

General Chair's Report

June 4, 2022

What a ride we've had since our last BoD/HoD meeting on October 3rd, 2021!

We entered our 2021/2022 Short Course season full of uncertainty. Our athlete count was down from a pre-COVID 2182 to a paltry 846. We had no meets on our LSC calendar. It wasn't at all clear whether we'd have a competition season, let alone being able to hold our SC Championship meets.

But pools slowly began to open up, first for practices and intrasquad meets, then for dual and small un-spectated meets. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of our Technical Planning Committee, the support of our host teams (Schenectady-Saratoga Swim Club and Clifton Park-Halfmoon Piranhas) and host facilities (Union College and Shen H.S.), we were able to run Silvers and Golds earlier this year. It was a special treat to be able to recognize our graduating Seniors for the first time in three years, with their families in attendance.

Please help me celebrate the members of our LSC who have been recognized at the Gold's Championship Awards Ceremony: Debbie Erickson and Ronaldo Hart for the Outstanding Service Award; coach of the year Jerome Adams; Travis Nelson for the Maxwell Excellence Award; and Athlete Scholars Madeline Ferreira and Henry LeCates.

As we welcome Jenna Hart and Katie Ferreira as our newest members of the Board, I'd like to recognize Maddie Ferreira and Emma Lindecke for their service over the past two years. Emma and Maddie had a tough tenure and I really appreciate their participation and voice for the Athletes of Adirondack Swimming. We also have a new registrar – Bill Faucett. Thanks to Bill for stepping up and to Adam Hershberg for his service.

Our registered athlete numbers currently stand at 1718, well on their way to recovery – though plenty of uncertainties remain as we try to build back our teams and re-establish access to facilities. I am optimistic that our Long Course and upcoming Short Course seasons will be less of a roller-coaster than we've seen over the past two years. Thanks to our coaches, parents and athletes for your resilience and patience as we work our way back to normal.

Our LSC is in strong financial shape, and many thanks go to Debbie Erickson (Finance Vice-Chair) and Jillian Gale (Treasurer) for continuing to shore up our fiscal rigor. I'm proud to say that we've been able to continue supporting our operations, providing Outreach Grants and – for lack of better generalization – “doing the right thing” by our teams through some tough times. We are entrusted to deploy the resources of Adirondack Swimming responsibly and wisely, and we take this responsibility seriously.

We have a lot of legislation in the works, including a refresh of our Policies and Procedures, especially as relates to our Financial Governance. A special thank you to our Governance Committee (chaired by Rob MacLeod and comprising Caitlin Cho, Jill Greenleaf and Travis Nelson) for spearheading this effort. The HoD will be seeing the first of our proposals during the Spring Meeting, with more to come this Fall and in our Spring 2023 meeting.

I'll close by reminding the parents, coaches and athletes that Adirondack Swimming is YOUR organization. The BoD represents you, your interests and your financial contributions. We are here so that our Athletes have opportunities to practice, compete and develop their self-confidence and sportsmanship without having to worry about the nitty-gritty of LSC operations. Please continue to stay involved and let us know if you'd like to participate more strategically as a volunteer in our organization.

Respectfully submitted,

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