

5/05/17

Montana Swimming General Chair's Report

October 2016 – April 2017

Our LSC has been running smoothly thanks to all the great work from the many volunteers who make this organization float/swim.

In October the Swimposium, hosted by USAS, was held in Polson and was a huge success. Olympian Matt Grevers was a big hit with athletes and swim moms alike. He spent time with two age groups of swimmers, morning and afternoon group, and hug out afterwards talking to everyone, taking pictures and signing autographs. Other USAS staff including Bill Crumm, who recently passed away, gave clinics to parents and coaches. Thanks to Coaches Jade and Shelly for the set up and organization and to Jeff of MVA for the facility. Many other volunteers worked this event to make it possible.

Our short course championship meets were also successful with the added opportunity to hold SC State at Montana's newest pool in Polson and to enjoy the improvements of the Butte Y facility during the BC championship.

In April I attended a meeting at the Olympic Training Center of the Sports Medicine and Science Committee of which I am a member. The Western Zone General Chair's meeting was that same weekend, but I felt the meeting of the Sports Med committee was more important. The main topic at the G.C. meeting was where to hold the 2108 Zone meets. One of the key topics I introduced at the Sports Med meeting is the idea of having sports med professionals at the AG level. This will provide many benefits to all our athletes, not just those going to higher level meets.

We are continuing to find ways to support our high level swimmers, but just as importantly constantly looking to provide opportunity for all Montana Swimming athletes. It is important you make every effort to attend events such as the camps and clinics we hold or the board will get the message you do not want these and will be tempted to spend the money on something else. As it stands, a small percentage of our money goes to sending members to meetings for USAS or the Western Zone. A large percentage of our money is budgeted to be spent on our athletes, but to make this happen we need help. We need parents to volunteer. We need coaches to promote the events. We need boards to 'make it happen'. We need facilities to

donate pool time. We have some great events planned for 2017 and I encourage athletes, parents, and coaches to just show up.

Big Sky. Big Dreams. Big Success.

Dr. Tony Popp

Montana Swimming General Chair