

Cougar Parent Organization Newsletter Spring 2010



Hello to all of the Parents and Coaches of Cougar Aquatic Team swimmers! We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Cougar Parent Organization and explain how you can get involved. We are a group of parents devoted to the team; we want to support the swimmers while taking some of the administrative burden off of the coaches. Our coaches work hard in and out of the pool. All of our coaches work during the day in high pressure jobs and come to coach our children after their work day is over - not to mention on the weekends! Our goal is to help facilitate communication and provide assistance to the coaches wherever we can so that the swimmers have the best possible experience.

As you know, we host two meets each year, the Caitlin Lehmann Meet which is a meet run in memory of a member of our team who was stricken with a rare form of cancer and passed away while still in High School. The other meet is the 9-10 Championship North. Debbie Flint is running both meets this year, a massive undertaking! Thank you Debbie! The profit that is cleared from these meets goes into the Parent Organization Fund to support the team. The money we make on our other fundraising activities like the sale of the specialized Cougar clothing, bathing caps, towels, car magnets and other items, also goes into this fund.

This year two members of our parent organization researched and presented additional options for fundraising. The first was the Friday's Fundraiser organized by Sharon Donlin. Sharon has daughters swimming on the Beginning Strokes and Silver teams. **By simply eating at the Friday's near Willowbrook on the specified days and showing a flyer, we made \$370.00!** We thank Sharon and look forward to doing this again soon! The event not only made great money for the team but also functioned as a fun social event.

The second was organized by Ruth Ann Fleming, who has a daughter swimming on the Senior I team. We added a "widget" to the Cougar Home Page linking the site to Amazon and Endless Shoes. **By ordering through the Cougar Website www.cougaraquatic.com, instead of going directly to Amazon.com or Endless.com, the Cougar Parent Organization receives a varying percentage of the sale. (All you have to do is click on the widget for Amazon or Endless Shoes on the Cougar home page). We have earned \$352 to date.** The deposits are made two months in arrears, we think to allow for any returns. So more money is on the way. The Amazon and Endless Shoes opportunities are ongoing so please tell your family and friends to order through our website. It takes you to the exact same place, you log in for yourself and we receive referral fees for the sale! Thank you Ruth Ann!

Why are we fundraising and where does the money go? The Cougar Parent Organization provides a small scholarship to the graduating seniors based upon the number of years of high school participation on the Cougar Aquatic Team. The cost for the swimmers at both the Junior and Senior Awards dinners is subsidized by the Parent Organization. This year we have done well with fundraising and are going to cover some additional expenses like trophies and tee

shirts. We pay for gifts for the swimmers like the Cougar Water Bottles (designed and ordered by Lisa Jordan - Emma and Jennie Silber's mom) to wish the swimmers luck at the end of season championship meets. The Cougar Parent Organization helps cover some of the expenses of the coaches, like hotel stays, at the more "local" away meets like at Rutgers and Princeton. The Organization also defrays some of the van transportation expenses at away meets.

How can you get involved? We are in the process of giving a more formal structure to the Cougar Parent Organization and will keep you posted on upcoming general meetings. Before that even happens, we always welcome new help, volunteers and ideas. We currently have representatives from each team volunteering through the Parent Organization. **If you are interesting in becoming an official, please contact John Butler at j.m.butler@comcast.net. If you want to get involved NOW, contact Ruth Ann Fleming ruthannfleming@verizon.net or Patty D'Angelo Pattydang@aol.com.**

We are looking for someone to coordinate hotel arrangements for the New Jersey meets like Junior Olympics, Holiday Classic and the Princeton meets. Please contact Ruth Ann Fleming at ruthannfleming@verizon.net.

TAKE PICTURES!!!! Darrel Tsinadze has volunteered to make a slide show for the Junior Awards dinner. Please take pictures (in JPEG or TIFF format please), email them to mt@cadcabinets.com, or put them on a CD and get them to Mr. Tsinadze. You can leave CD's or hard copy pictures in his file folder at the pool. Alexa Burzinski has agreed to organize the slide show at the Senior Awards dinner. Please email pictures (in JPEG format please) to amburz@gmail.com or put picture CD's for Gold, Senior II and Senior I in the Burzinski folder or give them to Alexa. Thank you Darrel and Alexa!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS for 2009-2010!!! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO WORKED AT THE COUGAR SPONSORED MEETS!!!

Team Parent Representatives

Senior I	Betsy Buckworth	<u>Cougar Picnic</u>
	Ruth Ann Fleming	Betsy Buckworth
Senior II	Janette Antiles	
Gold	Christine Corliss	<u>Spring Senior Awards Banquet</u>
Silver	Sharon Donlin	Betsy Buckworth
Bronze	Elise Boatwright	Ruth Ann Fleming
Beginning Strokes	Catherine Hassi	
		<u>Spring Junior Awards Banquet</u>
<u>Cougar Wear Clothing</u>		Angela Pappas
Allyson Burzinski		
Dani Fink		<u>Senior Photo CD</u>
Carolyn Byrne		Alexa Burzinski
<u>Metro Clothing Order</u>		<u>Junior Photo CD</u>
Ruth Ann Fleming		Darrel Tsinadze

Meet Coordinator
Debbie Flint

Meet Concession
Debbie Flint

Meet Officials
John Butler
Alan Burzinski
Deborah Cannizzaro
Stanley Chiu
Mary Fuhro
Barbara Gniewek
James Heffernan

Meet Entries
Bob Wittmann

Meet Hotel and Meal Coordinators
Ruth Ann Fleming

Cougar Parent Organization Members
Coach Judy Montalbano
Ruth Ann Fleming
Patty D'Angelo
Betsy Buckworth
Alan Burzinski

CAT Magnets/Water Bottle
Lisa Jordan

Meet Fees
Patty D'Angelo

Timing Coordinator
Claire Gorman

Lisa Jordan
Linda Kunnapas
Robert Lombardi
Shuqi Lu
Dave Peveler
Peter Ravettine
Graeme Silbert

Webmaster
Guy Amoresano

Betsy Buckworth

Allyson Burzinski
Claire Gorman
Debbie Flint
Coach Denise Killeen
Sharon Donlin
Christine Corliss