



Good Afternoon LESI and OSI Non-Athlete Members!

There are only but a few times within our journey one can hope for a unique opportunity that shifts the paradigm bringing about higher levels of achievement, motivation and exceptionalism for all people connected within our sport.

Today marks a historic and exciting milestone for all of us: the merging of our independent LSC's into one.

We have heard merger conversations from time to time on a cursory level, which may result in polarizing viewpoints. The opportunity to seriously explore a merger was the topic discussed on April 21, 2023 among our athletes from both our LSC's that attended the USA Swimming Workshop in Denver Colorado. Our athletes led a productive discussion collaborating how a proposed merger would benefit them. Below are a few of the key merger gains identified:

- LSC Unification - combine resources and expertise to deliver high quality services, programming & support throughout Ohio under a single consolidated LSC.*
- Enhanced Competition - improve the competition position & experience by adding quality venues; offering higher levels of competition by bringing all Ohio athletes together.*
- Strengthen Operational Efficiencies/Strengthen Financial Position - maximizing results through minimizing costly duplications.*
- Improve Member retention/attract new families - the merger will re-energize the base as we strategically plan for long term future successes.*
- Program/service expansion - uniting our Clubs, LSC Boards and HODs will allow expansion of what we do best through vertical alignment versus establishing a new LSC.*
- Enhanced relationships with service providers - as a larger LSC we gain enhanced resources and benefits with partners, service providers, etc.*

Through subsequent targeted discussions, we realized that our visions were aligned and our path to achieving new levels of future success had its best opportunity through merging our separate LSC's into one LSC.

The time to launch our merger is now. Our merger plan will include formal presentation to our respective Board of Directors early 2024 for vote with subsequent presentation and vote from our respective House of Delegates in Spring 2024. The attached Press Release will serve as our "official" Merger Announcement for the media.

As your LSC General Chair and fellow non-athlete member, we know first-hand how challenging this topic will be from time to time. We are committed to supporting you with clear, consistent communication to keep you informed of our progress throughout the merger process. We will be sending you a few brief surveys to get your input on a few key merger components. A few Merger Town Halls, via Zoom, will be scheduled to offer you additional opportunity to share ideas and discuss concerns.

In the meantime, if you have any specific questions or thoughts regarding the merger, please reach out to your respective Permanent Offices. The Permanent Office staff are assisting us in quickly responding to all your questions.

The Michael Phelps quote below is apropos as we launch our merger effort.

In closing, we thank you in advance for all your continued hard work, passion, and active support as we prepare for the future of USA Swimming in Ohio.

Respectfully,



*Jim Peterfish, General Chair
Ohio Swimming Inc.*



*Vince Colwell, General Chair
Lake Erie Swimming Inc.*

