

April 16, 2016 ILMSA Chairperson Report

Illinois Masters Swimming Association (ILMSA) is one of the largest and most active LMSCs (Local Masters Swim Clubs) in the country. We have over 1900 members who are part of 26 clubs and 42 workout groups. Our financial statistics are strong, with an ample amount of savings and we are operating with a balanced budget.

This last year has brought some exciting changes. In the fall of 2015, we solicited bids for both the 2016 and 2017 state meets, hoping advance planning will open up more options for dates and venues. The 2016 meet is being hosted by Munster Masters April 15-17. The 2017 state meet will be hosted by Libertyville Masters, April 7-9 at the RecPlex in Pleasant Prairie, WI. The ILMSA board encourages members to submit bids for our 2018 state meet at our 2016 fall members meeting, usually held at the end of October.

We have many new members on the ILMSA board. Tracy Lord, of the Galter Swedish Fish, filled the vice chairperson seat that I vacated after being elected as chair. David Sims from Fossil Fish is now chair of the Finance Committee, taking over for Barb Delanois who is now our Registrar. Susan Smar stepped down as Sanctions Chair, having done a wonderful job working with the meet and open water hosts to sanction their events. Inge Clark of Lincoln Way Masters is now head of the Sanctions Committee, and Andy Seibt of Fossil Fish is backing Inge up by handling open water sanctions. Mike Abegg brings a wealth of experience to chairing the Records and Tabulations Committee, an enormous job that Skip Monterano handled so well.

ILMSA has put together a website task force to begin work on revamping our site. Anyone with ideas and/or experience is welcome to assist in the project. We will be hiring someone to design and maintain our website, so please spread the word.

Our Coaches Committee is working to design events that will appeal to all our members. Talk to your coach or anyone on the board if you have ideas. Your input as swimmers is invaluable.

Keep your eyes open for a fun and exciting new fitness event coming soon, thanks to our Fitness Chair AJ Block. She is working out the details and coming up with award ideas.

This year was the most robust ever for awards. Stay tuned this Sunday to find out who are our 2016 Coach of the Year and John Sloan Service Award winners. We had several service award nominees, and **seven** coach nominees. The volume of nominations speak to how important our coaches and volunteers are to our swimming experience.

Finally, a thank you to all board members who serve year after year and share their wealth of knowledge. They spend many hours making sure ILMSA stays strong. If you would like to become involved, we welcome you eagerly.

Heidi Kafka, ILMSA Chair