



Disability Committee Report

2018 Fall House of Delegates

September 23rd, 2018

Submitted by Jim Stromski

Disability Committee Chair Appointment

With the advice and consent of the Niagara Board of Directors, I have appointed Courtney Christ (SYCH) as the Chair of the Disability Committee. Courtney's bio is below and I look forward to working with her.

Courtney Christ Bio

Courtney grew up in Pennsylvania and began her competitive swimming career with the Muhlenberg Age Group Swim Team at the age of 8. In high school, she taught stroke development and swimming lessons to age group and learn-to-swim level children, was an assistant swim team coach, and was promoted to pool management roles. While at Ithaca College, she acquired her Water Safety Instructor certification, allowing her to take on even larger roles like managing and revamping the swimming lesson program at her local swim club.

Following Courtney's sophomore year at Ithaca, she decided to transition her swimming career from being a competitor in meets to running them instead. She took on the role of Meet Manager for the Ithaca College Aquatic Center and ran over 30 single and multi-day meets in a 2.5-year period. She worked with over 100 different teams and thousands of athletes, including the opportunity to work meets with the Syracuse Chargers. Courtney did this all while she was completing her Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Health with a minor in Nutrition.

Courtney is starting her third season with the Syracuse Chargers. During that time, she is a site coordinator and Head of Meet Operations. She attended multiple Paralympic clinics and the Cincinnati Paralympic meet. She is pursuing the track to become a national team Paralympic coach.

Courtney lives in Liverpool, enjoys running and outdoor activities.

Intellectual Disability Programming and Training

I began a discussion with several people with expertise in adaptive recreation about what Niagara would have to do to develop and offer programs for people with intellectual disabilities (think Special Olympics). The outcome of the initial conversation was that coach training on how to interact with these individuals is paramount and the Syracuse Chargers have offered to be a pilot program in this effort. I am handing over the reigns of this effort to Courtney going forward.