

Pacific Swimming
General Chairman's Report for February 2010

The month of February is almost complete and as the many clubs begin to prepare for Junior Olympics, Far Western Championships and the up coming high school season, I want to congratulate everyone for the successes they have already achieved up to this point in the short course season. February is a month that is usually a month that is the calm before the storm as March, April, and May approach and with it we hope the weather turns better as the many championship meets descend upon us. In last month's report I asked many different things for the committees to consider and at the March meeting many of these things will be brought forward for further discussion and for vote at the Board of Directors meeting. I appreciate the work that is being done and I know there is still some more to be done, but I feel that each of the committees is moving in a positive direction and in the best interests of all within Pacific Swimming. I am also excited about the creation of the Investment Committee and the assignments put upon this committee. The initial ideas bantered around I hope will lead to new possibilities for all of our clubs to participate in.

One of the things I challenged each committee to do was to expand their thinking and to define what it is that they want and see for the future of this LSC. I continue to challenge this notion and to again ask that what we do is to continue to create opportunities that allow for greatness to be achieved by all within this LSC. To get to that point means that new ideas and old models may run in conflict with each other and that is okay if what we do going forward is to create a better model. Like I said earlier, many of the models of the past are good and have served this LSC well for a long time, but just because they have served us well in the past, does not mean they are still right for the future. And it is here that we can often find discomfort in trying to push these new ideas forward. But if we understand and have purpose for why we are trying to do something new, then it is worth discussion and then application if it is found to be feasible for the good of the LSC.

The scheduling packets for next year will be coming out in April and there may be some changes to what we have done in the past and if there are, I hope the changes made will be changes that increase the opportunities and allow for even better competitions in the future. We have a chance to raise the bar for all and by doing so increase the participation of not just our swimmers, but also our clubs.

I would also like to congratulate the following clubs for achieving certain recognitions through USA Swimming for the past year, Palo Alto Stanford Aquatics, Gold Level (Club Excellence) and Level 2 (Club Recognition); Pleasanton Seahawks, Silver Level (Club Excellence) and Level 4 (Club Recognition); Santa Clara Swim Club, Silver Level (Club Excellence) and Level 3 (Club Recognition); Terrapins, Silver Level (Club Excellence), Level 3 (Club Recognition); Crow Canyon, Silver Level (Club Excellence), Level 1 (Club Recognition); Neptune Aquatics, Silver Level (Club Excellence), Level 1

(Club Recognition); Orinda Aquatics, Bronze Level (Club Excellence), Level 1 (Club Recognition); Tiger Aquatics, Level 1 (Club Recognition); Carson Tigersharks, Level 1 (Club Recognition); Livermore Aqua Cowboys, Level 1 (Club Recognition); and Livermore Blue Dolphins, Level 1 (Club Recognition). My hope that next year this list will be much longer as more of clubs in Pacific Swimming take advantage of the programs offered through USA Swimming or achieve the different levels of recognitions offered through USA Swimming. Congratulations to each of these clubs and I look forward to mentioning others in the future for their achievements.

Running a swim club is about striving for opportunities for achievement, but it is also about being a business and this is an area that many of us forget. With the changes in the economy of today, being a well run business is just as important for the long term success of a program as is the immediate accomplishments of a few swimmers. Don't get me wrong I know that producing fast swimmers and creating programming to allow for the maximum amount of swimmers to succeed is primary to the mission of most clubs, but never forget that how you do business is just as important to how a club can sustain itself for the long term. As an LSC we want to all of our swimmers to achieve the success they desire, but we also want our base, the clubs to be here for the generations to come. If the LSC can help never be afraid to ask and if we cannot provide that answer, it is our duty to find that answer for our clubs. In closing, thank you to all of the volunteers, swimmers, coaches, club administrators' for the work you have done up to this point in the season, and I look forward to an exciting end to the short course season for everyone and then a long course season that creates new levels of achievement and recognition for each club, swimmers, and for our LSC as a whole.