Letter to the Membership

September 26, 2017

I wanted to take a few minutes and reach out to the membership. First, thank you to those who did show up to participate in the HOD meetings this past weekend. It is a great thing to watch when people, so passionate about our sport, come together to participate in a democratic process. I certainly hope that we have great participation in all HOD meetings as well as within the committees we need to support governing this LSC.

While I am humbled to be selected as your General Chair, I really cannot miss the opportunity to thank Katy Dean for the many great contributions she has made to the LSC in her time as our General Chair. She has, as have many that have served, put much of Michigan Swimming on a very positive track. This was done during a difficult time in our LSC. We still have much to do to keep that moving forward.

Over the next few weeks, we will be putting together the rest of the Board of Directors as we have several vacancies to fill. Unfortunately, our newly elected Treasurer has chosen not to serve in the role going forward. We are working on naming a Treasurer in the next few days to take that place and keep the bills being paid. This will need to go through our BOD for advice and consent as it would now be an appointment.

Additionally, we have to start looking at replacing the Athlete Representatives who have also moved on. In the interim, Joe Gazzarato will remain as Senior Athlete Representative until a time to be determined in the future. Joe has played a significant role in both LSC governance and the BOD (well done at HOD!), but also at the national level with athlete involvement and representation. He will help finish the transition of the board for the time being. With that we have two athlete positions to fill, one At Large and Joe’s eventual replacement. Finally, there is my former position as Administrative Vice Chair that needs to be filled. I am hopeful that we can have the right people in place in the next several weeks.

It was announced late yesterday that the Officials Chair election was completed and certified, and that Cynda Avery will be the Officials Chair for a two year term. Thank you to both candidates for your patience while we sought advice from USA Swimming. No doubt we will have some legislation to close the gap there.

The Challenge! If you are interested in serving one of the BOD positions that is open or in Governance, please make it known. Board Position interest, I would like to know from anyone, via nomination, by 10/1/17. That will give opportunity to have people added to the list of potential candidates for consideration.

 If you have not yet taken the time to fill out the 2018 Michigan Swimming Committee Application Survey, please do. Please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018MSCOMAPP>.

I recently looked to my own club and put the challenge to them as well with some pretty great response. I asked for a ratio of officials per athletes on our club and for them to sign up for committees of their choice. I would ask that you all do the same to help get more officials for our meets and grow our engagement through committee work with each club in the LSC.

The LSC has always been in need of volunteers to help by serving on committees and other task force opportunities. Athletes and non-athletes are needed for various posts and working together to provide direction to the LSC. It needs to be a shared vision with many people giving a little bit. If you look today at the lists, we tend to rely on a few people to do a lot. The LSC also needs to have respectful participants willing to try to see what other people see, without compromising their own beliefs. They must work to achieve the shared vision.

I would ask that club representatives continue to watch those emails as we also have to schedule another HOD meeting later this Fall to review the 2018 budget for approval. Given that we have a new Finance Chair and will have a new Treasurer, it will be a couple of weeks for them to get up to speed to represent. My hope is that we will have some time in early December to bring everyone together again to have that approved along with our updated Bylaws and R &P from this last HOD.

I am looking forward to serving the LSC and working with you all to continue to build upon the ground work that was laid for this LSC.

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General Chair, Michigan Swimming

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