

Why We ALL Do It

The convention schedule for athletes can be quite grueling with athlete meetings in addition to committee meetings and workshops of interest. It makes for quite a full day!

However, after a week of discussing proposed rule changes, ways to improve communication between LSCs and athletes, happenings from other committee meetings, international issues and ways to improve the sport of swimming at the LSC level, some 20 athletes were still willing to volunteer their open Friday afternoon to caravan across Greensboro to the downtown Greensboro Bryan Family YMCA.

With the help of Jim Crampton, former Athlete Vice-President, and Bryan Jones, current Athlete's Vice-President, Linda Riker, an athlete member of the Officials Committee and member of the USA-S Board of Directors, we organized a small clinic for just over forty local, primarily minority swimmers from the Greensboro Central YMCA swim team. Swimmers were treated to a brief lecture by former Texas swimmers Paul Wallace and Tanica Jamison before hitting the pool with our convention athletes for some stroke instruction. All swimmers then joined forces and competed in joint relays, where the swimmers from GCY raced alongside and against the convention athletes, including the likes of Jarrett Perry, 2004 Paralympic Gold Medalist and 2003 Pan American Gold Medalist Ben Michaelson.

Providing a clinic in the local community at convention is an idea that was brought to life in San Diego in 2003 by Linda with the help of Alison Terry in an effort to grow the sport and support the outreach efforts of USA Swimming. The Athletes Executive Committee hopes to make this clinic a legacy passed down to future athlete leaders for them to continue not only at the USAS Convention, but also in their own hometowns.

If you are interested in helping out with our Dearborn/Detroit efforts, please contact Linda Riker at L_M_Riker@yahoo.com.