



Meet Lauren Langford

Aquatics Director, YMCA Anchorage

My first swim lesson took place here at the Anchorage Community YMCA in 1989 and I have been a devoted member of this community ever since. In 2016 I took over as director of the aquatics department. My life has taken me in a lot of directions, but I always come back to the water, and to this pool in particular.



"Nurturing the health of the facility, the success of the programs, and the happiness of the patrons here at this pool where my own swimming journey began is both an honor and a joy." - Lauren L.



ABOUT THE Y:

In 2004, after Alaska Pacific University had an explosive chemical incident at their pool and switched over to salt, Larry followed suit and The YMCA converted to salt with TMI in 2004 with their most recent upgrade in the Summer of 2017.

The feedback and reaction was positive from the start. The initial reaction from the swimmers were how they appreciated the **fresh air smell (no chlorine fumes) and no more burning eyes**. The frequent users reported happily that they **no longer had to buy new swimsuits every month**. Being a "penny pincher" (Larry's words) when it came time to replace his salt cells, he went online to save money. He soon found that while cheaper they came with no support or advice and the cells did not last as long.

He reestablished his relationship with TMI and when it came time to upgrade in 2013, their experience on salt had been so positive that there was no reason to switch away. With this

upgrade, Larry added UV into the equipment mix, along with an upgraded more precise TMI Chemistry Controller. Lauren has found this system to be “operator safe and user friendly” with knowledgeable helpful support from the TMI Tech team.

“I appreciate that when something is not working right, the TMI tech staff attitude is to persist until they get it working the way it should”. After adding UV to the mix, they noticed a ***significant increase in water quality.*** ***“I’m a sensitive barometer for water quality and since our latest investment, it’s made all the difference in keeping the water quality up.”***



What would you tell another facility who was considering the switch but worried about corrosion?

Larry - “ We have been using the same air handling system since the pool opened in 1978 and in the days **before we switched over to salt, we saw more deterioration in the air handling system (rust) than we have seen since switching over.** Once we made repairs to that original system and removed all the damage, we are now seeing very little deterioration. I had the same concern, but I did my research and you just need to educate yourself and not believe the chlorine sales guy”

What advice would you give another YMCA Executive considering the switch?

Larry – “Consider safety first, then cost. Don’t go into this thinking it’s going to show large savings because you’re likely going to wind up spending about the same as you did on chlorine. You might spend the same, but **you will have a whole lot more consistency in water and air quality** . Instead of spending your money on chemicals you’ll be spending it on maintenance. In the long run, you may save a little!”