

Dear ECA Family,

We are in an unprecedented time of change and unknowns with the current public health crisis from the coronavirus pandemic.

This impacts all of us – all 328 swimmers who are part of East Carolina Aquatics.

Our coaches have worked diligently week after week to keep our kids moving – in the pool and on land.

The ECA board of directors continues to work on a financial plan to sustain the organization for the next several months – not knowing when we can access practice facilities again.

We will not bill or draft April or May dues because we cannot provide the programming that you expect and deserve. Since we cannot hold meets, we will not charge for volunteer hours that have not been met this year. We also will credit the next available session for our Fun and Fundamentals and Learn to Swim groups, which had just gotten started when shutdowns began.

After meeting Tuesday night in emergency session with our head coach and general manager, we have whittled our budget to the essentials which we believe are our greatest asset – our coaches. And we need your help.

Despite our best efforts, we only have about two months of cash reserves to retain our core group of five salaried coaches: Casey Charles, Scott Pake, Doug Parker, Jodie Jordan-Scott and Randy Jarman. This is about \$19,000 each month. Our hourly coaches already have been placed on leave. As a nonprofit, your dues pay for all our coaches – salaried and hourly – as well as facility rentals, equipment for meets and training, and programming.

We know many people are financially strapped at this time, some have lost their jobs, and not everyone will be able to help. But if you can, we ask that you make a tax-deductible donation for the sole purpose of retaining our staff. A donation tab has been set up on the ECA website.

A tax deductible gift of \$70 per family will pay for our five coaches' salaries for one month. Another option is to keep paying your regular dues amount, which would help provide a base for hiring back hourly coaches as soon as we can. It is important to retain our coaches so we don't lose any one and we will be ready to start immediately when we can resume practice.

Our board also is pursuing other funding including small business grants and loans, and we will let you know if we secure additional support.

Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. If you would like to set up a recurring donation, contact Scott Pake at [ecacoachscott@gmail.com](mailto:ecacoachscott@gmail.com) or 252-945-8400.

Competitive swimming in eastern North Carolina exists because of ECA, which is incredibly important to our athletes and communities. With your help, we will be prepared to resume our mission of providing top quality instruction and programming once the public health crisis has ended.

We will keep you posted on our efforts. Please stay safe as we go forward in the days and weeks ahead. If you have questions or concerns, contact Board Chair Kuppe Ivey at 252-702-2851 or email [kuppeswimmer@gmail.com](mailto:kuppeswimmer@gmail.com).

Thank you again for your consideration,

ECA Board of Directors