

Coaches Committee -- Mid-Year Report -- Craig Keller, Chair

The Coaches Committee is off to a very busy start in 2011. Many of the projects are in full swing, and others are ongoing throughout the year. The following represents a brief summary of the great work our coaching volunteers have undertaken.

ASCA Regional Clinics Subcommittee, led by Scott Bay, is hard at work selecting sites to host certification clinics that serve the largest possible coaching population in a geographically diverse manner. The first site has been selected in Warrington, VA with Charlie Tupitza championing the event at the local level.

Online Coaching Subcommittee, overseen by Stu Kahn, has jumped off to a great start with their selection of online coaches before the 31st deadline. Furthermore, Stu and his team created an employment agreement that was approved by legal and can be used in future employment ventures for USMS. The coaches selected presented a diverse and challenging workout design, and all four coaches are actively engaged in helping their readers use the posted workouts to reach their full potential.

The International Coaching Task Force, led by Heather Howland, has selected dates to post the online application and submission deadline. Heather's team has also identified several possible avenues to increase the visibility of the international coaching staff at World Championships and other international meets.

The LMSC Coaches Chair Subcommittee, led by Stu Kahn, has undertaken a dual mission. The primary purpose of the subcommittee involves spreading information relevant to coaches to our local coaching ranks through the LMSC Coaches Chairs. For those LMSCs who do not yet have a Coaches Chair (one of the new LMSC Minimum Standards established in 2009), the subcommittee aims to assist LMSCs to identify, select, and retain a Coaches chair who can work with local coaches on important issues in their area.

The On-Deck Coaching Program, coordinated by Chris Colburn, is in the process of polling the Coaches Committee to identify coaches attending Championship meets this spring and summer to bolster the On-Deck Coaching Program. This program has long been a favorite with swimmers at Nationals, especially those traveling to the meet without their own coach.

Coaches Toolbox Task Force, lead by Rich Axtell, is working on addressing the needs of growing Masters teams. Specifically, the Task Force will be working on addressing the many different successful team models (YMCA, Inc., Non-profit) to supplement the already drafted Club and Coach Development information.

Publications Subcommittee, lead by Chris Colburn, is working closely with Laura Hamel and Ben Christoffel on developing a working calendar that will employ members of the Coaches Committee will to provide relevant content to STREAMLINES, STREAMLINES for Coaches, STREAMLINES for Volunteers and SWIMMER. The subcommittee will then relay the content to USMS staff for editing and publication throughout the different mediums.

Triathlon and Open Water Task Forces, lead by Michael Collins and Laurie Hug, are accumulating educational documents and videos for USMS coaches that address the training needs and common issues of Triathletes/Open Water swimmers. Once a functional database has been created and approved, the information will be disseminated via multiple vehicles, including clinics, publications and LMSC Coaches Chairs.