

Erik Claesson:

My name is Erik Claesson I am a father of four Aquatic Athletes, Henry-19 (Swimmer), Hayden-17 (Swimmer/Water Polo), Emily-14 (Swimmer) and Sarah -14 (Swimmer, Water Polo and former Diver). About one million years ago, I was an age group and High School swimmer and I am one of those parents who enjoys sitting in the stands and rooting for all kids who wear the Lyons logo on their cap. With the support of my wife Susan, I had had the privilege of serving on the board from 2010-2016 during which time I served as Secretary, Vice-President, and President. I have probably raised my voice at most of your swimmers as I ran the bullpen at our home meets for 5 years. During my time on the board I implemented the club directories, annual club surveys, coordinated the Brian Donatelli Olympic Trial Pep Rally (2012). I also served as chair of the special events committee where I worked with other awesome parent volunteers and friends to put on some great special events and parties over the years. After stepping back from the clubs leadership for two years I find myself compelled to help take an active roll in the clubs leadership once again.

My vision for the club is the same as it was when I ran for the board in 2010. The following bio an excerpt from the Bio I submitted in when I ran for the board in 2010 and again in 2013.

I believe the LSC(now Lyons Aquatics) should be a place where swimmers enter the program as beginners and through hard work and proper coaching improve and grow to love the sport of swimming. I want the program to be a place where our kids learn about cheering on their teammates and where they find a place to “fit in” and make lifelong friendships. Where seasoned parents welcome and encourage new families to embrace the program and where older swimmers help the beginners by setting an example of leadership and sportsmanship.

I believe my experience and knowledge will help the LSC continue to develop and thrive as a community based program where divers, water polo players and swimmers from 7 to 70 play hard, work hard and each receive the proper support and coaching from the program to reach their goals as individuals and together as a community based swim program.

Rob Novak:

My name is Rob Novak and I am looking forward to an opportunity to serve as a Lyons Aquatics Board Member. My wife, Megan, and I have lived in Western Springs for 16 years. We have two children, Emma (14) and Charlie (12). Emma is a freshman at LT, swims for the high school team and is a member of the Senior team on the swim club. For the past 5 years, beginning with the Blue Team, we have watched Emma grow as an individual athlete and an engaged teammate. Lyons Aquatics has shown us what is possible when there is a commitment to hard work, having fun and being motivated by friends and what can be accomplish as a team. To support this culture and this gift we have in our community, I chose to volunteer to operate the scoreboard during last summer’s regionals at LT while Emma was not competing during the summer season. My vision for the Lyons Aquatics Family involves fostering these principles based in sportsmanship and constructive feedback amongst our athletes, coaches and families. My career is based on listening to families and serving the needs of children as an Orthotist. I have worked in large hospital based setting and in private practice focused on finding solutions through open communication. I’m looking forward to the challenge of finding new solutions to help our Aquatics club continue to be a premier destination for our young athletes and their families. Thank you for taking the time to read my biography and making this important decision for the Lyons Aquatics family. I respectfully ask for your vote.

Jenny Riley:

My name is Jenny Riley and I am seeking to serve on the Lyons Aquatics Board for the next 3-year term. Our daughter, Avery, swims on Gold and our family has been with the team since 2015. Swimming has always been a part of my life. I spent 15 years as a competitive swimmer, on age group teams in Michigan and through my first year of college. When we moved to the Chicago area, I became a coach for TOPS in Oak Park, where I coached the 9-10 age group for 5 years. I have also coached the JV Girls team at Oak Park River Forest, the Proviso West Varsity Girls and Boys teams, and the OPRF Synchronized Swim club. When I became a full-time middle school teacher, I was no longer able to coach, but have remained active in supporting my daughter's swimming—for instance, I served on the TOPS Parent Advisory Council until we decided to switch to Lyons Aquatics. Our family's commitment to helping the team also extends to my husband, who spent the last several years training to become a USA Swimming meet referee.

I am passionate about swimming. My daughter is deeply committed to this sport. My husband had no experience with swimming when she started, so he became an official to support his daughter. One of the key factors in our decision to move to La Grange was that Avery loves this team and the friendships she has made here. I'd love to contribute my experience and perspective as the board plans the team's future, guides and supports the coaches, and engages with all stakeholders to continue shaping Lyons into one of the best teams in the state.