

Welcome to Midlakes 2010!

We are about to start another season and it could be our best ever!

We provide an organizing network for 26 neighborhood pools to compete in the summer. It is primarily for swimming, but also includes diving and water polo. We have been doing this for 50 years and our success is measured by this longevity and having more than 3500 athletes, but also by the high quality of the people involved.

We have been able to attract new swimmers, summer swimmers and year-round swimmers by providing competition at swim meets plus Division and League Championships. Our members host nearly 150 meets which takes probably 40,000 volunteer hours. The League has a few people on contract to help with training and organization, but the Officers, Board and Club Representatives are all volunteers. It is a great non-profit organization that provides a rich and authentic experience for youths through high school.

Last year was a particular challenge because we were unable to host a League Championship Meet and got our final results by using the Preliminary Meets as timed finals. While this was unfortunate, it led to our developing the Championship Shirt within the League umbrella rather than having it assumed by one of the clubs. This new revenue for the League will be used to fund the rental of the King County Aquatic Center for our Championship as well as other expenses. Last year we also started to recognize the Coaches who are responsible for some much of our success by having them vote for the Coach of the Year for the League and each Division.

This year we will be back at KCAC for the Championship meet and will be better at sharing our best practices by having a Championship Coordinator. We will also start recognizing the efforts of our meet officials by providing them with collared shirts. These volunteers are appreciated and help the athletes improve their individual skills.

We are currently challenged to find a new Treasurer. The previous Treasurers did so much that we need to hire bookkeeping help now to make this job more reasonable for a volunteer. We are currently reviewing our insurance coverage which is our greatest expense. Also our members are facing challenges for major maintenance expenses and new requirements, such as new drains which cost \$20,000 or more. Our network is based on competition, but we cooperate and share information which is another value we provide our member clubs.

I would like to say thank you to everyone for their efforts and good luck.

Swim Fast and Have Fun!

Ron Griffin, Midlakes Swim League, President's Report, May, 2010