

## **President's Lane – January 2010**

Dear Members,

There are several exciting developments in our ongoing quest for a sustainable long-term solution for the Club's operation that we'd like to make you aware of. First, we are very proud to announce the hiring of two new staff members. Our new Aquatics Director, Joe Perez, comes to us from the Peninsula JCC in Foster City, where he was aquatics coordinator. He is the head coach for the Bishop O'Dowd High School swimming and water polo programs, has an extensive aquatics background, and recently obtained his Approved Pool Operator certification. Our new office manager, Lisa Garcia, has both an office and aquatics background and is certified to lifeguard, so you may be seeing her on the deck as well as in the office. She has years of swim operation experience, including five summer seasons at a private swim club in Walnut Creek. Both Lisa and Joe have been training extensively with Adonis, Siobhan and other staff since they came on board in December. After interviewing many qualified candidates, the board was very pleased to find two such qualified, motivated and congenial new staff members. Please say hello to Joe and Lisa the next time you see them at the pool.

The new hires are particularly important because after eight years of service as Manager, Adonis Boyd will be stepping down at the end of March to pursue his goal of creating an independent pool service company. His tremendous skills in facility maintenance and customer service will be a great asset to him in his new venture, and we all wish him well and thank him for his dedicated service. Watch the PSC website and bulletin boards for further details about a farewell celebration for Adonis.

Securing a new long-term lease is the Board's foremost goal for 2010. You may have seen the position statements we recently requested from all the Council candidates—the four who responded all supported a long-term lease, at least under certain conditions, so we hope the negotiations will be more productive this time. Our hope is to have a new lease in place before this summer and, if approved by the City, to begin selling a limited number of memberships to non-residents, as approved by the membership in the 2009 proxy ballot vote. This will help the Club's finances considerably, as we lost dozens of members this year who did not renew.

Also, you should be aware that in January the Board formally approved the by-law amendment, approved by the members in November, to eliminate the repurchase requirement. What this means is that the Club no longer has any obligation to repurchase memberships from former members who resigned or were expelled for non-payment of dues. Repurchases have already been suspended since March 2008 due to the Club's financial situation, so this measure makes the by-laws consistent with the current lease, which had already eliminated the repurchase requirement from the City's perspective, and strengthens the Club's financial situation significantly.

Finally, our November facility maintenance closure went well, despite some hiccups obtaining out-of-season pool supplies, and the main pool expansion joint has been replaced. To complete the work that's usually done after the rains, we'll need to close for a few Sundays this winter, but there will be no further long-term facility maintenance closure before next winter. Thank you for your patience with this experimental shift, made at the request of the Swim Team to avoid disrupting spring swim meets.

Thank you for your continued support of Piedmont swimming, and see you around the Club!

Tim Rood, Board President