General Chair – Steve Reardon (President and Head Coach Class Aquatics)
Current SCS Role: Coastal Committee Chair

As the Coastal Committee Chair, a few of my accomplishments include:

- Supported teams with hosting meets including equipment, reimbursement, etc.
- Supported coach development
- Increased athlete reps within Coastal Committee

My Top Goals for term as SCS General Chair include:

- Help and support teams to host SCS meets
- Develop SCS for beyond 2028
- Work to help develop new policies within SCS concerning Block party meets, Outreach, etc.

General Chair: Felipe Delgado (Founder Evolution Swim Academy)
Current SCS Role: none

As a candidate for General Chair, drawing on more than two decades of leadership in competitive swimming, a few of my accomplishments include:

- Founded and built Evolution Swim Academy, a premier learn-to-swim school serving thousands of Orange County families across multiple locations.
- Founded Evolution Racing Club, a Silver and Bronze Medal Club serving over 250 families in South Orange County.
- Founded and direct the OC Race Series, a small-group-format swim meet series built around the needs of busy Orange County families, coaches, and swimmers.

My top goals for my term as SCS General Chair include:

- Restore transparency and trust in our governance.
- Strengthen the financial health of our LSC by first drawing on our existing reserves and creating new revenue opportunities, rather than limiting the programs and initiatives our teams depend on.
- Grow volunteer and officials' participation across the LSC, making it easier for families to get involved and keeping more of the funds our clubs raise within their own programs.

Co-Planning Vice Chair – Mohammad Khadembashi (Head Coach Team Santa Monica)
Current SCS Role: Planning Vice Chair

I have coached age group and senior swimmers throughout my career, and over the last two years I have worked closely with both committees. I have also been fortunate and blessed to be part of Team USA's coaching staff several times since 2018, at both domestic and international events, and to coach athletes who have represented Team USA and other federations at the highest level.

- Senior Chair for a few years, and the last two years working with both the Age Group and Senior Committees as Planning Chair. I know what each side needs and where those needs pull against each other.
- USA Swimming National Team Coach since 2018, including the 2026 Pan Pacific Championships.
- Chair of the USA Swimming Open Water Committee through 2028, which keeps me in regular contact with the National Team Director and National Team Manager. That is available to SCS whenever it helps.
- On the SCS Board and in Pacific Committee roles since 2017, currently as Planning Chair and Pacific Committee Co-Chair.

Given the chance, I would like to keep helping both committees finish this cycle well and set up 2028 through 2032.

My focus this term was keeping the Age Group and Senior Committees on the same page, so that the calendar could come together in a way that benefits the whole LSC. I also started bringing the Geo Committee Planning Chairs into that bigger picture conversation, which had not really happened before. It was a start, and it is honestly one of the areas where I think we can do a lot better going forward.

Goals for 2027-2028

There is still good work the Planning Chair can do here, which is why I would like to keep going.

1. Rework the bidding process.
2. Get a short debrief to the Age Group and Senior Committees after every major SCS meet, built on feedback from the coaches who were there, while it can still shape the following year.
3. Make our Age Group and Senior meets the better and more appealing choice, through incentives rather than restrictions.
4. One simple meet calendar that is easy to read, easy to update, and actually current.
5. Get the Geo Committees working together on their meet calendars, so the calendar stops fighting itself. In my opinion this is our biggest area for improvement.

Happy to keep doing the work, and I would appreciate your support.

Co-Planning Vice Chair – Rick Shipherd (Head Coach LA Mirada Armada)
Current SCS Role: Finance Vice Chair

I have been active as a leader in USA Swimming and Southern California Swimming since its inception in 1978. During this time, I have contributed to the success of hundreds of athletes. Those athletes have achieved as Olympians, doctors, lawyers and teachers. They have succeeded as National team members and as citizens and parents. My qualifications are:

- Long and diverse involvement in USA Swimming, Southern California Swimming and the coaching community has allowed me to contribute in many ways to the betterment of the athletes, families, coaches and volunteers in our sport.
- Contributions with USA Swimming:
    - Chairman USA Swimming Club Development Committee 2 years.
    - Member of USA Swimming Senior Development Committee 6 years.
    - Member of OIO for four terms
    - Member of four USA Swimming National team staffs
- Contributions with American Swimming Coaches Association:
    - ASCA Board of Directors for 7 years.
    - Chair Coaches' mentor program for two years.
- Contributions with Southern California Swimming
    - Board member for 26 years.
    - SCS Senior Chair, three terms.
    - SCS Program Chair, two terms.
    - SCS Coaches' Rep, three terms.

Southern California Swimming is in need of a course correction. Navigating the new realities of our sport will take experienced leadership. I will pursue three major objectives as Planning Vice Chair:

- Rebuilding a philosophy of centralized planning linked to a legislated SCS structure for controlling the calendar and the progression of competition.
- Leading the redesign of our budget guidelines for club support and judicious financial spending to support new SCS programming.
- Design a Recognition Program for our Senior Swimmers as a model to inspire our age group swimmers. This would be in conjunction with a Senior All-Star program and an SCS Senior Championship
- Introducing a new innovative competition model designed around a season of short course meter competition to match the growing importance of short course meter competition in our sport.

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Senior Vice Chair – Ron Aitken (Head Coach Sandpipers)
Current SCS Board Role: Senior Vice Chair

I am honored to announce my candidacy for Senior Vice Chair of Southern California Swimming (SCS). Born and raised in Southern California, I've been immersed in California Swimming since the age of six.

- Over 30 years of coaching experience, including Head Coach for the Open Water Paris Team, coaching Olympic swimmers.
- Long-Standing experience in both age group and senior level swimming gives me a unique perspective on the needs of our community.
- Helped athletes at all levels reach their full potential, from the entry-level swimmer to those competing on the international stage.

As Senior Vice Chair, I would bring my experience and passion to continue the development of our athletes, with a particular focus on fostering a pathway from age group swimming to senior-level excellence. My goals for this role would include:

- Remembering the mission and vision of SCS: Staying aligned with our core values, ensuring that every decision is made with the long-term success of our athletes and programs in mind.
- Educating Senior and Age Group Coaches: Providing tools and resources to enhance understanding of senior-level swimming, promoting a shared vision for athlete development across all age groups.
- Development of Entry Levels into Senior Swimming: Creating a clear pathway that helps our athletes' transition smoothly from age group swimming to senior competition, ensuring they are properly prepared to succeed at the next level.
- Strategic Planning for Peak Performances: Implementing programs and strategies that will help our athletes reach their highest potential, with an emphasis on supporting both individual and team success at all levels of senior swimming.

Open Water Chair – Erica Sullivan, (Assistant Coach Blast Sharks)
Current SCS Role:

I began coaching at the club level two years ago, and I strive to learn something new about the sport every day. Having grown up in the SCS LSC, I am very familiar with the needs and interests of coaches and club teams throughout our LSC, and I hope to continue supporting them in any way I can.

- My personal accomplishments include representing the U.S. Open Water National Team from 2016–2022, earning a silver medal as a member of the 2021 Olympic Team, and being named a seven-time All-American at the University of Texas at Austin from 2021–2024.
- As a coach, I was selected for ASCA's 2026 Class of 30 Under 30 and chosen to attend the Women's Leadership Clinic at the Olympic and Paralympic Training Center (OTC) in November.

If elected to the Open Water Chair,

- My primary goals in this role are to make open water swimming more accessible to clubs throughout the SCS LSC
- Offer at least two events each year that encourage broad club participation
- Educate coaches on the selection processes for both the National Junior Team and National Team
- Build excitement around open water swimming as we approach LA28.

I hope I am able to serve the SCS LSC over the next two years, continuing to grow the sport, and support our coaches and athletes

Secretary - Forest Riek (Coach and President Rattler Swim Club)
Current SCS Role: Secretary (incumbent)

I have been involved with swimming as a parent, official and a coach going back to 2005.

- President of Rattler Swim Club for the past 11 years prior was a board member for 9 years.
- Worked professionally with many boards across various sales verticals as a senior sales engineer for GTE/Verizon.
- Served as secretary to the Parent Board for LAUSD for six years.
- Served as the secretary for SCS for the past two years.
- An administrative official and CTS Operator/Trainer for over 12 years.
- I am familiar with all Microsoft Office products and Zoom.

If re-elected, I still see this role as a support role for the SCS. I would like to help the various committees with getting their reports filed in a timely manner.

Treasurer – Ron Ross (Unattached)
Current SCS Role: Treasurer (incumbent)

My qualifications:

- Owned my own business for 30+ years.
- Plenty of knowledge of P&L and Balance sheets with my own business.
- I work with a CPA and tax accountant regularly and lots of experience with budgeting.
- 10 +years of doing the current job.
- I've been the LSC Chair, Section Chair and club president.

My accomplishments:

- Improved the reimbursement process
- Consistent and accurate financial reporting
- Improved the late payables to SCS

My Top Goals for next term as SCS Treasurer include::

- Continue the processes we have set up

Coaches' Representative Sarah Dawson (Interim Head Coach Mission Viejo Natadores)
Current SCS Role: None

I've been a member of Southern California Swimming since 1989 and part of its coaching community for over 27 years. I currently serve as Interim Head Coach and Senior Prep Division Lead for the Mission Viejo Nadadores.

My Qualifications:

- My leadership experience includes four years as SCS DDEI Chair
- Four years as Orange Committee DDEI Chair
- Two years on USA Swimming's Coaches Advisory Council
- Three years on the National DDEI Committee
- Two terms as an SCS at-large delegate to the USA Swimming House of Delegates.

My coaching philosophy centers on TEACH first, then COACH, fueling my passion for coach education and professional development.

My accomplishments:

- I've presented at the ASCA World Clinic (3x), Napa Clinic, Eastern ASCA Clinic, Oregon LSC Clinic, ANV Clinic in Mexico City (2x), and SCS Coaches' Clinic (3x).
- I helped establish the SCS Coaches' Clinic alongside Chris Barber and Steve Roush and recently assisted in coordinating and presenting at the SCS All-Star Meet Coaches' Clinic.
- I continue to collaborate with coaching staffs nationally and internationally, believing that shared knowledge elevates our profession.

I believe that this position requires listening, transparency, collaboration, and advocacy. As Coaches' Representative, I'm committed to strengthening communication between geo committees and SCS leadership, expanding educational opportunities, and ensuring coaches within the LSC have a meaningful voice in the decisions shaping Southern California Swimming.

Coaches' Representative Christian Watts (The Claremont Club, Aquatics Manager & Head Coach)
Current SCS Role: None
Current SCS Role: Eastern Committee Coaches Chair

I am stepping up for Coaches Rep because this seat has a lot of potential that has not been used the way it should be. For four years I have served as the Eastern Committee Coaches' Chair. I want coaches across SCS to meet on a set calendar, see their concerns reach the board in writing, and get a follow-up on every issue. I coach on the club side at TCC and start as Head Girls Swim Coach at Los Osos High School this spring, so I see both sides of our coaching community.

As the Eastern Committee Coaches' Chair for the past four years, a few of my accomplishments include:

- Attended 2-3 coaching clinics around the country every year for the past three years, hosted by SCS, ASCA, SwimStrong and USA Swimming.
- Built a network of coaches across many states, from beginning coaches to longtime head coaches, and bring their ideas back to share with coaches in our area.
- Hosted TCC's first meet with 927 swimmers.

My Top Goals for my term as SCS Coaches' Rep include:

- Quarterly SCS coaches' rep meetings: three on Zoom and one in person at a championship meet, with notes sent to every coach within 7 days.
- A written coaches' report at every board meeting covering what coaches raised and what the board decided, shared with all coaches after.
- A network of committee coaches; chairs, meeting before each SCS meeting so issues from every committee reach the agenda. An annual coach survey each spring on the meet schedule, time standards, fees and deck issues, with results shared before the spring House of Delegates
- Coach education: two low-cost clinics a year (age group and senior), plus mentoring that pairs new coaches with experienced head coaches from another club.
- Coaches' socials twice a year: a mixer at a championship meet and one in the off-season, hosted by a different club each time, where we also present peer-voted SCS Coach of the Year awards.