

2020 Virginia Local Masters Swim Committee (LMSC)

Chair Report

This year marks the end of my tenure as Chair for the Virginia LMSC. It has been my distinct honor to represent this tremendous Board and our membership not only locally, but also regionally and nationally. Like all of you, 2020 has been a challenging year for Masters Swimming. Most of our programs and events were cancelled starting in late March due to the COVID-19 situation. Unfortunately, that even bled over to our team and other organized practices and other gatherings at our pools. And of course that meant the cancelation of the USMS Summer Nationals that was scheduled to take place in Richmond this past August. On a positive note, USMS awarded Richmond the 2022 Summer Nationals—so we will be gearing up for that once again.

Before everything closed down, we did have some successful events with our David Gregg meet in Richmond and the Club Tribe event at the College of William & Mary. We also hosted a new Sprint Invite meet in Virginia Beach in January. Some of our membership has started to reform and participate in some practices in a safe manner. Hopefully, it will not be long before we are all together again at an event. We also had some social events planned and state-wide practices planned in preparation of the Summer Nationals; however, those plans had to be scrapped.

The LMSC Board has added a few new members during the past year, and I know that the Board will be planning to put on other events as soon as everyone feels safe to gather once again. This past year was also supposed to be a grand celebration of USMS's first 50 years. We still celebrated through the USMS website and magazine; but we certainly could not participate in some of the celebrations planned at the two national events that were cancelled.

For those new to USMS during 2020, I encourage you to continue your membership and give us another chance. USMS has so much to offer from your local pool to the national and international scene. The value of a USMS membership is well worth the small investment.

Our Board of Directors is a dedicated group of volunteers who are very experienced, and they work hard to represent and do what is best for our membership. We have many members that currently or have served on various committees at the national level and even served on the USMS Board of Directors and as USMS President. This proves what I have been saying—we have one of the strongest LMSCs in the country!

However, the Virginia LMSC needs to evaluate the LMSC Board structure and determine if it meets the needs of our current membership and if it reflects changes happening at the national level. The new Board for 2021 may want to take the opportunity of this “down time” to look at how it can reorganize—I am confident that the Board members will do what is in the best interest of the organization and to continue to properly serve the needs of the Virginia and West Virginia Masters Swimming community.

I want to again express my thanks to the Board and our membership for entrusting me and allowing me to lead this wonderful organization for the past four years. I have been part of

USMS for 30 years, belonging to four different LMSCs and four different Zones. Like most of you, I have a passion for swimming and will always be a part of trying to make sure our sport is promoted and we continue to encourage healthy and long lifestyles through swimming. If you have any suggestions on how the Board can serve you or our LMSC membership better, please reach out to the contacts on the Virginia Masters Swimming website (<http://www.vaswim.org>).

Thank you!

Kirk Clear
Chair, Virginia LMSC

