

Women in Governance Program – USA Swimming

Mission Statement: *Uniting and Empowering Women Swim Coaches*

I was honored to be selected for the Women in Governance Program through USA Swimming, a 9-week hybrid professional development opportunity designed for women coaches across the country who have little to no prior governance experience.

The program included eight virtual sessions and one in-person professional development experience at the USA Swimming Annual Summit in Denver, Colorado (September 24–28, 2025). Throughout the virtual sessions, we explored what it means to serve in governance roles within our sport. We learned how to run effective board meetings, apply Robert’s Rules of Order, and engage with USA Swimming leaders and LSC representatives. We heard from coaches, administrators, and panelists across multiple levels of the organization, gaining a clearer understanding of how governance supports our mission and athletes.

At the in-person sessions during the Summit, I joined 54 incredible women from across the country and discovered just how fun and empowering “talking governance” can be! We spent two full days connecting, collaborating, and learning from inspiring leaders.

Our sessions included:

- How a Board Meeting Should Run – Jane Grosser
- Robert’s Rules – Beth Winkowski
- Board Positions Gallery Show – Julie Bachman & Participants
- 2024 USA Swimming Legislative Review – Paris Jacobs
- Planning to Be Involved – Amy Faulk

We were also able to meet with the new USA Swimming CEO, coaches from the National Team, and other special guests. It was an incredible opportunity to ask questions, gain insight into leadership at the highest level, and better understand how decisions and collaboration drive our sport forward. These sessions allowed us to ask questions, gain insight into national leadership, and connect the dots between grassroots programs, local LSC, and national decision-making. This experience has deepened my understanding of how governance influences opportunity in swimming, especially in **rural and underserved areas**, and inspired me to continue growing as a leader in and out of the pool.

I have really enjoyed this inspiring program and the people involved. Being able to attend the Summit was an absolutely amazing experience! Thank you. -Kelly Nathane

