

Report from the General Chair (VSI)

August 21, 2013

Virginia Swimming (VSI) continues to grow at a healthy rate, with more than 6,500 swimmers in the water this last year. Our swimmers are getting faster and breaking old meet records. We have two world class venues that we can host large regional, state, or multistate events. These two pools in Christiansburg and in Richmond could not be successful without the support of their local USA Team (Hokies and Poseidon) and the support of their local communities. Besides hosting well run Regional , Senior Champ, and Age Group Champ meets for both short and long courses, our VSI officials and host team parents provided staffing for a very large and well run Sectionals Meet and an Eastern Zone meet.

Over the last three years we have seen the emergence of Open Water Swimming. VSI has served as a wonderful role model for other LSCs in term of the OPEN WATER meet format and we can now boast one of the largest and most efficiently run OW. meets in the Eastern Zones. VSI has a top notch safety committee that can readily take care of the above pre-requisite protocols for safety during the meet.

Paralleling the fast growth in Open Water is VSI's grasp of the SafeSport resources and our high sense of investment in protecting each of our athletes.

The recognition of potential "bullying" and our emphasis on "respect" for each and every swimmer as well as their coaches, parents, and officials, is at an all time high. Furthermore, we have attained a much better and consistent communication between the coaches and our officials. Such professional relationships between the coaches and the officials yields a very rich medium for any given swim meet.

Our VSI officials continue to go over and above the call of duty. It is not unusual for a number of our VSI officials to work the entire weekend, EVERY

week, for more than four weeks in a row during the very busy Championship meet periods in February and in July.

We have “Top Notch” athletes, many of whom are attending national USA-S meets.

It has been a busy but exciting three years . It is no surprise that Virginia is producing some GREAT swimmers !! Many thanks to each of you..... officials, coaches, concerned / motivated parents and athletes . Due to your perseverance and depth of ongoing support , our VSI swimmers are thriving !!

- Submitted by David V. Strider (General Chair of VSI)
- August 21, 2013