USA Swimming has launched a new site within the past two weeks. The aim of the design is to facilitate mobile devices and make it easier for athletes, officials and coaches find their credentials and other personalized information. The Missouri Valley site has many links that will take a user to documents and pages on the USA site. I have been trying to make sure all the new links working, but please let me know if you encounter any dead ends. I will then try to make sure the issue has been resolved.

Registration year 2017 has been a successful one so far for our LSC. Annual athlete registrations are up 9.5% compared to the same time frame in 2016. Increased numbers can make for better bottom lines and a larger talent pool, but we must also be mindful of the impact our greater numbers can have on our facilities, coaching staff and meet structures.

I have had the pleasure of talking with a greater number of members wanting to get involved in LSC governance lately. We have taken some great strides in the past couple of years to increase the level of involvement, communication and transparency within the LSC, and our board members deserve recognition for their efforts to make that happen. We also have some important issues facing us currently, and a healthy and active committee structure can go a long way to finding solutions to these challenges. I invite you to contact your chairs if you are interested in becoming a part of these working committees, and I would encourage these committees to find time to meet or hold calls on a regular basis. If I can be of any assistance to help you in this, please let me know.

The MV Academic Team application will go live on May 1. Please make your athletes aware of this program, and remind them that we will have a deadline prior to July 31 this year. The Scholastic All American program is also designed to recognize high levels of achievement both in the pool and in the classroom. Once applications are available, this will be posted on the site. MV has not placed many on this list even though we had a sizable number of qualifiers. If your athletes have achieved Winter Junior standards or higher, please make sure they are aware of this program.

Ultimately, the reason we do this is to provide support and opportunities to the athletes we work with on a daily basis. Athlete representation has long been a challenge in our LSC, but that has changed. Our current athlete representatives have raised the bar and become involved like no other athletes I have witnessed in the past 17 years I have been a part of Missouri Valley. They continue to get athletes involved in every aspect of governance and in many ways have become the face of the LSC. Their mission continues, but I wanted to take a moment to personally thank them for their passion and hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Bliss