

Dear LESI Member,

I hope this email finds you well as we approach the Holiday Season!

First, I want to thank you for your continued support of USA Swimming and Lake Erie Swimming Inc (LESI). In addition to serving as your LESI General Chair, I also have the honor of being the Head Coach for Lakeshore Swim Club, and I am a product of a "swim family".

I am deeply passionate about swimming and the many benefits it offers our athletes both in and out of the water. Swimming plays a key role in helping our athletes grow into the best versions of themselves. I am committed to providing a safe, motivating atmosphere where athletes can achieve their goals, develop as individuals, and thrive in our sport.

Since April 2023, LESI and OSI (Ohio Swimming Inc) have been in collaboration, and after thorough discussions, it became clear that a merger would provide swimmers across Ohio with a more unified, dynamic LSC (Local Swimming Committee). The goal of this merger is simple, yet profound: it's about Vision. This bold vision allows us to raise the bar for excellence today while ensuring that all our members benefit for decades to come:

- Actively listen in order to deliver what you want for all our swimmers to maximize engagement, motivation and success
- Greater emphasis on creating fun & motivating competitions at all levels while reenergizing our sport
- Expand our athlete resources as we increase Outreach, Athlete Scholarship & Community Grant efforts
- Embrace innovation to inspire our athletes to attain their goals and dreams

Like many sports, swimming faces ongoing challenges, but I believe that through collaboration and collective effort, we can address these challenges head-on. The 2024 State of the Sport report shared by USA Swimming emphasizes the importance of coming together to build a stronger future for the sport. For this reason, LESI must evolve and adapt to meet the demands of the future. Embracing change is the path to growth and improvement.

While the LESI House of Delegates did not approve the merger on November 17, the vote was extremely close. OSI held their own special session on November 19, where the merger was approved by a wide margin. This gives me hope that our grand vision for the future of all of our athletes and members can still be achieved.

Many LESI members, including significant athlete support, and I are enthusiastically in favor of the merger. Given its extraordinary nature, we are taking steps to hold another House of Delegates vote. We do not have a timeline in place at this time but we will keep everyone updated of any developments.

I encourage you to take some time to visit the [Merger Information](#) website to learn more about the facts surrounding the merger. I will also be holding Town Halls for you (dates to be announced) to answer your questions and clear up any confusion. Please feel free to reach out to me via email at vcole21@gmail.com or stop me at a meet, I would be more than happy to discuss any aspect of the merger with you. I ask that you reach out to your Club's House of Delegate Representative and encourage them to attend the next Session to vote according to your wishes.

LESI has had a proud & exemplary history in Lake Erie, and as we prepare for the future, evolving and improving is the best way to honor and continue that legacy.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our sport.

Warm regards,



Vince Colwell
LESI General Chair, Lakeshore Swim Club Head Coach