

NEWS FROM THE REGISTRAR

The new 2010 Masters swim season is upon us and it is time for registration and renewals to begin. It has been a pleasure being your Registrar and I hope to continue to serve our LMSC with this duty. There have been many changes to the registration process and I would like to provide you all with an overview:

Masters Swimming is a sport for life. We believe that if a younger swimmer has the benefits now, he or she will want to continue to the ripe old age of 100! The Board of Directors for the LMSC for Virginia voted to offer a reduced registration fee to the 18-24 year olds. The standard registration fee for 2010 is \$35.00. The 18-24 year old fee would be \$20.00 if they register PRIOR to turning 24. The current online registration processing is not available for this at this time therefore swimmers in this age group will have to send me their forms and checks for processing. This reduced fee does not include any other fees such as team fees or coaching fees. This is an experiment to see how many younger swimmers will take advantage of this, and the success of this offering. It has been brought to my attention (from other LMSCs, not ours!) that some swimmers might use a false date of birth in order to get this discount. I cannot imagine such a thing happening in our LMSC. However it is to be noted that when a swimmer registers, he or she is assigned a "permanent" USMS number that follows him/her for all future registrations. (ex: 129X-12345 means that the 12 is our LMSC designation; 9 is the year - 2009; X is just a letter, or number; and the 12345 is the "permanent" designation that keeps track of the swimmer's information, i.e. date of birth.

TEAMS may begin to register on October 1, 2009. If you are a NEW team or a team with a NAME CHANGE, you must send me the new 2010 form/check. All others may go to CLUBASSISTANT.COM and follow their procedures. The fee for a team is unchanged from 2009. The fee is \$60.00 (\$30 going to USMS and \$30 to the LMSC.)

SWIMMERS may register/renew beginning November 1, 2009. However, you will not be able to join a team that has not registered for 2010. It is very important to make sure your team representative has registered the team. I must hold all registrations until the teams are registered. You may also register ONLINE using ClubAssistant.com. If you go to our LMSC website (vaswim.org) or USMS.org you can get linked to that site for joining. When you register online you will have the ability to print out your USMS card immediately, which is great for the short deadlines! You will have to have a credit card to do that online.

PLEASE READ THE NEW FORM CAREFULLY. Please print clearly, double check the fees, and SIGN your form. Registrations are good through December 31, of each year. If a swimmer wishes to register from September 1

through October 31, a reduced fee is given. The reduced amount is indicated online as well as on the paper registration forms.

We have approximately 24 teams now in our LMSC (with two more prospects for 2010!). They comprise all but 360 of our 1000 registered swimmers. The 360 are UNATTACHED, which means they don't have a team affiliation. They get all of the same benefits, however when they go to competition they are not allowed to swim relays. If any of the unattached swimmers are interested in relays, a list of teams will be posted at the LMSC website. As a note: The swimmer registration form is getting lengthy, so a list of team names is not on this new form. As your coach, representative, or look on the website for your team name.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me:
Lisa Bennett, (804) 379-5324, swimlab56@msn.com.