develop team spirit that enhances individual performance.
  - **Expectations**...set high expectations, especially for the older kids. Need to onboard new families better, and have time for exchange between veteran families and younger families.
  - **Enthusiasm** ...create environment for more celebration and excitement. Coaches to set the tone; more parents to volunteer.
  - **Encouragement** ...create supportive environment, less competition within the team and more directed outward. More specific and individual instruction coach to swimmer.
  - **Stroke technique**...even with all our kids’ incredible success, even more discipline and focus to technique: training provided to coaches then transferred to swimmers