



Dear USA Synchro Family and Friends,

Happy Holidays to all! It has been a busy fall and holiday season as we all prepare for the new year ahead in USA Synchro.

First, congratulations to our new Board of Directors members who were elected at the 2011 USAS Convention: Nathalie Bartleson as Olympic International Vice President, Tom Wiita as Treasurer and Janet Redwine as Athlete Representative. All have been actively participating in our ongoing discussions with the returning Board members. Congratulations also to Toby Smith and Traci Lunsford who were re-elected to their positions as Vice President Competitive Operations and Vice President of Membership and Marketing, respectively. I would like to thank our outgoing Board members for their time, service and dedication to the sport: Anna Eng who served as an Athlete Representative and Nancy Rosengard who served as our interim Treasurer.

In addition, I would like to welcome Evelyn Zabo to our Board as an Independent Director. Evelyn hails from the state of Washington where she is a passionate community activist in the Seattle area. Ms. Zabo is the Vice President of Global Alliances for Siemens IT Solutions and Services, recently acquired by Atos, and manages Siemens' relationship with Microsoft. She created this global alliance and built it into a \$50 million business in four years. As part of the alliance, she created global offerings; defined client markets; and developed direct sales, marketing and training efforts for joint opportunities with Microsoft.

Thank you to Kent Bergene who graciously attended our USAS Convention in 2011 as one of new Independent Directors. Along with Steve DeVoe and Evelyn Zabo, these three Independent Directors are providing our Board with new insight and great business experience as we move forward into 2012.

I would like to congratulate our Pan American team on their results and performances in Guadalajara in October. The duet and team both earned silver medals and showed strong improvement. Congrats to all of the team: Maria Koroleva and Mary Killman who swam duet together, Morgan Fuller, Megan Hansley, Michelle Moore, Leah Pinette, Lyssa Wallace, Alison Williams and Katie Wiita. Congratulations to coaches Mayu Fujiki and Stephanie Raftery. A big thank you to Denise Shively for her tireless work as team manager- always helpful and prepared for every situation.

Congratulations and thank you to Joy Cushman. Joy hosted a fabulous dinner for all of her friends in Mexico and the Pan American countries celebrating her many years of involvement with synchronized swimming in this arena. Joy has been attending the Pan American Games since the 1950's. The dinner was at a beautiful country club and Joy was honored with the attendance of Dr. Julio C. Maglione, the current FINA President, and Mustapha Larfaoui, the past President of FINA and Honorary Life President.



In November, we had our Olympic Team Trials and Junior National Team Trials in Greensboro, North Carolina. Thank you to the hosts in Greensboro who provided what seemed like a limitless supply of volunteers at the pool and for all of the participating clubs. In addition, they hosted a welcome reception prior to the event and a fabulous reception after the teams were named. Our Olympic Qualifier Team performed after the trials at a well- attended and partially televised show and then signed autographs for the crowd. The people of Greensboro treated our athletes like true Olympians and we are very grateful for their support.

Congratulations to the athletes named to our Olympic Qualifier Team: Megan Hansley, Mary Killman, Maria Koroleva, Michelle Moore, Olivia Morgan, Leah Pinette, Caitlin Stewart, Michelle Theriault, Alison Williams and Morgan Fuller. This team will attend the Olympic qualifying event in London in April in order to qualify for the Olympic Games. This group of athletes along with Katie Wiita started training immediately for the 2011 World Trophy Cup that was held in Beijing, China in December. The team performed very well with short preparation time after the Trials and was then able to enjoy a day of sightseeing and shopping in Beijing after the competition. Great job ladies!!

Congratulations also to the 18 athletes named to the Junior National Team Training Squad. This group will begin working together soon as they prepare for the Junior World Championships in the summer of 2012.

In October, we had our 2011 US Masters Championships. Congratulations to all of our champions- our masters swimmers are truly talented athletes from their 20's to their 90's. Thank you to Sonia Susac and Sue Ahlf, the Roseville Aquatic Center, the Sacramento Synchronized Swimming Team, and the Pacific Association for hosting a terrific competition. In addition, Sonia Susac with the help of Sue Ahlf and many volunteers organized a Guinness World Record attempt at the largest floating pink ribbon. Sonia, a breast cancer survivor, along with a number of our synchro survivors and local survivors, formed a circle at the top of the ribbon. It was an amazing addition to the competition and all those involved felt proud and inspired to be a part of the World Record. View the following links to see pictures and info from the World's Largest Human Floating Pink Ribbon.

www.worldrecordfloat.com

<http://rosevillept.com/detail/190690.html>

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/10/16/3982967/sacramento-area-activists-get.html>



Please join me in sending your best wishes and prayers to Betty Hess. For those of us that know you Betty, we know you are a fighter and will stay strong just as you have in synchro for all these years.

My best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful new year.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Duke Zielinski'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Duke' being larger and more prominent than the last name 'Zielinski'.

Duke Zielinski
President, USA Synchro