

2024 WZ DEI Coordinator Report



The Western Zone DEI committee took on the herculean task to hold the WZ DEI camp and summit in Indianapolis June 17-20 during US Olympic Trials. After two years of planning, the camp and summit were a huge success!

There were 62 athletes and adults who registered for the camp representing all the western zone LSCs except Alaska. Sixty-one people arrived in Indianapolis and were greeted with signs, banners, and flags promoting the US Olympic Team Trials – Swimming. Indianapolis was an amazing host city! Thank you to Arlene McDonald who assisted us with our camp and summit preparations in Indianapolis. Thank you to Indiana Swimming for sanctioning the camp and summit.

The campers stayed at Butler University and dined in the Atherton Union dining commons. Our meetings were held in the Irvington large meeting room and in another classroom on campus. A few of the athletes thought the dorm rooms would be like nice hotel rooms so there was a little bit of adjusting to do. Everyone was given two flat sheets to make their beds along with a pillow that may have been a little flat and a lightweight blanket. Hopefully there will be less adjustment when they go off to college in a few years. The food was good and plentiful in the dining commons. Thank you to Abby Tauber and Jacob Hughes with Butler University.



Irvington House dorm, Butler University, and Atherton Union dining commons sign.

Practice was held at The Riviera Club pool and the pool time was generously donated by the club. Thank you to Aquatics Director Therese Love and General Manager Jimm Moody. They were amazing hosts and

were so welcoming to our group. This is a beautiful facility with a long history of swimming excellence. The club's first swim instructor, Euphrasia Donnelly, won a gold medal in the 1924 Olympics in Paris. From 1980 to 2004 Riviera Club swimmer Trisha Zorn became the most decorated Paralympian in history with 46 medals. She had a record 32 gold medals across a range of events and categories. Therese and Jimm gave Ruth-Ann Bode and me a wonderful tour of the facility and are justifiably proud of all the swimmers who represent this club.



Practice pool at The Riviera Club (The Rivi)



The Rivi Club entrance sign



The Riviera Club Aquatics Director Therese Love, Susan Huckeby, and The Riviera Club General Manager Jimm Moody.

Our camp was led by Coach Keiichiro Yoshida (PC) and our summit was led by Kent Yoshiwara (PC). Veronica Hernandez (PC) was our camp chair. Pacific Swimming was the LSC camp host. Pacific Swimming really stepped up to host a fantastic camp!! I can't say enough about what a great job they did. It is one thing to host a camp at home, but an entirely different thing to step up to host a camp in another state and zone. Their commitment to DEI and excellence in swimming is amazing. I want to give a huge thank you to everyone in Pacific Swimming, especially to their LSC leadership who volunteered to host the camp in Indianapolis, Veronica, Keiichiro, Kent, Cindy Rowland, and Mary Ruddell. They did so much work to make this event successful!



Pacific Swimming crew

I also want to thank the members of the Western Zone DEI camp committee who spent hundreds of hours working on this camp and summit to make it a reality. The committee members include Veronica Hernandez, chair, Kent Yoshiwara, summit director, Keiichiro Yoshida, camp director, Rich LeDuc, Virgil Chauncy, Lenin Velasco, Chris Mendoza-Smithour, Leala Lara, Diego Lara, Riley Mills, Ryan Schnur, and Susan Huckeby.

We had numerous guest speakers both in person and virtually. We were blessed that all the guest speakers volunteered their time. Some of those speakers included Abbie Fish, Leland Brown III, Seema Daryanani (Google), Paul Stockett, April Walkley (safe sport), Virgil Chauncey (disability), Trevor Freeland, Kent Yoshiwara, Keiichiro Yoshida, and more. Thank you to all our speakers!



Guest speakers Leland Brown III and Paul Stockett

Our coaching staff was led by Coach Keiichiro and included several coaches attending the summit. It was a great opportunity for those coaches attending the summit to work on deck with other coaches from across the zone. In past camps, the coaches attending the summit didn't have an opportunity to

coach on deck, so this was a great way for them to network, learn new coaching techniques, and work with new athletes. Coach Tom Burchill of the Carmel Swim Club joined us to lead an IM practice session. The athletes practiced two hours a day with a double session on the second day of camp. It was quite hot and humid in Indianapolis with temperatures in the 90's. Several other teams were also practicing at The Riviera Club, so the coaches had to sometimes juggle practice lanes with other teams. Thank you to all our coaches!

The camp and summit wrapped up with a trip to watch finals at the Olympic Trials. The group first stopped by the Aqua Zone then moved to the stadium. What an evening it was – a swim meet being held in an NFL football stadium! This was an experience of a lifetime for many of them and hopefully a great motivator to return home and practice hard and perhaps they would be competing one day at Trials. Hosting the camp in Indianapolis hinged on being able to purchase tickets to Trials at an affordable price. Many thanks to Veronica Hernandez and Jake Grosser for helping us secure tickets. The tickets were for seats in the 600 level which turned out to be way up in the stands on the end zone side of the stadium. Through USA Swimming, the group was moved to the 100 level seats just behind the turn end of the pool. They were next to the deck and had a great view! Thank you, USA Swimming, for providing the updated seating.

The evening kicked off with a surprise visit by Brendan Hansen. Brendan interviewed Hawaiian Swimming athlete Cheveyo Rodriguez as part of the pre-show festivities. It was great seeing Brendan and Cheveyo on the jumbotron. Brendan would have a member of the audience race an Olympian answering questions such as how many fruits can you name or how many different kinds of candy can you name in 30 seconds (kiwi, apple, banana, pear, peach... this is really hard to do on camera!). Thank you, Brendan, for including Cheveyo and the WZ DEI camp in your show.



Brendan Hansen speaking with Cheveyo



Brendan and Cheveyo on the jumbotron



WZ DEI Camp and summit group at Trials.

Financially the camp and summit stayed within the budget set by the committee. The van rental fee came in above the initial estimates but was within the camp budget totals. Pacific Swimming was refunded the camp registration fees for the camp director and summit director and given \$150 to offset office expenses incurred by the LSC. These payments to Pacific Swimming are one-time occurrences.

Total estimated income for 2024 to date is \$26,624, which includes the twenty cent DEI fees and camp registration payments. The committee spent \$28,350.07 on the camp.

The WZ DEI committee currently has an estimated balance of \$38,279.56 in their account. The committee has billed two LSCs for lost keys and room cards at the camp in the amount of \$275 total which has not yet been received. One goal of the committee was to have at least \$20,000 in the budget after camp to be the seed money for the next camp and that goal was met.

We are looking forward to hosting our next DEI camp and summit in two or three years. One LSC is already interested in hosting the event. If you would like to host the WZ DEI camp and summit, please contact me. (Someone asked if we would consider hosting a camp during the 2028 LA Olympics!)

The Western Zone DEI committee meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm Pacific time. If you would like an invitation to the meeting, contact me.

If you have questions about how to implement DEI programming in your LSC, please contact me. We have several people who will be happy to assist you. Many LSCs offer DEI camps and clinics, reimburse meet fees for outreach members, offer other types of reimbursements to assist low-income families, have made LGBTQ athletes feel welcome in their clubs, provide grant programs in their LSCs, and much more.

Being a part of this camp and summit has been an amazing experience! I love that the Western Zone dreams big, has a huge vision for what can be accomplished, and we host great events. We host the largest senior zone meet in the country. We added a short course yard senior meet. We host a great open water championship meet. This DEI camp and summit was a big dream that happened because of the vision of the Western Zone. I am so appreciative of the Western Zone leadership. Thank you

especially to Mike Dilli, Keith Moore, and Lisa Vetterlein and all the Western Zone board. Lisa handles all the finances for the WZ DEI committee and did an fabulous job keeping track of all the payments for us. Thank you to Pacific Swimming and the wonderful directors and volunteers for this camp from your LSC. Thank you to all the Western Zone LSC DEI Chairs – you take the vision of the Western Zone and make the vision into reality in your LSC and clubs. Thank you to all the LSCs in our great zone who support the WZ DEI committee and strive to make swimming better for everyone. Thank you!! The west is best!

Susan Huckleby
WZ DEI Coordinator
Butte, Montana



Meals at Atherton Union ~~ Some of the camp coaches and summit attendees.





Summit breakout groups



Summit breakout group



Pacific Swimming group at Trials



Thank you, Indy, for an amazing experience and a great Western Zone DEI camp and summit!!