

## Greensboro Association Swim Program Report 2014

After extensive searches, we were unable to secure any instructors and could not hold a program this summer. Our program partnered again with the Orleans Southwest Supervisory Union REACH Program, a summer and afterschool program in Hardwick, to combine resources and offer instructors two weeks of full-day employment. REACH summer programs generally include a swimming lessons component. For many years Hardwick Recreation Department helps fund a portion of busing and staff.

During town meeting in March 2014, Hardwick voters approved REACH's request adding monies to the recreation budget for swim instructor training. (\$200 course fee for each instructor multiplied by the five or six persons needed) The closest course being offered was held in June at the St. Johnsbury Kiwanis pool. Any potential instructor had only to get themselves to the class, and commit to teaching lessons July 7 -19.

We advertised at the area schools, on social media and via posters at the various hubs of the community like post offices and Willey's Store, Our first four candidates backed out due to schedule conflicts. The next five possible instructors could not produce proof successful completion of Level 5 or 6 swimming lessons, or were not yet 16 years old by the time the class began.. Having that "proof of passing" Level 5 certification card is a major prerequisite. This is the equivalent of the 'Swimmer' or 'Junior Lifeguard' levels from the Red Cross' program 20 years ago.

All former instructors for our programs and any lifeguards we had secured for special summer swimming events in the past were also contacted and yet we still came up empty handed.

The plan for summer 2015 has already begun. We are searching out various WSI Certification instructors – the teachers who train the lifeguards and swimming teachers. Tentative arrangements for paying Certification Instructors to train instructors more locally are being made.

\*\*Anyone who has contacts, college age friends, or children that can take the WSI course offered at many colleges, as is often the case, can contact me directly, 533-2384. Reimbursement for the course might be possible with a commitment to teach next summer. With this jump on next year's season we hope a repeat of this summer's shortfall does not occur.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorelei Wheeler, Chair