

2019 Virginia Local Masters Swim Committee (LMSC)

Chair Report

Once again, it has been my honor to represent our membership not only locally, but also regionally and nationally. Our Board of Directors is very experienced and they do their best to represent and do what is best for our membership. Of 52 LMSCs around the country, the Virginia LMSC was one of only 18 to achieve all mandatory (27) and targeted (25) standards set by USMS. This proves what I have been saying—we have one of the strongest LMSCs in the country!

In 2019, we hosted five USMS pool meets and two open water events within the LMSC. We also supported numerous other pool and open water events within the state, but located in the Potomac Valley LMSC. Next year will be even bigger, with at least three new meets. The first new meet will be a Sprint Invite SCY meet in Virginia Beach in January. There are also some preliminary plans to host a long course meet at the Collegiate School Aquatics Center in Richmond. And of course the big meet of the year will also be at the CSAC as Richmond hosts the USMS Summer Nationals—the first-ever USMS National Championship to be held in Virginia!

In preparation for hosting Nationals, we have established a Regional Team in Virginia. The Virginia Masters Swim Team (VMST), previously a local swim club, will become the Regional Team for the Virginia LMSC. This will allow many small workout groups around the country to compete as a larger group, and it will help Virginia display its swimming prowess when that nation converges onto Richmond in August.

As USMS celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2020, the organization is adapting how it delivers benefits and services to meet and fulfill the expectations of our long-time members, while welcoming all newcomers, to include the non-competitive swimmer. With that in mind, USMS established a Task Force to look at the different services offered at the National and Local levels. As a result, the Task Force came up with some recommendations for various functions to transfer to the National Office, while also recommending LMSCs consider deleting, adding, or modifying some local Board positions. There was one change voted on at the USMS Annual Meeting that has already affected the LMSC. The USMS House of Delegates voted to discontinue Registrars at the local level. Most registration-related activities will now be handled by the National Office. To be that liaison between our members and the National Office, we will be establishing a Membership Coordinator to take the place of the Registrar on our Board.

As the national organization changes to address the needs across the country, we at the LMSC need to adapt to our members' needs at the local level. Our Board is poised to meet these objectives as we move into 2020. I am excited about our future. This past year, I attended several USMS national meetings, to include an LMSC Leadership Summit and the USMS Annual Convention. I've also had some side discussions with several USMS National Board members, our Zone representatives, and the CEO of USMS. Throughout these meetings and discussions, I was able to garner a lot of information on the strategic direction of USMS. As I enter my last year as Chair of this fantastic organization, I want to make sure that these national

initiatives align with the best interests of the Virginia LMSC and our Masters Swimmers. In that spirit, the following list are some goals that I, as Chair, would like to see achieved in the upcoming year.

VA LMSC Goals for 2020 (in no particular order):

- Evaluate the LMSC Board structure and determine if it meets the needs of our current membership; consider recommendations of the USMS Task Force
- Establish an LMSC Task Force to explore ideas and look at investing in other initiatives that will provide value to our membership
- Increase the number of volunteers for LMSC activities & events; also, better recognize our volunteers
- Offer more clinics around the state, such as stroke, technique, ALTS, health & nutrition, swim techniques for triathletes and open water swimmers, etc. We will see how the LMSC can assist local clubs and pools to host these events.
- Improve our strategic messaging, communications, and marketing to not only promote Masters Swimming in Virginia, but excite our membership and state about the 2020 Summer Nationals to occur in our own backyard
- Ensure the new Regional Club for our LMSC is successful
- Increase involvement of coaches into the Virginia LMSC by establishing a more active Coaches Committee – they are our primary contact with the majority of our members

In order to make all these things happen, it takes a cadre of fantastic individual volunteers. I want to thank each and every one of those volunteers. Each year we recognize someone that stood out, for not only their current volunteer service, but their long-time commitment to Masters Swimming in Virginia. This year we awarded the 2018 Virginia LMSC Volunteer Service Award to **Craig Bauer**. I wanted to thank Craig for his dedication and devotion to our organization. I am currently taking nominations for the 2019 award, which will be presented at one of our pool meets in early 2020.

I want to again express my thanks to the Board and our membership for entrusting me and allowing me to lead this wonderful organization. I am always open to suggestions you may have on how we can make Masters Swimming better for all of Virginia! Additionally, we always have opportunities for volunteers; so please reach out if you are interested in assisting in some capacity.

You can reach me by email at vachair@usms.org.

Thank you!

Kirk Clear
Chair, Virginia LMSC

