

President's Report for AGM, November 17, 2007

NYW's fiscal year ended August 31, 2007 and Caps 25 years of supporting Youth Soccer and our Members. This is a huge accomplishment for all as the game has grown considerably in our state. We have grown from a small start up state association to one with respect and value among all the state associations. Thank you to all of the past volunteers who have made our state a leader among Region 1 and US Youth Soccer.

As a board we continue to strive for efficiency, simplicity, and supporting our members. We will continue to guide NYW State Association decisions with an emphasis on "Kids First". We are committed to being a financially sound and sustainable organization that delivers high quality services, with the utmost integrity for the benefit of all kids.

I am privileged to have had the opportunity to lead NYW over the last year. I had big shoes to fill as I replaced the second year of Sandy Ostebo's Presidential term. Sandy did a terrific job in his tenure, and I value his leadership.

NYW had a good year managing to garner a surplus and expand coaching staff. While our revenues were up marginally, NYW really benefited from continued expense management. Thank you to Brian Lang, our Treasurer, the Board, and our staff for diligently managing our resources. In Tim Mellander's Registrar report you will see that our registrations were up for the year. Thank you!! Another proud moment for us was the nomination and selection of Tim Mellander to Chair US Youth Soccer's Registrar Committee. Please join us in congratulating Tim as he assumes his new role to serve not only the children of New York West, but of the entire US Youth Soccer community.

From a NYW calendar perspective this is a very busy time for us. We are ramping up for the 2007-2008 player registrations, hosting ODP tryouts across the state, are promoting and conducting coach's education programs, and building platforms for more player development opportunities. Simultaneously we finalized our proposed budget for the year ahead. The emphasis continues to be on expense containment, identifying revenue opportunities, and new programming. Each area is a significant task in and of itself.

We do face challenges in our business objectives. As a volunteer Board, we are stretched thin. Our District Commissioners, our Registrar, and the Executive Committee are all working extremely hard to support your efforts. I would argue that most, if not all, are operating at full magnitude. Our State Office staff is working diligently and yet we continue to demand more.

We have enormous tasks and responsibilities and are operating at or near capacity. The solution is we need more volunteers to help us help you. If you have interest in volunteering in the areas of; public relations, State Cup, TOPSoccer, sponsorship development, grant writing, legal and compliance, policy committee, marketing, and/or

data base management, then please email our state office manager Dan Watson with your interest. Dan can be emailed at danwatsonnyw@stny.rr.com

Last year the board made a commitment to focus on “growth”. We have made a commitment to build on our strengths and to make overall improvements for youth soccer.

From a growth perspective, NYW added 4 Associate Director of Coaches (ADOC) to our coaching staff; Chris Hershey (Buffalo/Rochester), Mark Spacone (Buffalo/Southern Tier), Jim Hewlett (Rochester/Syracuse), and Maureen Dracup (Binghamton/Syracuse/Twin Tiers). These coaches work with our state director of coaching Glen Buckley. The objective is to provide the membership the opportunity to expand the coaching curriculum and courses in each district. Further, the ADOC’s are seeking to build relationships, enhance availability, and provide a resource to enhance player development and to further develop our TOPSoccer Program (The Outreach Program for children with all types of disabilities). Initial feedback is positive and we look forward to building the member benefits.

Speaking of TOPSoccer, we enjoyed a tremendous year of success adding several new and exciting programs under the leadership of Teresa Doermer.

This year saw new programs in Lockport, Rochester, and Ithaca. Rob & Linda Dizenzo initiated our new Rochester Jamboree and outdoor programs. Erin Minderler is leading the Niagara Area/Lockport TOPSoccer Program. Erin hosted the first Lockport Kenan Center spring Jamboree and started a summer soccer program as well. Maureen Dracup and Jill Cowan helped Ithaca kick off its first TOPSoccer Jamboree in September.

Binghamton continues to host their TOPSoccer program with great success led by Dennis Chavez. Long standing volunteer John Kane continues to lead the TOPSoccer program in Oswego. And last but not least, Scot Boniface continues to lead the Buffalo TOPSoccer program that now has over 60 participants.

Another first was held on May 26th, as the Buffalo program held their inaugural tournament TOPSoccer jamboree as part of the Amherst Soccer Club “AIM” tournament!!

NYW thanks and appreciates the financial and volunteer support of the Penfield Rangers Soccer Club. This year they hosted their annual tournament and graciously donated \$5,000 to the Rochester TOPSoccer program.

While we are enjoying this TOPSoccer growth we feel like we are only scratching the surface in helping all kids enjoy the game. We have committed ourselves to strive to expand the playing opportunities throughout the districts. Look for more exciting

expansion plans and opportunities. Thank you again to everyone who makes the TOPSoccer programs such a success for the children.

The 2007 US Youth National Championship Series, the country's most prestigious National Youth Soccer Tournament (also known as State Cup) was very successful. The US Youth Soccer National Championships cap a year long series of competitions for Boys & Girls teams in multiple age brackets as teams earn their way from the top teams in their state to the Regional Championship tournament, and ultimately to the National Championships.

This year's events were led by volunteer, Dave Stephan of Clarence and NYW First Vice President, Rich Wagner. Dave, along with Rich, Tim Mellander, and Dan Watson helped plan and deliver another exciting State Championship. When one event ends, the planning for next year's State Championship begins. The Committee has moved the event to SUNY Cortland and this will continue to be a three day tournament on June 6, 7 and 8, of 2008. More details will be coming and posted on the NYW website:

www.nyswysa.org

Looking back on the year, we enjoyed many successes. In the National Championship Series, our u12 Boys State Champions, The Rochester Jr Rhino's, and our u12 Girls State Champions, Syracuse Futbol Club, went on to win the Regional Championships in Portland Maine. The u13 Boys Buffalo United Elite Team was the winner of the US Youth Soccer Fair Play award for their age group. These accomplishments are a proud moment for us all!!

The Olympic Development Program, ODP, continues to make strides as the NYW program had a number of players joining the Regional Pool; and a few making the national pool! A number of these players have traveled abroad to represent the United States, Region 1, and NYW. This year our players have traveled to Italy, France, England, Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Holland, and the Ukraine. Thank you and Congratulations to all the dedicated ODP coaches, the parents, and the kids. NYW is proud of all your accomplishments.

Other items to note:

- (1) NYW is pleased to announce that we have extended our Score Contract. Score has been a terrific corporate partner with NYW. Not only do they deliver quality products, but they provide industry advice and consulting that helps us lead our fellow state associations. We are proud and grateful to extend our relationship and make them our exclusive apparel provider.
- (2) NYW extended their marketing and communication contract with Varsity and look forward to another 2 years partnering for soccer initiatives.

- (3) NYW extended State Director of Coaching Glen Buckley's contract for another five years. We are all reinvigorated and looking forward to new developments.
- (4) NYW extended our Insurance Contract with Pullen Insurance. Besides the traditional liability and medical coverage Pullen has introduced a new Club Property Insurance product. Clubs can now insure uniforms, balls, supplies, etc. A special policy rider can be added to include buildings the members own. This is unique, and we are proud to have this coverage offering available for you.
- (5) Directors and Officer Liability Coverage – Jenny Cole from the NYW office is diligently trying to reach each club for updated volunteer information. A letter has been sent requesting information. To provide you coverage we must have an accurate listing of officers in case of a Directors & Officers Liability suit. If you are not sure if your records are accurate please contact Jenny directly at (607) 962-9923 or email her at the NYW office: jennycolenyw@stny.rr.com
- (6) NYW Board and Staff Completed an performance management initiative led by Ralph Jeswald of Dopkins & Company. This initiative was to review our business practices and look for ways we could improve our services as well as enhance our state staff's productivity. We are embarking on integrating those recommendations now.
- (7) Reviewed Tournament Sanction Policy regarding small sided play for u12 age group. After meeting with Tournament Leaders and soliciting email feedback NYW decided to promote the choice for tournaments to host both small sided and regulation size games for u12 players. No changes were made to the tournament sanction process.
- (8) Small Sided Goal Grant Program Proposal for Member Vote.
Administratively, we had another very good year. We managed your resources wisely and managed to end the year with an approximate \$32,000 surplus. During our annual planning retreat the board discussed how we can reinvest these funds into member benefits. From this meeting an ad hoc committee of Buffalo District Commissioner Michael Russ, Binghamton District Commissioner Kevin Arnold, and Syracuse District Commissioner Greg Firenze worked on proposals for the board to consider. Their grant proposal was mailed to all Board Presidents on October 17, 2007 for their review.
- (9) The board approved the training and development of "TOPSoccer" coaches. Scott Boniface, Glen Buckley, and Chris Hershey are prepared to assist any club in preparing coaches to help children with disabilities enjoy the game of soccer.

(10) NYW approved new financial processes for even better reporting and resource management. Our treasurer Brian Lang has spearheaded new board adopted financial policies and procedures, updated personnel policies, and corporate card expense policies.

(11) A NYW Bylaw Amendment created a new volunteer position; Vice Chair, to help with adjudication and be able to fill in when the Chair is not available. We are fortunate to have Dennis Tobolski from the Southern Tier volunteering as Vice Chair of Adjudication.

NYW continues to face some challenges. It has been brought to our attention that matches are being played with non-registered referees. Allegedly some members are not complying with this policy of the US Soccer's compliance regulations (USSF 531.8), and we must all work together to reach compliance. Curt Hamlin, the State Referee Administrator and Bill Campbell, the Youth State Referee Administrator, are working diligently with us to help create more certification opportunities for referees. They will continue to offer referee certification clinics in your area. Please refer to the Western New York Referee Association website for details on certification clinics. Their web address is: <http://www.wnyreferee.org>.

Additionally with the rapid growth of games is the need for more referees. If you or someone you know would like to become a referee, please visit <http://www.wnyreferee.org>. The Western New York Referee Association is always looking for more candidates.

NYW also wants to publicly thank our corporate sponsors: The Rochester Raging Rhinos, Score "The Official Equipment and Apparel Supplier of New York State West", Pullen Insurance, and Demosphere. These companies go above and beyond the call of duty and work hard to support us and our members. We appreciate their support and commitment to NYW and our member clubs.

NYW welcomes your input, your support, and your volunteer efforts. We will continue to promote leadership, integrity, fair play and sportsmanship for all. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully Submitted,

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