



## **General Chair's Report to the Potomac Valley House of Delegates**

**April 16, 2023**

The biggest news of the past year was the launch of USA Swimming's Digital Transformation (SWIMS 3.0). There was definitely a need to replace the system designed 20 years ago. A major change in the registration process, which was the first capability implemented, requires families to register directly with USA Swimming. This is called Online Member Registration (OMR). Due to bugs in the system launched September 1, 2022 and some other technical issues, OMR caused significant problems in getting all the athletes registered for the 2023 season.

Capabilities which were lost during this initial launch included Online Meet Entry, Times Recon, Records, Reporting, and most significantly the Officials Tracking System (OTS). These capabilities will eventually be implemented in SWIMS 3.0, but along with the serious bugs in the system, has caused significant additional work for our clubs and LSC personnel. Our Registrar has done an outstanding job working with our clubs to navigate the new system and all its problems and current shortcomings.

I have no doubt that the new SWIMS 3.0 will be a fine system with new and improved capabilities the clubs and LSCs need to function. It will be a bumpy ride until we get to that point.

Potomac Valley Swimming seems to have weathered the pandemic that hit hard three years ago. Most of our facilities are back in business with no COVID-related restrictions. We have a full schedule of meets similar to 2019/2020 and our number of registered athletes is nearly where it was for the 2019 and 2020 registration years.

The hardest hit area was our officials. With our normal attrition and the inability to train new officials, we lost more than 25% of our officials between 2019 to 2022. The Officials Committee has offered a large number of clinics and I've personally witnessed a lot of apprentice officials at our meets this year. Our number of officials has improved over last year, but we still have a way to go before we get back to the 2019 numbers. I want to thank all our volunteer officials, because without them we would not be able to support all these meets (sometimes five in one weekend).

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### **PVS Mission Statement**

PVS supports and promotes excellence for all through competition, education, inclusion, and leadership in a safe, equitable environment.

### **PVS Vision Statement**

PVS aims to achieve excellence in and out of the pool as a diverse community grounded in a shared love of competitive swimming.



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Our biggest challenges these days are:

- volunteers (officials, timers, marshals, etc.) needed to run our swim meets.
- lack of clubs volunteering to host the PVS-sponsored meets
- getting all PVS clubs to complete Safe Sport Club Recognition

I continue to meet monthly with USA Swimming Staff and other LSC General Chairs to get updates from USA Swimming and share ideas and concerns.

PVS still has challenges, but overall we are doing well. This is my last year as General Chair. I want to thank all the board members, club leaders, officials, and other volunteers for their support.

Tim Husson

General Chair

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