



## **Letter from the Chairman-Elect**

**August 29th, 2016**

**Hello Masters Divers!**

**Though I am not formally the Chairman of US Masters Diving until the Aquatic Convention in September – I wanted to get out a letter to our group to update all of you on the latest news. There is always a lot more going on than you realize - and many of us do not make all of the competitions. Let's get started!**

**SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS – Greensboro, N.C.**

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**Wow – another Summer Championships on the books. Greensboro and the USA Masters Games were great hosts. There was some great diving and some fabulous entertainment. The clown diving made a welcome return. Between the clown divers, the music and Ed Richmond as the Master of Ceremonies – it was fantastic. Thank you to all that participated and especially to those that helped make it happen.**

**We had 68 divers participate in the meet with 6 first time participants. I was thrilled to spend time with some of our new divers – and suspect we have made an impression. Thank you to all of our newbies that took the chance on spending the weekend with us. You are now responsible for recruiting at least one diver for either Spring, Summer or World Championships in 2017.**

## **ELECTIONS**

**Elections took place at the athlete meeting on before the competition and I am happy to announce the new officers for US Masters Diving. We voted to change the titles of the officers to better reflect their responsibilities and they are reflected below:**

<b>Chairman -</b>	<b>Gerry Dunn</b>
<b>Vice Chairman -</b>	<b>Joan Chalkley</b>
<b>Vice Chairman -</b>	<b>Ron Kontura</b>

**I am thrilled to take the helm from Ron Kontura – who did a stellar job over the past 4 years. Any officer position can be a thankless job. Ron went above and beyond during his tenure as Chairman. He leaves us in great shape financially – with over \$8,000 in reserves. We have also increased our exposure on social media**

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and active membership. Our Facebook page has grown from 400 members to over 1600 and our verified ACTIVE mailing list is up to 500 people. This is incredible growth and a big transition for our group. Please take the time to say THANK-YOU to Ron for all he has done over the past 4 years. I am thrilled he is staying in the fold to help our organization move forward. He will serve for 2 additional years as a vice-chair.

I am also thankful to have Joan Chalkley serving as Vice Chairman. She is a past Chairman with years of experience that will be intrinsic in helping us move forward. We have an incredible team.

#### **OVERDUE THANK-YOU's**

I want to also publicly thank George McGann for his tireless work in making sure DiveMeets cooperates with us at these 3 day competitions. He will continue to assist us in running DiveMeets and helping us to train others to become competent with the technology. Lisa Mitrani is always behind the scenes helping us with hospitality, t-shirts and whatever other needs we have for the group. She was the woman behind the food donations in Orlando and the fabulous t-shirt design. I look forward to Lisa's continued help during my tenure as Chair. Mark Timko has been behind the scenes assisting us in all things social media. His response time to questions on our site has been almost instant. This quick feedback is what brings people into the fold as new divers and supporters of Masters Diving. Look for a lot more from Mark in the future. Ted Witte does not often get to meets these days – but he is the man behind our website [mastersdiving.org](http://mastersdiving.org) . Thank you Ted for all you do – and we need to see you at one of our National meets sometime soon! Another unsung hero is Fred Fox. Fred has been the record

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keeper for US Masters Diving and has compiled a history of our meets, divers and results since we started over 40 years ago. Thank you Fred! We would love to see you too at a meet very soon.

## **FINA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – Budapest, Hungary**

The World Championships will take place from August 1-6, 2017 in Budapest, Hungary. The new Dagaly Aquatic complex is nearing completion and will host the FINA World Championships in July with the Masters Championships immediately following. This is a beautiful facility that is located on the Danube River just north of Margaret Island.

There are 2 new events at this competition. 2017 will be the debut of MIXED SYNCHRONIZED diving on both the 3m and tower. I am very excited for these new events – and feel the US can and will excel.

With that said – it is not too early to start making plans. You do not need to QUALIFY to participate in World Championships. You do not even have to have a full diving list. FINA rules do not require divers to perform dives from each category. It is actually EASIER for divers to compete. As long as the dives have different dive numbers and are on the FINA degree of difficulty chart they qualify. Feel free to e-mail me if you are a newer diver and need clarification. Want to do 6 twisters? Bring it on!

I am sending the schedule to Ted to post on our website – and will continue to post updates to our Facebook page. I will also be starting an e-mail list specifically for those that may be attending. Please let me know if you want to be included on this list. You will get updates on the meet, housing, transportation, Visa requirements, and other related topics. I do not want to overwhelm

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the general membership with e-mails if they are not planning on attending. [gerry@mypotomac.com](mailto:gerry@mypotomac.com)

**Aquatic Conference – September 22-25<sup>th</sup> – Atlanta, Georgia**

**Every year USA Diving participates in the United States Aquatic Sports Convention. This year it is being held in Atlanta, Georgia. Typically we have at least 3-4 Masters divers attend the conference. For the past three years I have attended with Ron Kontura as well as John Deininger and Felix Grossman. This conference is open to all – and is generally held in September each year. There are meetings, classes, seminars and quite a bit of socializing. Typically USA Diving will hold a class on Sunday for some type of certification. This year will be the Aquatic Safety Instructor course for coaches. If you have any interest in attending – go to this link for information and registration: <https://www.teamunify.com/EventShow.jsp?returnPage=%2FEventsCurrent.jsp%3Fteam%3Dusas&id=614466&team=usas>**

**SPOUSES and SIGNIFICANT OTHERS:**

**I am not sure if we ever thanked all of you. At every competition I look up in the stands or on deck and see a group of incredible fans. You spend the day in a hot pool or in the sun without complaints. You sit through endless conversations about diving that I am sure must be incredibly boring to anyone but the divers. How many extended conversations about sore shoulders, knees or back can one person take?**

**Some of you have actually taken the plunge and have participated in our events. Some of you have been judges, scorers or helpers. You are intrinsic in making us all better.**

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**Thank you to all of you. Please continue to come – and continue to indulge us. While we may not say it often enough – we love you!**

### **Lenny Larson III – LA Times Article and Video**

**To those of you that know and love Lenny – I don't have to tell you what an inspiration he is for all of us. He continues to coach and make waves with Rose Bowl Aquatics.**

**The Los Angeles Times had a feature article and video today that can be found on our Facebook page and at this link:**

**<http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-divingcoach-20160829-snap-story.html>**

**Keep it up Lenny! We are all very proud of you!**

**Wow.... First letter is complete. I am so excited to lead you into this next chapter of US Masters Diving. Please do not hesitate to reach out with suggestions, offers of assistance or to volunteer. My cell phone is 703-216-9100. Program it into your phones. I will strive to be available, approachable and incorrigible to do my best to make us better.**

**Be happy, stay healthy and LET's DIVE!**

Respectfully submitted - Gerry Dunn



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You had requested we keep you abreast of upcoming meets and activities at USA Masters Diving.

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