

Fall 2015, General Chair's Report

This has been a busy year for Montana Swimming in both leadership and athlete activities and accomplishments. I must congratulate our athletes and volunteers for putting forth the time and effort needed to take our LSC to a higher level in competition and governance.

As for my position as General Chair, this first year has been educational and fruitful. In April I traveled to Mesa, AZ for the Western Zone General Chair's annual meeting. The idea behind these meetings is to network with other LSC Chairs, become informed of matters affecting the Western Zone and USAS, and to meet with the leaders of USAS in a relaxed and conversational environment. Other LSCs have many of the same problems as Montana. Some have figured out solutions and pass on their ideas, however, there are other issues plaguing all of us such as pool time, volunteers, and swimmer numbers/retention.

We organized two Strategic Planning sessions with USAS liaison Arlene McDonald. The almost 100% attendance by MTS clubs proved how much you care about our sport of swimming. Through these meetings we gained a renewed direction and vision for Montana Swimming. We need to continue to work on the plan and move forward with priorities such as athlete performance, facilities, and volunteer involvement and education.

Due to these sessions and the determination by you, Montana Swimming attained the LEAP 2 level of recognition by USAS. We were recognized at the USA Aquatic Sports convention and presented with a check for \$1000. To put this in perspective: there are 59 LSCs, 2 have not completed LEAP 1 yet, 2 have attained LEAP 3, and 48 are at level LEAP 1. That means Montana is one of only seven, yes 7, LSCs in USAS who have reached LEAP 2! Now that is impressive.

We are not finished. We cannot rest on our accomplishments, but need to always try to be better. We still face challenges, but we have the volunteers, great attitude, and a strategic direction to take our teams to the next level and beyond.

We have a club leadership meeting, MixMeet, Build A Pool conference, new website skin, educational seminars with neighboring LSCs, and LSC cooperative higher level camps planned. Yes, we are asking you to give up a few weekends and put in some precious time, but if we all pitch in we can make this Olympic Year an exciting time for Montana Swimming.

Respectfully Submitted

Dr. Tony Popp

A.J.'s Dad

Montana Swimming General Chair