



## WWPSA Annual Report

### 2006 WWPSA Quick Facts

Program participation	
Adult Competitive League	40
Adult Fall Recreational Soccer	91
Adult Spring Recreational Soccer	96
Camp – Recreational Soccer	78
Camp – Travel Soccer	48
Coaching F License Course	37
Youth Fall Recreational Soccer	1,654
Youth Spring Recreational Soccer	483
Youth Travel Soccer	510
	3,037

WWPSA primarily serves West Windsor and Plainsboro, New Jersey, but also claims program participants in nearby Princeton, Cranbury, East Windsor, Lawrenceville, Hamilton, Robbinsville and 35 other townships in New Jersey.

### Chairman's Report (Chairman – Justin D. Stein)

2006 brought significant change to WWPSA, with leadership changes, program changes, technology changes and even logo changes! All in all, it was extremely exciting and gratifying to take part in shaping the future of the WWPSA.

- We welcomed over 200 teams to our Sunburst 2006 Soccer Tournament. Even though the 1<sup>st</sup> day was rained out, we saw tougher competition than in years past and received glowing feedback on our efforts to save the 2<sup>nd</sup> day.
- We introduced week-long summer soccer camps for our Rec and Travel players and hope to expand this program in '07.
- We transitioned to a new website, registration system, tournament / league management system, KidSafe system, donation system and volunteer system that are integrated together for better information management. Our new logo reflects the strength and fun that is the WWPSA.
- We leveraged our new registration system to coordinate Travel Tryout registrations and noticed significant efficiency gains during the tryouts and when recording the results.
- The registration system was also instrumental in assigning our record number of Fall Rec players to teams and distributing the team assignments to coaches.
- We continued our efforts to leverage available technology by partnering with a service to improve the quality and timeliness of background checks on our volunteers.
- We began marketing new WWPSA merchandise and distributed car magnets to all households at Photo Day to show our pride in our community.
- We executed components of our Facilities Plan by repairing WW Community Park Fields # 1 and # 2 and the South Post Road field at Conover Park. We also began using Zaitz SS # 3 as a game-only field with strong success.
- We entered into an agreement with a professional fundraising organization to begin a campaign to fund planned facilities projects, including development at Duck Pond Park.
- We realized record donations and Fall Rec sponsorships.
- We launched initiatives to improve the skills of our youngest Recreational youth players by developing age-appropriate coaching curricula and training the coaches in their use, and launching a highly-successful Big Brother / Big Sister program with the West Windsor Plainsboro High School varsity soccer teams.
- We updated the WWPSA Constitution and By-Laws to more accurately reflect the current and future needs of the Association.



As you can see, we on the Board has been working extremely hard to improve not only the quality of the programs available, but also the facilities on which they depend, as well as the future of the Association as a whole. It is that commitment that brings clearly into focus our dependence on our volunteers to run one of the largest soccer associations in New Jersey and on our need to decrease the workload on our association's leadership. We ask you to take a turn and contribute your time to help wherever needed; there are so many areas that need assistance, we have opportunities that can suit everyone, so please sign up to volunteer for a Deputy Director position, a League Manager position, the Travel Executive committee or other open positions. You can make **all** the difference!

Our continued partnership with the Township of West Windsor, the Township of Plainsboro, the West Windsor Plainsboro Board of Education and the Sarnoff Corporation, warrants our sincere and thunderous gratitude for their efforts at providing WWPSA with fields suitable for our needs. Thanks so much for your help!

I've heard over and over that WWPSA is the "best kept secret in the soccer community" in terms of the quality and depth of play among our Travel teams. Our next goal is to cease being shy about congratulating our successes and to promote our Travel teams as they improve so that the entire Association benefits. We already provide soccer at multiple levels of interest, and now we need to push that momentum and feed it so that it raises the quality of our facilities and equipment that we all enjoy. We are **one** Association and we should all rejoice in our successes, no matter which group is recognized. We have Travel teams ranked in the top 10 in New Jersey and we have the enviable opportunity to use that type of success to show all other teams what they may achieve if they commit to that goal. Last year we graduated eight players who went on to play collegiate soccer, and this trend is something we very much wish to see continue.

With your help, we will continue to progress and become the club we know we can be.

### Financial Report (Dir. of Finance – Pat Trombetta)

We collected \$44,600 in facilities fees that are designated specifically to facilities projects. Separate financial statements will be reviewed during the meeting.

### Facilities Report (Dir. of Facilities – Earl Deamond)

Over the past 12 months, there has been considerable activity related to our facilities portfolio. With the vision of improving the quality and maintenance of our fields, a new Facilities Plan was approved in the spring of '06. The Plan acknowledges adequate lighting at our practice fields and quality playing surfaces at game and practice fields as major concerns for coaches, players and parents. Negotiations, planning and implementation of action plans to remedy these issues have been ongoing since the Plan's approval in March, 2006.

In June, work commenced at West Windsor Community Park to renovate Field #1 and create our first game-only showcase field. The field opened for play in September, but work remains ongoing with the installation of team benches, spectator bleachers and signage in the upcoming months. In September, the permanent soccer field at Morris Davidson was closed and reseeded. In November renovations to West Windsor Community Park Field #2 and the Conover lighted field were completed. When these two fields reopen for play in the spring, they will provide quality practice and game surfaces.

In addition, planning is proceeding to (i) improve lighting; (ii) develop a training area with a kicking wall and speed development area; (iii) reseed portions of Plainsboro Community Park fields; and (iv) develop new soccer fields at Duck Pond Park. We anticipate all of these initiatives will commence in 2007.

Less notable activities include: the purchase of new goals; replacement of deteriorating nets; changes to grass cutting that will allow our fields to hold up better against the wear and tear of each season; and our field maintenance activities. All of these items are designed to further improve your soccer experience.

On a less positive note we continue to be challenged by those who do not respect the need to preserve playing surfaces. Once again this year we had instances where vehicles were driven across playing surfaces and fields were used when they were closed. These activities contribute to the deterioration of the fields and require our club to redirect resources. We will continue to work with our partners to resolve these issues.



Finally, thanks to all the volunteers who aided in field set-up, field break-down, facilities improvement projects, etc. Your help was most appreciated!

### **Fundraising Report (Dir. of Fundraising – Marc Herold)**

Efforts are ongoing with Graham Pelton, the fundraising consulting firm who WWPSA has engaged to perform a feasibility study to define a road map to raise the funds required to carry out the goals within the WWPSA Facilities Plan.

### **Rec Report (Dir. of Rec Soccer – Bill Kramer)**

WWPSA's Youth Recreational Soccer programs had a very successful year in 2006 by serving a record number of players in all Rec programs throughout the year.

In order to do all the things necessary to continue delivering a high-quality soccer experience, we need to recruit more volunteers for year-round responsibilities. Please e-mail [rec@wwpsa.org](mailto:rec@wwpsa.org) if you would like to volunteer or want more information about any of the following Recreational soccer positions:

- Volunteer Coordinator
- Field Use Coordinator
- Spring Rec Program Director
- Summer Rec Program Director
- Several League Manager positions will become available
- Head and assistant coaches in the older leagues

### **2006 Rec Soccer Statistics**

<i>Season</i>	<i>Players</i>	<i>Coaches</i>	<i>Teams</i>
Spring	483	n/a	n/a
Summer	78	n/a	n/a
Fall	1,534	368	137

### **Spring Rec Program**

Our Spring Rec program had record numbers in 2006. As this was our first season working with ProActive Sport as our Program's professional training organization, we were very pleased with their performance. In addition, many volunteer coaches worked with the players each week. We provided one night of group training by ProActive Sport to

all registered players, and we once again provided t-shirts to registered players and coaches.

### **Summer Rec Pickup Program**

Our Summer Rec Pickup program was successful by providing space and a few supervising adults, but we purposefully didn't do much actual coaching and gave kids a place to just play. Thanks to Kevin Clancey for running this program.

### **Fall Rec Program**

Despite some challenges, including the weather and difficult field conditions, we had a great fall season. Our Pre-K program was a big success with 120 players, and we continued to treat the Pre-K players just like the "big kids" by including them in picture day and providing full uniforms. We had 1,534 players in Kindergarten through high school that played on 137 teams in 15 leagues. We lost two full weeks to inclement weather and were forced to cancel games in certain leagues in two other weeks due to wet fields after heavy rain. This is consistent with our experience in previous years.

We continue to experience a critical lack of head coach and assistant coach volunteers, particularly in our older leagues. We had to not only turn away girls that would have played in the Senior League but also forced teams to carry roster sizes that far exceeded their needs because we were not able to recruit enough coaches, resulting in a less-than-optimal experience for the children on these teams. Think about that for a second: in this day and age where it is well-publicized that American children don't get enough exercise, which can lead to a variety of medical problems, we had to turn away high school children that wanted to play. We also came frighteningly close to having to do the same thing in several other leagues. With the coaching clinics and curricula that we offer to all coaches, there are plenty of opportunities to give even first-time coaches the guidance they need to feel competent and step forward and volunteer to coach soccer. We also had a small but disturbing number of on-field incidents involving coaches and referees. We urge all players, coaches, and parents to practice good sportsmanship and remember the Set A Good Example ("SAGE") program. Remember: your kids are watching you!

Boys Senior, Girls Senior, and Boys Intermediate had a tournament or playoffs to end the season, with special trophies to the first and second place teams in the Boys and Girls senior leagues. The Boys championship game was played on our premier field at West Windsor Community Park under the lights on November 20<sup>th</sup>, an event that was well-received and



we will consider making a permanent end-of-the-season tradition.

We continued a tradition in Boys Senior and introduced a new tradition in Girls Senior by having a year-ending league-wide party for both Boys and Girls, funded by WWPSA. Everyone had a great time and we anticipate doing it again next year in one form or another.

### **Registration Process**

We moved the registration deadline for the fall season earlier than in previous years. We received several complaints about this, particularly from families that missed the deadline. We expect that the 2007 deadline will again be in June, but we will open registration sooner and better publicize the process and the deadlines sooner. The primary reason for the earlier deadline is that League Managers and other Rec volunteers need to complete an enormous amount of work to create the leagues, balance teams and properly allocate game and practice fields. Given that the two months prior to our Opening Day occurs during the summer when families (including our volunteers) frequently take vacations, having an early deadline helps us get a jump on our Fall Rec tasks.

### **Referees**

Christine Hazen coordinated referees for Rec games in 3rd grade leagues and older in the Fall session. Based on feedback and our own observations of our current referee pool, we need to be able to recruit, train and retain more referees next year to ensure that our referee needs can be met going forward. Plans include hosting a referee training course in 2007.

### **Special Thanks**

Many thanks need to be made to everyone throughout WWPSA for their efforts on behalf of the Rec soccer program. In particular, special thanks to Justin Stein, Earl Deamond, Howard Rabin, Larry White, Christine Hazen, Ken Matthews, Pat Trombetta, Steve Per and Robin Dean for their efforts. Thanks also to all of our coaches, who are too numerous to name, and this year's League Managers, without whom we would be unable to provide our programs: Michele Gronich, Liviu Chirac, Afzaal Akhtar, Brent Nielsen, Mathew Martin, Jeffrey Bloom, Scott Kline, Laura Poyd, Suresh Penu, Sal Sabatino, Marc Herold, Jerry

McSpirtt, Mike Baxter, Steve Per and Hector Miranda.

### **Financial Assistance**

WWPSA wants to provide access to our programs to any players in West Windsor or Plainsboro, even if their families don't have the resources to allow them to play. This year we provided financial assistance for a small number of families and instituted a form for families to document their request. The forms and information regarding the assistance provided remain strictly confidential to protect the privacy of those who applied.

### **Travel Report (Dir. of Travel Soccer – Howard Shemitz)**

Once again, the Travel Program has enjoyed another successful year as it continues to expand its number of participants and opportunities for player development. WWPSA's Board of Directors, Travel Executive, volunteer coaches, professional coaches and trainers, parents and players continue to help the Program evolve and work towards the association's objective "to serve the needs of soccer players wishing to participate in a more competitive environment by providing an appropriate level of competition and training to keep players developing and interested in the game of soccer".

With thirty-seven travel teams for the fall 2006 season, we are recognized as having one of the largest organized travel soccer programs in New Jersey. In addition, our parents continue to organize and run the annual Sunburst tournament, which is one of the largest travel tournaments in Central New Jersey.

Our Travel Program provides opportunities for those who desire to develop advanced skill and learn tactical play in a competitive practice and game atmosphere. Our teams represent WWPSA in competitive soccer leagues at the premier and club levels within New Jersey. In addition, this past year our teams have represented WWPSA in over forty tournaments played in eight different states throughout the Eastern United States. Finally, our graduating team from the Spring 2006 season included eight players who are now alumni playing soccer in college. Whether addressing the U-08 novice who is new to competitive soccer or the high school-aged player playing in front of a college scout, our focus continues to be on maintaining an ongoing balance within our Program. This is a constant challenge as we cannot overlook the varied needs of players interested in playing competitive soccer in WWPSA.



## Adult Report (Dir. of Adult Soccer – David Boate)

The Adult soccer program continues to grow. During 2006, the number of registered adult players increased by approximately 20 players over 2005. Three adult programs were offered during 2006: Adult Recreation League, Adult Competitive program, and Summer Pick-Up program. Currently, there are 131 adult registrations.

Adult player volunteers were active in setting up and taking down fields at Sarnoff and Zaitz Park during the spring and fall seasons.

### Adult Recreational League

The Adult Recreational League is a co-ed soccer league that offers players 18 and over of all levels the opportunity to play soccer on Saturday afternoons. It is a friendly league where scores are kept but standings are not recorded. Fall season registrations consisted of approximately 80% male and 20% female. The average age is approximately 34 years old; the oldest player is 51. The league does not use referees; good sportsmanship is promoted through a player call forum. This type of league is unique to the Central New Jersey area.

Adult Recreational League programs were offered in both the spring and fall. The fall season has 91 registered players on six teams; a similar number registered for the spring season.

Spring season games were held at Sarnoff Corporation fields. Fall season games were held at Zaitz Park fields. One small-sided field for every two teams is needed on Saturday afternoons at the same location. Thus, three small sided fields were used for both seasons at Sarnoff in the spring and Zaitz Park in the fall. During few occasions, teams were consolidated and games were played on two fields.

The cost of the program was \$40 in the spring and \$50 in the fall. The cost mainly covers the cost that the Association pays for insurance plus a facilities fee that is paid by all WWPSA players. Eleven games are scheduled and usually two to three are canceled due to bad weather or poor field conditions. This fall, two games were canceled and will not be made up.

It has been suggested and consideration is being given to providing uniforms to

registered players and also using referees at games. Implementation of either will likely raise fees, which are currently less than \$5 per scheduled game.

### Adult Competitive Program

The Adult Competitive Program is essentially the Association's travel program for adults. Two teams play in the Mercer County Amateur Masters Soccer League, [www.mercermensoccer.net](http://www.mercermensoccer.net). Currently, 40 adults are registered to play on either the Wasps or Cosmos. Games are played at Mercer County Park on Sunday mornings.

The Wasps are in their third season and have been in either first or second place throughout the season. This season a new team, the Cosmos, was established and is feeling the losses that a new team in a competitive league tends to experience. The Cosmos, however, continue to improve play each week. The last game before the winter break was a WWPSA Derby where the Cosmos tied the Wasps nil-nil.

Player fees were increased this year to cover all costs incurred by the club, the largest being insurance, which costs more for adults than youth players. The cost of \$100 per player is for an annual season of 19 scheduled games in both the fall and spring. This cost is more than players on other MCAMSL teams pay; however, WWPSA's teams are able to practice at least once a week on a lit WWPSA field. Uniforms are also included in the cost.

Special thanks to Mike Donnelly who coordinated the MCAMSL teams and managed the Wasps! Ben Letson helped Mike as Wasps Co-Manager and has done an awesome job as player-coach. George Stavrakis has done an excellent job assembling and managing the Cosmos—it is not an easy job building a new team.

### Summer Pick-Up Games

Adult Summer pick-up games were offered on Thursday and Saturday evenings this past summer. Thursday evening adult pick-up games were held at Sarnoff at the same time as the Youth Pick-Up program, giving parents the opportunity to play at the same time as their children. Adult-only pick-up games were played on Saturday evenings at Sarnoff.

The Adult Summer Pick-Up program was a huge success with a full turnout during all scheduled pick-up games.



## Soccer Development Report

(Dir. of Soccer Development – Robin Dean)

### **New: Recreational Training Partner:**

Following a comprehensive bidding process, WWPSA selected ProActive Sport as our Training Partner for the Youth Recreational Soccer Program. Led by Director Nick Harrison, ProActive Sport has provided professional training for several programs including Pre-K, Spring Rec, "Sun, Fun & Soccer" and Fall Rec midweek group training. The agreement with ProActive has been renewed for 2007.

**New: Coaching Curriculum:** ProActive Sport developed a complete training curriculum for our Rec Soccer program. A series of age-specific Coaching Manuals were produced (K-1st Grade; 2nd-3rd; 4th-5th; and 6th-7th) featuring coaching tips, advice on how to plan coaching sessions, a sample 10-week curriculum, pointers on how to deliver a session and a Games Manual with illustrated coaching games and activities. For the first time, WWPSA provided a complete resource for planning training sessions and a guideline on our expectations for team training to our volunteer coaches.

**Spring Recreational Program:** Building on the success of recent years, this program was enhanced with the direct involvement of professional trainers from ProActive at the Saturday sessions in addition to the midweek evening group training sessions.

**Spring & Fall Pre-K Program:** Continuing our emphasis on the early development of a love for soccer and the delivery of technically sound programs, our pre-K soccer programs have flourished.

**New: Summer Programs:** For the first time, WWPSA sponsored two one-week summer recreational programs. The primary goal of these camps was to provide a fun environment, soccer activities and other related recreational activities for K-12th grade players and to promote and develop an ongoing interest in soccer. A third week of training was organized specifically for our Travel players to help them begin to prepare for the fall season.

**Summer Coach Clinics:** WWPSA / ProActive hosted three evening clinics for Recreational coaches in early September prior to the beginning of the Fall Recreational Season. Clinics covered the basic elements of

technical training for youth players, the structure and progression of practice plans and the basic principles of coaching.

**Fall Recreational Program:** As in past years, we continued to offer two evenings of midweek group training for our recreational players.

**Coaching License Courses:** WWPSA hosted three Coaching Schools offering the "F", "E" and "D" licenses. The F-License (August) was attended by 52 coaches who completed a 9-hour course including classroom and field sessions. The E-License (March/April), an 18-hour course and a D-License (August) were also well attended.

**New: Big Brother/ Big Sister:** For the first time, WWPSA invited varsity soccer players from High School North and High School South to volunteer as Big Brothers and Big Sisters in our Fall Rec program. A total of 52 boys and girls were assigned to Kindergarten and 1st Grade teams to assist our volunteer coaches. In particular, this program provided our young girls with female soccer role models. Our thanks go to the Varsity Coaches at North and South for their cooperation and support in this initiative.

**Tactical & Positional Training:** The Travel program organized specialized training sessions in both spring and fall offering high-quality training for the key positions: Goalkeeper, Defender, Midfielder & Striker.

### **KidSafe Report (Dir. of Youth Protection – Andre Maglione)**

For the first time, WWPSA decided to pursue a database-based background check process for its volunteers and paid trainers, rather than one based on fingerprints. We partnered with the National Center for Safety Initiatives, a youth-safety-focused organization and requested background checks on 359 individuals involved in WWPSA, including volunteer coaches, paid trainers, administrators and Board members. We received the responses in an average of 8 business days, as opposed to 7 weeks last year, and were able to leverage our KidSafe online system to effectively track the responses as they came available.

As a result, we were able to confidently obtain results that met predefined search criteria faster than ever before and provide us with relevant information either before the season began or shortly after it started, rather than after the season concluded. We are very pleased with the results and will continue with the program for next year with new volunteers, paid trainers and administrators.



## Merchandise Report (Dir. of Merchandise – Steve Per)

This year we purchased new merchandise that features the new WWPSA logo. This included 2,500 shield-shaped magnets, 144 logo T-shirts and 36 logo golf umbrellas. Cost to purchase these items was \$3,346. We tried to order fleece blankets with embroidered logos but the vendor was unable to fulfill the original order in a timely manner. We welcome your suggestions for future purchases that would benefit our players and families; please send your great ideas to [merchandise@wwpsa.org](mailto:merchandise@wwpsa.org).

Orders that were filled this year from web-based purchases and a very successful merchandise sale at the annual Picture Day in October netted \$2,269. In addition to the newly-purchased merchandise, proceeds were also derived from sales of merchandise we had in stock from previous years: sweatpants, hoodie sweatshirts, blankets, socks and T-shirts. Many bargain seekers took advantage of our sale and found soccer shirts for and soccer socks for a couple of bucks! We also offered bagels for sale and many players were grateful to grab a quick bite while they were waiting for their team photographs to be taken.

We were very happy to distribute complimentary magnets with our new logo to over 1,000 WWPSA families who showed up on Picture Day. It's a great feeling to drive around West Windsor and Plainsboro and see so many vehicles proudly displaying our WWPSA magnet. An inventory count of merchandise will be completed before the end of the year, and we hope to be able to have the new merchandise available for ordering on our website for the convenience of our WWPSA families.

Finally, thanks so much to the many parents who volunteered with merchandise sales and setup on Picture Day — you were wonderful, helpful, and good spirited; we could not have been so successful without your kind help!

## Equipment Report (Dir. of Equipment – Larry White)

All of our Recreational soccer uniforms were purchased from SCORE American Soccer. We changed jersey styles this year as last year's style was discontinued, which enabled us to receive a better price. The new jerseys are now made of a lighter fabric and we were able to have our new logo included in time for this year's order. Most of our teams received the new jerseys, but several teams were able to use our remaining old-style jerseys. Next year all teams will receive the uniform chosen for the '07 season with the new logo. We also provided uniforms to the Pre-K league for the first time.

SCORE provided us with equipment bags, disks, goalie gloves, whistles, lanyards and hand pumps free of charge with our order. We also received a discounted price on size-3 soccer balls. We continue to provide in most equipment bags: three soccer balls, cones, disks, goalie gloves, goalie jersey, pinnies, clipboard, hand pump, whistle, ACE bandages, first aid kits and ice packs. Two corner flags are also given to each team, 3rd grade and above.

Sports Junction continues to letter all of our sponsorship jerseys. They also provided the 512 player T-shirts and 90 coach T-shirts for our Spring Recreational Soccer program. Equipment bags were also prepared for Spring Rec. Complete uniforms were supplied to the Adult Recreational and Travel Soccer Programs and equipment bags were made up for the new travel teams. We distributed 1,609 uniforms and 402 coaches' jerseys to 137 Fall Rec teams this past year, in addition to 125 uniforms to the Pre-K league

We moved out of our storage facility, the Soccer House at WWCP, at the end of September, due to its condemned status. We will be storing our equipment elsewhere next year and are working with WWT to identify a suitable location. Volunteers helped to assemble and distribute equipment bags in August and to move out all remaining items from the Soccer House; thanks so much for your help! Old T-shirts, shorts, and socks were sold at the merchandise sales on team photo day to help continue to reduce our older stock.

We also purchased a number of items for facilities, including: new goals, bleachers and team benches for our new field at WWCP; four new sharpshooter goals; 60 sharpshooter nets; 6 full-size nets; 12 saddle anchor bags; 3 sets of anchor pegs; and 64 corner flags.



### **Sunburst Report (Sunburst Director – Paul Hase)**

Even though Saturday had to be cancelled because of heavy rains during the previous several days, we had a great Sunday. The full Sunday schedule was played and trophies were awarded based on those games.

Approximately 190 games were played on 23 fields (15 FS and 8 SS) located in Mercer County Park, West Windsor and Plainsboro. Games from several unplayable fields in MCP had to be moved to WWPSA fields because of lingering standing water.

In total, 205 teams registered: 72 U08–U10 and 133 U11–U16. With 11 U08 – U10 and 21 U11 - U16 WWPSA teams, we had 61 and 112 teams respectively from other clubs. Teams came from Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and, of course, New Jersey. Of the 25 U11-U16 age/gender flights, WWPSA teams finished 1st in five and 2nd in three.

Sunburst 2007 is scheduled for June 2 and 3, 2007. The tournament will once again be held in Mercer County Park. The tournament committee has already begun organizational efforts for another successful event.

### **Photo Day Report (Photo Day Coordinator – Cindy Alvarez)**

WWPSA celebrated an unqualified successful event on Saturday, October 14, 2006 as over 2,200 kids from nearly 200 teams descended on the Millstone River School for our annual Photo Day. Parents were greeted by our dedicated volunteers offering bagels, colorful merchandise with the new WWPSA logo and free car magnets available to each household.

Setup began incredibly early as our sea of volunteers banded together to get everything ready, from traffic cones to merchandise tables to signs directing coaches where to go. We want to extend a special thanks to Cindy Alvarez, our new Photo Day Coordinator, as well as Steve Per, our Director of Merchandise, who pulled it all together and presented an extremely well-organized, well-run event. We also want to thank our parent volunteers who not only fulfilled their volunteer obligation for the year, but who also went above and beyond in helping everyone find what they needed and distribute over 1,000 car magnets to our households!

We once again included our Pre-K players in Photo Day, which posed a special challenge for our volunteers for a couple of reasons: 1) Pre-K groups are much larger than our organized teams, with over 45 players in some sessions; and 2) have you ever tried to coordinate 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds to take a picture?! Everyone did a great job, particularly our friends at All Sport Photo of Trenton who again worked with us hand-in-hand to handle contingencies, keep things moving and put on a great event.

### **IT Report (Webmaster / Registrar – Brent Nielsen)**

In 2006 WWPSA entered into a new arrangement with Demosphere International, Inc. ("DII") to provide the association with a hosted website, registration, league, tournament, and KidSafe management, Team and Player Profile administration, merchant services, and financial systems. This change in technology leveraged by the WWPSA was a step forward in managing the affairs of the association and required some growing pains along the way as we adjusted each all-new system to more closely meet our needs.

We now have over 1,700 households using our registration system and are better able to distribute information targeted specifically to those who should receive it. We have worked closely with DII to improve and customize their systems for our purposes and we feel confident that DII will continue to work closely with us to address our needs going forward.

While the investment in DII wasn't trivial, we have already received record donations and other fees that more than covered the cost. We also have received feedback from those within and outside of WWPSA at the dramatic improvement in the image of our association by upgrading our online presence to DII, a well-respected service provider to the soccer community. We hope to continue to emphasize this image improvement as we move forward with our 2007 initiatives and beyond.

We also began leveraging SurveyMonkey to provide us with online survey management tools to better manage our volunteer scheduling, referee reporting, and payment and Parent Feedback Survey needs. We have received very positive feedback on the ease of the use of this tool and we expect to continue to use it wherever appropriate.

Lastly, we acquired a toll-free number that automatically routes calls to the appropriate recipient via text messaging and e-mails.

We believe that our growing pains in updating our IT infrastructure over the past year are largely behind us and we look forward to improved IT stability in



2007. We expect that our IT application service providers and vendors will continue to work closely with us and to improve their applications as needed so that we can better streamline our interactions with you.

### **Sponsorship Report (Dir. of Sponsorship – Vacant)**

WWPSA Recreational Soccer recognized a record number of sponsored teams this year, primarily to the addition of agreements with Ashley Furniture Homestore, who sponsored 30 teams, and Access Self Storage, who sponsored 5 teams. Both organizations are interested in increasing their sponsorship commitment to WWPSA in the future.

In total, 53 Rec teams were sponsored by 19 sponsors. While the total number of sponsors decreased, the total number of teams sponsored increased. We hope to improve our sponsorship participation next year through the nomination of a Sponsorship Coordinator who can be dedicated solely to this position, an arrangement that was lacking this year due to a lack of volunteers.

### **Scholarship Report (Bill Kramer)**

WWPSA once again awarded scholarships to former WWPSA players heading off to college. Congratulations once again to the recipients of \$500 scholarships this past spring: Johanna Cohen, Lauren Lentine, Kristine Shemming and Kelly McLaughlin. Forms for the 2007 WWPSA Scholarships will be available on our website sometime after the beginning of the year.

### **Preliminary Rec Soccer Parent Survey Results**

Based on 258 responses as of Monday, November 27, 2006, here are some highlights from the survey:

- 85% of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that their children’s soccer skills improved
- 95% of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that their child enjoyed playing soccer this season
- 92% of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that they expect to register their child to play soccer next season
- 90% of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed”

that length of the fall Rec season was about right

- 83% of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that the new WWPSA website was easy to use to find relevant information
- 89% of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that the new WWPSA registration system was easy to use and convenient
- 78% of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that the new WWPSA logo and website banner effectively represent the association and its goals
- 71% of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that they feel that the WWPSA Board of Directors is addressing the right priorities for our organization
- 78% of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that they feel that WWPSA registration fees are set appropriately based on the quality and number of programs and activities offered

On a scale of 1 to 9, with 1 representing the most important and 9 representing the least important, parents provided the following average responses for what they would like to see next year:

- Improved training for players: 2.48
- Improved fields and facilities: 2.60
- Improved training for coaches: 2.75
- Improve the quality of lighting at fields: 3.16
- Improved training for referees: 3.23
- Improved training for referees: 3.30
- Increased number of fields with permanent lighting: 3.50

We will share more results with you once we have collected more responses. Thanks to those of you who responded and shared your comments with us; the Board of Directors will review them all and take appropriate action, where appropriate.