

State of AESC

November 16, 2016

Vision 2020



When I was in 8th grade my history teacher tasked her students with a project on researching the role my family had in World War II. At that time, I was really interested in this topic so I dove right in. My mind was filled with visions of at least one grandfather storming the beaches of Iwo Jima or Normandy, being a fighter pilot, or another role in protecting freedom. Well I learned that my maternal grandfather was stationed in Texas the entire war training raw recruits to fight. Well, not what I was hoping for, but I had one more grandfather to ask. I learned my paternal grandfather was in Pearl Harbor. FINALLY! This is what I was waiting for; my grandfather was there on December 7, 1941. My mind raced as I tried to ask my first question “So you were there for the attack?” “Oh no, I arrived two weeks after the attack.” I then learned he was a mechanic and he worked on the various US ships in the Pacific Fleet ensuring that the vessels were seaworthy. In order for a ship to be seaworthy it must have an engine that is in good running order, it must avoid colliding with other vessels, and it must have a clear destination. So what does a ship have to do with our program? Everything, as we shall see as those three characteristics are applied to AESC.

Is the engine in good working order

Our engine is made up of the following parts: Swimmers, parents/family, AESC Board of Directors, and coaching staff. It is important that our coaching staff stays up to date on swimming research and pedagogy. One way for our coaches to maintain their professional development is through belonging to American Swim Coaches Association and United States Swimming attending yearly coaching clinics; these opportunities provide our coaches the opportunities to stay current on the latest scientifically based best practices. Utilization of best practices and a common pedagogy (which all coaches are expected to implement) will give our swimmers the best opportunities for success. Parents serve as meet volunteers, organizational positions such as fundraising, and on the board of directors. Our program is dependent upon all parts of our engine firing.

Collisions must be minimized

There are many moving parts in our program; each with an agenda: Program, coaches, family, school, facility, LSC, and United States Swimming. With all these agendas collisions will occur. We have to ensure that when agendas collide that damage is minimal and then make the necessary changes so as to reduce the likelihood a collision reoccurs. To help minimize collisions, dissemination of information is important. We are exploring different forms of communication. Social media is a wonderful tool, but parameters also need to be set to ensure safety.

We must have a clear destination

Our mission is to produce elite, national caliber athletes on a consistent basis by providing every athlete with an environment that will allow him or her to systematically progress from the developmental to the elite levels of competition. Ultimately, our goal is to place a swimmer on the gold medal podium at the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

To aid us in this process:

1. Higher level of participation in championship meets. There is celebration when a swimmer performs a time which qualifies for Division II, Age Group, Sectionals, Zones, Junior or Senior National meets. Qualifying is the first step, one will only get better at swimming in championship meets by swimming in championship meets.
2. Expand our level of competition. We must start to participate in meets outside Oklahoma (LSC). This will provide valuable skills to our swimmers: different competition, travel and competitive preparation, planning, and great memories. This summer we will have the opportunity for a team trip to San Antonio. The George Block Invitational is June 24 – 26 at the same facility our 2016 Olympic Swim Team trained on their way to Rio! This meet is open to all levels. In addition, through participating in other LSC meets they may also come to our meets which will elevate local competition.
3. 2016 – 2017 Goals
 - a. Membership: Increase to 200
 - b. Retention : 90%
 - c. B Cut (12 & U): 80%
 - d. Age Group Qualifiers: 80%
 - e. Sectional Qualifiers: 80% of Senior A & B
 - f. National Qualifiers: 80% of Elite
 - g. 1 U.S. Open/Sr. National Qualifier
 - h. National finalist swims: 4
 - i. Top 8 Nationals: 1
4. Utilization of best practices and a common pedagogy (which all coaches have been given and are expected to implement) will give our swimmers the best opportunities for success.

Thank you for all that you do for your families and AESC.

SDG,

Chris Van Slooten