

Date: April 22, 2018

To: Minnesota Swimming House of Delegates

Re: Annual Report to the House of Delegates

Hello all,

I'd like to start by thanking the athlete committee for their engagement, commitment, and great ideas this year. We have had a lot of great athlete leaders step up on the athlete committee, as well as in other committees. I'd also like to thank MSI for their willingness to provide athletes with a voice in the process and an opportunity for greater participation in their sport.

One of my biggest takeaways from our monthly meetings this year was the value the athletes place on having a "championship feel" at end of season meets. For many, this involves awards, walk out music, or a good announcer. Essentially, it is the things that make a championship meet different from any other invite. At the last meeting, the committee unanimously passed a resolution saying that the athletes would like the Senior and Age Group state meets to be held at either The University of Minnesota or the Rochester Aquatic Center. The committee feels that the state meet, which is the highest level meet we hold at an LSC level, should be held at the highest caliber pools we have because these pools give our athletes the best opportunity to pursue excellence. This is not to say that we don't appreciate the great effort the Foxjets put in to give the Senior State Meet a Championship feel; we have heard good things about the meet overall, this is about the facility alone.

The highlight of this year for the Athlete Committee was the swimsuit drive we ran this summer for the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board. We ended up collecting over 400 new and gently used suits to be distributed to pool patrons who lack resources to purchase their own during the course of the summer. It was awesome to see how many clubs and swimmers pitched in and how leaders on the athlete committee took it upon themselves to run drives at their meets. I hope the athlete committee continues to find other ways to use our resources to provide opportunities to swim and promote water safety.

We will not be presenting the Athlete of the Year awards at the House of Delegates like we have in the past. We have decided to move those awards so they are voted on during the summer and presented at summer state. This will allow for the winners to be recognized in front of a larger group of their peers and make the award more visible in the community.

On a personal note, this is my last term on the Board, as I will be attending college out of state next year. I want to say a big thank you to all the BOD members and MSI staff who have given me guidance and shown me so much respect, despite my age and inexperience. Coaches, please encourage your swimmers to get involved with Minnesota Swimming, because it is an opportunity to contribute to the sport in a unique way as well as build confidence and leadership skills.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin McCarthy  
Athlete Committee Vice Chair