

**South Zone Report to Board of Governors  
September 2024**

The South Zone wishes to congratulate all members of the Olympic team, coaching staff, training squad and everyone who got them to Silver! We know it didn't happen overnight so we thank everyone who ever helped along the way. Congrats to **all** our national team members & coaches who represented the US so successfully in all the other international meets this past year. And to those who were born in, trained in, lived in, or ever had anything to do with any south zone coach, club, swimmer, city etc, we send out special congrats to you! Having all our athletes be able to see what's possible by watching you live out your dream is an amazing thing. Thanks for always remembering where you came from and everyone (as there have been many) who have gotten you there. We love you all!

The south coaches survived another crazy year navigating the zillion changes that occurred with many, many of our members jumping in to help others as they learned to navigate the system. It was another difficult & stressful year for many coaches (from novice to collegiate), but everyone made it to the other side. Our hope is that not only will all clubs continue to grow this season but that others will pop up. The more we have, the stronger we are. That said, some new coaches have noted how difficult it is even with many people trying to help them get clubs started. Volunteers only have so much time to give. We thank each and every one of them.

Thanks to Suncoast Waterworks for hosting our 2024 South Zone Champs! Diana Wolff and her team always do an amazing job. We had a total of 309 athletes entered; of that number, 18 were AWD athletes from 3 different clubs! Special thanks to the fabulous scoring team of Rebecca Phillips & Jeanie Saunders, our ridiculously amazing Officials Chair Victoria Anderson, our always on the deck Tech Chair Beth Moore and all the judges/DTC/SC's who put in sooooo much time prepping for the meet and judging all those events! And thanks to all the coaches for ensuring that every athlete, coach, judge, chaperone etc had their SafeSport/Background checks and other required credentials finalized by the final deadline. Hoping for an easier year in 2025 in that regard.

Congratulations to our newest Level 3 judges: Amy Oliver, Kira Strzepa, Mari Vigneron, and Rebecca Phillips. We thank them for hitting the judging ground running at zones!!!

Congrats to the following award winners, presented at South Zone Champs in March::

**Youth High Point Award**-Blue Legend (at their first ever south zone champs!)

**Junior High Point Award**-Pirouettes of Texas

**Overall High Point Award**-Pirouettes of Texas

**Coach of the Year**-Soohee Shim, Pirouettes of Texas

**Contributor of the Year**-Diana Wolff

**Athlete Spirit Award**-Lily Weber, Florida Elite

The South Zone hosted/will host many of the USAAS events this year. Thanks to all who helped make each meet a success (and to those who will make the remaining ones a success as well):

2024 US Collegiate Championships-Lewisville, TX

2024 US Jr/Sr Championships-Houston, TX

2024 US Youth Championships-Houston, TX

2024 US Masters Championships-Clearwater, FL (Oct 24-27)

2024 Coaches College & All Star Camp-Charlotte, NC (Nov 8-10)

We lost a longtime, valued member of our south zone family last year. Pat Dyer passed October 23, 2023. She was a longtime assistant coach for Team Orlando Loreleis under her close friend Mary Rose, a longtime judge and all around fabulous lady who always wore the biggest glasses. Pat wasn't able to be around for many years, but those of us who knew her remember her fondly. She is missed.

Lastly, thanks to the south zone board for all they do to make everything happen. They are the absolute best team & I'm lucky to serve with each one of them:

DEI Chair-Dana Bradley

Education Chair-Camille Albrecht

Officials Chair-Victoria Anderson

Tech Chair-Beth Moore

Treasurer-Cheryl Cook

Athlete reps-Gianna Sercu (returning), Camila Cespedes (newly elected) & Lily Weber (newly elected). Special thanks to Emma Kim for her many years of service as our athlete rep and for continuing to support our athletes even though she's no longer swimming and well into her college experience.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Mitchell  
South Zone Chair