

## **East Zone Education Report Final 2016 Convention Atlanta**

First I would like to thank the Zone for supporting my terms in office. Over the years, I have been your Education Chair for a total of nine years. I have enjoyed the support of the Zone at each clinic. I do believe that the East Zone has the best education program and conducts the most clinics for athletes and coaches of any other Zone. The Zone regularly services over 80 to 100 athletes and coaches yearly.

You have the information on this past year's Silver Clinic in my March report. At this time I am turning over the position to Katie Rice. I am sure that she will develop her own manner of delivering education information in the future. I will be available to help if asked.

I have a few things that the Zone may wish to consider in the future.

1. The development of the Gold, Silver, Bronze clinic structure came about after the national NCN structure was discontinued. We have not offered a Gold Clinic, once offered to the top 30 figure places from the Senior Zone Championship, since we have started using the All Star Team. Although the All Star team does encompass our elite swimmers of all age groups, not all of the All Stars are invited to participate in the All Star Camp. We are presently not servicing all of our elite athletes. We may want to consider that.
2. The use of the All Stars at the Silver Clinic is expensive. If the goal is to use the clinic as a fundraiser, the Zone may need to rethink the concept.
3. The goal of the clinic structure was to disseminate the information from the Gold to the Silver to the Bronze by the Association Ed. Chairs developing a one day clinic, the Bronze, at the region level, for intermediates and young age group swimmers. I am not sure how many of those clinics happen.

I am proud to be associated with the East Zone and to have represented the Zone at the Coaches Board. I believe our Zone is the envy of the rest of the synchro community. The East values education. The East values the National Team program but also remembers that most of its members are grass roots and supports those clubs as well. The Zone adapts to changes and will always make sure that the athletes can continue to compete at all levels of Zone competition. The Zone presents a united front when necessary. The Zone is able to disagree but does not split into factions. The East definitely is the best. I am proud to be from the East.