

Executive Director's Report 2017 Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

Office Staff

I, Amanda Probe, Executive Director, have now been with the organization for just over 11 years. Erin Fehr, Operations Coordinator has been with us now for 14 ½ years and continues to bring efficiencies and tremendous value to our operations. We are into our second year of having two Program Coordinators, one to focus on mini programming initiatives for Under-9 and younger and another to focus on youth programming initiatives for Under-11 and older. Both of our program coordinator positions experienced turnover this year with Steven Schmidt, our former Youth Program Coordinator, leaving to pursue an entrepreneur opportunity in April 2017 and Eden Rakochy, our former Mini Program Coordinator, leaving to pursue a career with the Saskatchewan Soccer Association in August 2017. We since filled the Youth Program Coordinator position in April 2017 with Aaron Wright and the Mini Program Coordinator position in September 2017 with Nicole (Nikki) Poncelet. Nikki has since decided to leave SYSI and pursue other employment options in October 2017. The creation of the additional program coordinator position has increased our staff capacity to be able to offer new programs to the community as well as work more closely with our member Zones and Community Associations. The re-hiring of the Mini Program Coordinator position is currently being re-evaluated to determine whether an additional program coordinator versus an administrator support staff would be better suited in the current staff structure.

Program Coordination Committee

The SYSI Program Coordination Committee (PCC) deals with programming and technical items and is composed of 20 members with 3 members appointed by each zone and 5 mini representatives appointed by SYSI. Over this past year the PCC alongside with the SYS Program Coordinators have continued to improve various aspects of our game. Since last year's annual general meeting, the PCC's role was expanded by having the Player Coach Development Committee merge into the PCC to further involve technical experts from the zones, increase community mini representation, and involve all program related discussions at all age groups including technical aspects of the game and player and coach development. These initiatives were intended to bring efficiencies to the valuable committee work done by our member volunteers as the two committees working as one joint committee will be able to have more thorough discussions and move forward on items at a more efficient pace rather than having items circulating back and forth between committees.

Program Coordination Committee Members:

Zone 1:SUSC Delegates:Huw Morris/ Paul Shipman / Michelle GartnerCommunity Rep: Melanie LitvenchenkoZone 2:Hollandia Delegates:Mark Lord / Percy Hoff / Darcy OverlandCommunity Rep: VACANTZone 3:Aurora Delegates:Daniel Cote / Sean Riggs / Mark ShrammCommunity Rep: Vijay TumberZone 4:Lakewood Delegates:Dan Weber/ Lewis Oteruelo / Amanda TaylorCommunity Rep: Jason EvansZone 5:Eastside Delegates:Mike Gramiak / Dave Diebrt / Craig BlechingerCommunity Rep: Alena Sheerwood

Mini Development Programs

The Mini Development and Community Head Coach Programs continued to progress.

Effective January 2013, SYSI began a grant application process in which Zones and other non-profit organizations could apply to support mini soccer player development programs. SYSI commends all Zones and organizations that have taken part in this funding program and offered development programs to mini players within and around their Zone. In addition to mini development program funding, Zones may also apply to take part in the Community Head Coach Program where SYSI will supply an honorarium of \$500 per season to help off-set the costs of hiring a Community Head Coach who is to work with and mentor mini coaches within their Zone and Community Associations which fall within their zone boundaries. Outdoor 2017 experienced a decrease in the amount of funding dispersed to zones due to insufficient submission of expense receipts to show a loss of income in the program. SYSI does not provide funding to a zone program where there is a surplus noted in their follow-up report.

The following is a list of funding granted by SYSI to organizations over the last fiscal year.

Mini Development Programs - \$10,000 per Zone per year (indoor/outdoor combined)

Zone	Grant	Season	Program Title	Age	Gen	Weeks	Participation
Aurora	\$ 5,184.43	Indoor 2016-17	U8 & U10 Development Program	U8-U10	m/f	19	63 players & 11 coaches
Aurora	surplus	Outdoor 2017	U8 & U10 Development Program	U8-U10	m/f	9	98 players & 16 coaches
Eastside	\$ 3,853.71	Indoor 2016-17	Player Development Program	U6-U10	m/f	26	105 players & 21 coaches
Eastside	surplus	Outdoor 2017	Mini Soccer Program	U6-U10	m/f	11	198 players & 27 coaches
Hollandia	\$ 4,800.01	Indoor 2016-17	Soccer Saturday	U6-U10	m/f	15	143 players & 17 coaches
Hollandia	\$ 5,755.69	Outdoor 2017	Soccer Saturday	U6-U10	m/f	10	194 players & 15 coaches
Lakewood	\$ 7,095.00	Indoor 2016-17	Mini Soccer Training	U6-U10	m/f	20	160 players & 22 coaches
Lakewood	\$ 675.00	Outdoor 2017	Mini Soccer Training	U6-U10	m/f	10	112 players & 12 coaches
SUSC	no follow-up	Indoor 2016-17	Community & U10D Program	U6-U10	m/f	19	did not submit
SUSC	surplus	Outdoor 2017	Community & D Program	U6-U10	m/f	10	66 players & 5 coaches
	\$ 27,363.84						

Community Head Coach (CHC) Programs - \$500 per Zone per season

Zone	Grant	Season	Program Title	Age	Gen	Weeks	Participation
Aurora	n/a	Indoor 2016-17	Community Head Coach Program			did no	ot apply
Aurora	n/a	Outdoor 2017	Community Head Coach Program			did no	ot apply
Eastside	\$ 500.00	Indoor 2016-17	Community Head Coach Program	U6-U10	m/f	26	21 coaches
Eastside	surplus	Outdoor 2017	Community Head Coach Program	U6-U10	m/f	11	27 coaches
Hollandia	\$ 500.00	Indoor 2016-17	Community Head Coach Program	U6-U10	m/f	26	17 coaches
Hollandia	\$ 500.00	Outdoor 2017	Community Head Coach Program	U6-U10	m/f	10	8 coaches
Lakewood	\$ 500.00	Indoor 2016-17	Community Head Coach Program	U6-U10	m/f	20	22 coaches
Lakewood	no receipt	Outdoor 2017	Community Head Coach Program	U8-U10	m/f	10	12 coaches
SUSC	no follow-up	Indoor 2016-17	Community Head Coach Program	U6-U10	m/f	19	did not submit
SUSC	no follow-up	Outdoor 2017	Community Head Coach Program	U6-U10	m/f	10	did not submit
	\$ 2,000,00						

Total Zone Programs Funded:

Zone	Budgeted	Actual Paid	
SUSC	\$11,000.00	\$	-
Hollandia	\$11,000.00	\$	11,555.70
Aurora	\$11,000.00	\$	5,184.43
Lakewood	\$11,000.00	\$	8,270.00
Eastside	\$11,000.00	\$	4,353.71
Total	\$55,000.00	\$	29,363.84

Leagues

League play is the fundamental attraction to soccer. Kids want to play and parents want to watch them play.

We are pleased with the continued sponsorship from the Tim Horton's Group for the Indoor 2017-18 Under-5 TimBits Mini Soccer Program and are excited to announce that they have expanded their sponsorship to the Under-7 age group as well. This follows the successful program sponsorship by Tim Hortons over the last 18 seasons.

The U5-U7 Mini Jamboree program also rolls into its 13th year of operation with five sessions planned in the SaskTel Sports Centre. Thank you to Xtratime Sports / Soccer Locker who has come aboard as a bronze sponsor for these events. One notable change for this year is that there will no longer be University of Saskatchewan's Huskie Soccer players and coaches assisting in these events. The U5-U7 teams are to utilize the turf allocated times similarly to how they utilize all other regular season games scheduled at other locations. We would like to thank the U of S Huskies soccer program for all of their assistance and dedication to our mini teams over the past 12 years and plan on involving them in other future events.

The SaskTel Sports Centre plays host for the Under-5 and Under-7 five indoor turf games, Under-9 Community and Zone Development indoor leagues as well as the Zone Under-11 through Under 19 indoor and outdoor leagues with both the artificial grass and the occasional smooth court game. The Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Centre hosts the Under-7 Community League indoor games and five indoor boarded games for the Under-11 age group. This season, all practices are located at the SaskTel Sports Centre for the Under-9 Zone Development and Under-11 through Under-17 Zone indoor teams.

This will be the 12th indoor season of having practice time allocated for every youth team in the two soccer centres for the exception of the Under-19 teams. Also this year we continued with the tradition of having the Valley Soccer Association in our indoor program with league games counting toward city championships.

The Under-9 Zone Development league has matured as an attractive program for community-based players going into its 4th year.

Our youth player enrollment remained stable over the past year with youth enrollment experiencing a slight increase this indoor season mainly contributed to growth in the Under-17 and Under-19 age groups where we saw an increase of 14 teams.

Our mini age groups saw a significant decrease this past year with a decrease of 48 teams in the outdoor season and 56 teams in the indoor season which could be contributed to a number of factors. Factors in the outdoor season could be associated with Lacrosse numbers increasing basically by the same amount of teams we lost likely due to the hype of Rush in Saskatoon; as well as baseball experiencing an increase in registrations likely due to the Toronto Blue Jays excitement in making it into the playoffs the past few years. As for the indoor season, part of the reason is due to the odd age group changes decreasing the Under-6 age group to a Under-5 age group with only one birth year where we saw a decrease in mini teams by 27 teams in this age group for indoor as well a 13 team decrease in the Under-7 age group (formerly Under-8). Some community associations were not happy with the age group changes as it meant their senior Under-10 players move up to Zone Under-11 a year earlier and decreasing the Under-6 age group to one birth year makes it more difficult to field teams in

communities who have lower player's registrations. Community associations are also getting used to adopting Saskatchewan Soccer Association compliance items such as mandatory coach certifications for Under-7 and Under-9 teams as well as GoalLine registration for all players and team personnel; compliance items that some feel too cumbersome on volunteers. Another contributor to the indoor decrease is that the Zones chose not to offer Under-8 Zone Development League this indoor which had 11 teams the year prior.

Outdoor Season	Youth Teams	Mini Teams
2011 Outdoor Team Registration	143	348
2012 Outdoor Team Registration	132	370 (+22 teams)
2013 Outdoor Team Registration	122 (-10 teams)	392 (+22 teams)
2014 Outdoor Team Registration	119 (-3 teams)	366 (-26 teams)
2015 Outdoor Team Registration	107 (-12 teams)	367 (+1 team)
2016 Outdoor Team Registration	106 (-1 team)	370 (+3 teams)
2017 Outdoor Team Registration	108 (+2 team)	322 (-48 teams)
Indoor Season	Youth Teams	Mini Teams
Indoor Season 2011/12 Indoor Team Registration	Youth Teams 136	Mini Teams 128
2011/12 Indoor Team Registration	136	128
2011/12 Indoor Team Registration 2012/13 Indoor Team Registration	136 139	128 153 (+22 teams)
2011/12 Indoor Team Registration 2012/13 Indoor Team Registration 2013/14 Indoor Team Registration	136 139 136 (-3 teams)	128 153 (+22 teams) 150 (-3 teams)
2011/12 Indoor Team Registration 2012/13 Indoor Team Registration 2013/14 Indoor Team Registration 2014/15 Indoor Team Registration	136 139 136 (-3 teams) 132 (-4 teams)	128 153 (+22 teams) 150 (-3 teams) 167 (+17 teams)
2011/12 Indoor Team Registration 2012/13 Indoor Team Registration 2013/14 Indoor Team Registration 2014/15 Indoor Team Registration 2015/16 Indoor Team Registration	136 139 136 (-3 teams) 132 (-4 teams) 118 (-14 teams)	128 153 (+22 teams) 150 (-3 teams) 167 (+17 teams) 153 (-14 teams)

Discipline

With the new discipline guidelines set in 2015, the discipline committee has been running smoothly. The SYSI office is able handle red card and yellow card accumulation discipline while the discipline committee is able to focus on more serious and larger cases.

Referees

SYSI and Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc. (SASI) have signed a new service agreement with the SDSRAI. The make clear lines of communication for referees, tournaments and leagues.

Field Maintenance & Facilities

With the two outdoor artificial grass fields and the artificial indoor field in full operation, all teams were scheduled to play various league games on the artificial grass surfaces along with natural grass games. SYSI continues to participate on the City of Saskatoon Sports Field Advisory Committee in order to negotiate overall field improvements for soccer.

The Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Center is now entering its 19th year of operation and will host the Under-7 leagues as well as the occasional zone practice. The SaskTel Sports Centre is currently in its 12th year of operation and will host our indoor youth leagues as well as the Under-9 leagues, U5-U7 mini turf games once a month, tournaments and practices.

Coach Certification

SYSI continues to work to ensure all SYSI coaches are certified according to the CSA standards. The SYSI Office organizes Active Start, Fundamentals, and Learn to Train clinics for zone and community coaches

in these age groups. The SSA will continue to offer one "Active for Life" clinic in Saskatoon each season for Under-13 to Under-19 coaches.

GoalLine, the common registration system managed by the SSA has also assisted SYSI in verifying Respect in Sport, NCCP certifications, and criminal record check requirements.

SYSI Team Personnel Requirements:

Age Groups	NCCP Certification	Respect In Sport (Online Certification)	Making Ethical Decisions Course (MED - Step 1)	Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation (MED - Step 2)	GoalLine Online Registration	Criminal Record Check
U5	Active Start Recommended 1 coach	Mandatory All team personnel	Not required	Not required	Mandatory all team personnel	Mandatory every 2 years. Any team personnel interacting with players must provide criminal record check
U7	Fundamentals Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory All team personnel	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	every season. Any individual who sits on	
U9-U11	Learn to Train Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory All team personnel	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	the bench during an SYSI league game	
U13-U19	Soccer for Life Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory All team personnel	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	or enters the dressing room to assist the team during SYSI league play.	with vulnerable sector to their zone or community.

Deadline for above requirements prior to 1st game or no later than SYSI seasonal deadline, whichever comes first.

COSTS: All U5 – U11 NCCP certification clinics are free for SYSI registered team personnel; Respect In Sport is free online training; Goalline registration is free and takes about 3 minutes; and all other coach certification costs may be covered or reimbursed by your zone or community association. Criminal record checks are free for community association coaches when accompanied by a letter from the community association. Checks for zone coaches are \$10 when accompanied by a letter from the zone (otherwise cost is \$70).

Tournaments

SYSI will continue to promote the SISCO and Mini FOS Tournaments, and will offer the half field game for the Premier tournaments which has proven to be very popular. The indoor tournaments were well received and ran smoothly in 2016-17 however we continue to see a decline in the November and December division II and III SISCO tournaments. One significant change for this indoor season is that we have combined the girls and boys division II and III SISCO tournaments into one weekend in December as opposed to two separate tournaments and we made all games for this tournament quarter field 6-aside games. The SaskTel Sports Center proved again to be a great venue to hold these tournaments.

Indoor 2017-18 Tournaments include:

Dec 8 – 10, 2017 U11 – U19 SISCO Boys and Girls Div 2 & 3

Jan 12 – 14, 2018 U11 – U19 SISCO Premier Boys Jan 19 – 21, 2018 U11 – U19 SISCO Premier Girls

Feb 9 – 11, 2018 U5 – U9 Mini SISCO

Tues Mar 13, 2018 U9 Jamboree

Outdoor 2018 Tournaments include:

June 8 – 10, 2018 U5 – U9 Mini FOS June TBA, 2018 U9 Jamboree

Sun June 24, 2018 U5 & U7 Tim Hortons Jamboree

A special thanks to Xtratime Sports / Soccer Locker who was our Gold SISCO 2016-17 sponsor and continue to show their support and commitment to the Saskatoon soccer community with being our Gold sponsor for our upcoming Indoor 2017-18 Youth SISCO Tournaments and the Mini SISCO! We would also like to thank the Concorde Group for the Pizza Hut team pizza party prizes they offer for the poster contests with the Youth SISCO Tournaments. For the upcoming Indoor 2017-18 Youth SISCO Tournaments we are also pleased to announce that the Saskatoon Travelodge, Best Western Plus Eastside, Courtyard Marriott, and Radisson Saskatoon are our proud sponsor hotels.

With the adoption of the new governance model and strategic plan in June 2008, this was the 9th year that decisions based on tournaments were made by the office staff. A pat on the back goes out to current and former staff that did a fantastic job with all SYSI tournaments and special events. The hard work done by our staff has helped make these tournaments a great success. The office hired the help of tournament coordinators (mainly office staff), first aid responders, field marshals, and admission workers, and will continue to do so into 2017-18.

Provincial Championships

The provincial championship format has changed from separate premier and division 2 & 3 championships to an open format for 9-aside half field and 6-aside quarter field format. The SSA changed the format to reflect different league structures through the province. SYSI hosted the S4L 6-aside Indoor Youth Provincial Championships Feb 24 - 26, 2017 and will be hosting the S4L 9-aside Indoor Youth Provincial Championships this coming Mar 2 - 4, 2018. The tournaments reflect the same level of competition as in the past. Typically, the 9-aside tournament is attended by premier level teams and the 6-aside tournament is attended by division 2 and 3 teams.

For the upcoming S4L 9-aside Indoor Youth Provincial Championships this coming Mar 2-4, 2018 we are also pleased to announce that the Saskatoon Travelodge, Best Western Plus Eastside, and Courtyard Marriott are our proud sponsor hotels and there are blocks of rooms set aside with exclusive team group rates.

Community Engagement Projects

Soccer Kids In the Park Program:

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. is proud to announce the success of the 10th Annual Soccer Kids In the Park summer program, which ran from July 3rd to August 24th, 2017 and took place at 41 various City of Saskatoon playground site locations. The program reached 2,460 youth (aged 4 to 18) and 654 adults. The program was coordinated by four energetic soccer program leaders with coaching certifications and a desire to make soccer fun and enjoyable in the neighborhood parks. The Soccer Kids In the Park program participation numbers continue to increase each summer. After seven consecutive summers of sponsorship, PotashCorp was unable to continue funding for the 2017 summer program due to budget cuts associated with their impending merger with Agrium. We will continue to source out corporate sponsors for the 2018 summer program. We were pleased to have Xtratime Sports Soccer Locker's (XSSL) continued support as they came aboard again this summer to help support the program. We obtained a new grant with KidSport to help offset some of the funding loss experienced by not having a corporate title sponsor. With the funding from XSSL as well as grants from the Government of Saskatchewan's Community Initiative Fund, the City of Saskatoon's Sport Participation Grant, KidSport Community Grant, and the Saskatchewan Soccer Associations' Membership Assistance Grant, this excellent program continues to be offered as a free summer community program.

This program was created with the intention of increasing the enjoyment and participation in soccer through eliminating financial barriers and providing positive mature role models. This program also aims to increase the soccer "hype" during the summer leading into indoor for current and potential future soccer players.

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. has full intention of running this program again in the summer of 2018 pending the approval of program funding.

Community School Dream League:

This will be the 2nd indoor season of offering an after school soccer league which will take place in school gyms in partnership with six community schools and SaskSport's Dreambroker program. The league will benefit six boy's teams for Nov-Dec and five girl's teams for Jan-Feb made up of 60 boys and 50 girls ages 8 and 9. The league is funded entirely with the help from KidSport's Community Grant and potentially the Community Initiatives Fund (both pending approval). The league is led by six certified coaches and transportation is covered by the Dreambrokers. We are very excited to offer a league to children who normally are unable to participate in soccer due to financial and transportation barriers. The aim of this program is to expose soccer to underrepresented children in hopes that they will love the game and apply for KidSport funding in future years to join our main league with the help of transportation from Dreambrokers. We have also received confirmation from the SSA again this year, notifying us that they will cover the expense of player and team personnel registration costs for this league.

SSA's Director of Soccer, Rahim Z Mohamed, is excited to hear the continuation of this program, "It is wonderful to hear that SYSI will be running this initiative for a second year and 6 schools will be participating this upcoming season. SSA would be pleased to partner on this initiative for a second year. Your efforts to provide soccer opportunities to youth who face barriers to participation as well as supporting the development of coaches through this initiative are laudable. The SSA will cover the full provincial registration cost for the participants (players and coaches) in the program that would not otherwise register with SYSI. Similar to last year, athletes and team personnel that are active in SYSI programming and also participate in this league would be expected to register as usual."

Parent-Tot Timbits Program:

In the fall of 2016, we announced a new program for stay-at-home parents/guardians and their toddlers to learn fundamental movement skills through a physical literacy program instructed by certified coach during daytime hours during the week. Last year's program was funded by an RBC *Participaction* and Physical Literacy grant.

For the fall of 2017, we partnered with Tim Hortons obtaining a jersey, shorts, socks, ball, and medal for each participant in this program. SYSI runs an October-November program with 45min sessions once a week for six weeks. We offer a Wednesday morning program and Thursday morning program with a maximum of 15 participants in each; both of which filled up fast and reached maximum registration numbers. We plan on continuing to offer this program in January-February, March-April, and potentially May-June.

Volunteer Appreciation & Recognition

Friend of Soccer Award

The Saskatoon Youth Soccer "Friend of Soccer" Award was first handed out in 1989. The award was created to recognize the contributions of the outstanding volunteers involved with youth soccer in Saskatoon. Last year SYSI announced that the award has been expanded with five "Friends of Soccer" recipients awarded each year. There is one award to recognize a volunteer from each of the five geographical zones in Saskatoon. People who are eligible to be nominated include any current or former volunteer member of a Zone or Community Association who have demonstrated a high level of dedication to the development and support of youth soccer in Saskatoon.

PAST RECIPIENTS:

1989 – Al Day	1998 – John Tomchuk	2007 – Bob McAllister
1990 – Jill Postlethwaite	1999 – Garry Harder	2008 – Hal Lackie
1991 – Bob Speed	2000 – Lawrence Martz	2009 – Terry Carruthers
1992 – Ross Wilson	2001 – Bernadette Garrity	2010 – Tom LaPointe
1993 – Ken & Carol Wagner	2002 – Pat Gillies	2011 – Joe Garcea
1994 – Jim Cook	2003 – Gloria Rowan	2012 – Edward Halyk
1995 – Percy Hoff	2004 – not awarded	2013 – Mark Lord
1996 – Huw Morris	2005 – Mike Grevers	2014 – Bob Rohachuk
1997 – John Riggs	2006 – Brett Mario	2015 – Wilf McDougall

2016 – Sean Wilson (Hollandia), Mark Schramm (Aurora), and Trevor Conquergood (Eastside)*

The 2017 nomination form can be found under the "Forms" section on our website at www.saskatoonyouthsoccer.ca. All completed forms are to be submitted to your respective Zone Board on or before March 1, 2018. Each Zone Board will decide on who their Zone's recipient of the award will be and will communicate their decision to SYSI no later than March 15, 2018. Awards for 2017 will be presented at the Outdoor Coaches' Night in April of 2018. Any questions about the award can be directed to the SYSI Office.

Volunteer Years of Service Pins

In the fall of 2017 SYSI began awarding volunteers with "Years of Service Pins" in recognition of their dedication and time served as a volunteer in the soccer community either with a community association, soccer zone, or with SYSI. A volunteer is defined by someone who volunteered with a zone or community association with a team as a coach, assistant, trainer, and/or manager; with a zone organization as a board member, committee member, and/or administrator/registrar; and/or with SYSI as a board member and/or committee member. We offer a 5-year pin, 10-year pin, 15-year pin, and a 20-year pin. If you or someone you know wishes to obtain a pin for their years' of service please contact the SYSI Office.

Volunteer Honorariums

We started a new initiative in Outdoor 2017 and Indoor 2017-18 to encourage zone and community association team personnel to obtain their necessary and required certifications in exchange for applying for an honorarium as appreciation for their time spent in coaching clinics. The honorarium is a one-time per individual honorarium. Once an individual has taken advantage of the honorarium they do not qualify a second time regardless of expanding their certification levels. The deadline for Indoor 2017-18 team personnel honorarium applications is December 1, 2017.

New for this year, starting last Outdoor 2017 and this Indoor 2017-18, are honorariums to thank and recognize community association coordinators and zone registrars for their hard work and efforts in

^{*} there were no nominations provided by Lakewood or SUSC zones.

meeting all of our deadlines and GoallLine roster criteria. Coordinators and registrars are eligible each season for this honorarium and the amount is dependent on how many criteria they have met each season. The deadline for these honorarium applications is February 1, 2018.

Honorariums are paid out at the end of the season in the form of a cheque and are mailed out. Applicants have the option to have their amount donated to KidSport.

Zone Coach Night Appreciation

This past Outdoor 2017, in addition to treats, refreshments, and great door prizes we added a short awards celebration of giving out the "Friend of Soccer Awards" where we recognized one stand-out volunteer per zone. This fall we added onto our awards celebration by providing "Years of Service Pins". This pre-season meeting is a great opportunity for coaches and team personnel to connect with SYSI staff and other zone team personnel and volunteers, receive important season updates and announcements, have a chance to receive a door prize. It's also a nice opportunity for SYSI to acknowledge and celebrate the great work that is being done by our volunteers!

The Year Ahead

With 11 years under my belt I look forward to another upcoming year. We have a very competent and skilled Board of Directors and staff to achieve the Strategic Plan. I would like to extend a huge thanks to all those involved on the SYSI Board and committees, staff, and countless Zone and Community Association volunteers. There aren't enough words to characterize your supreme dedication to the well-being and the enjoyment of our players and to the betterment of our sport movement. It is our volunteers' efforts and endless hours behind closed doors or on the field that continue to drive this sport despite all of its challenges. Your continuous contributions that benefit our players and our sport are highly appreciated. Let's continue to work together to advance past our challenge, maintain our leadership in the province, and offer our players an even better playing environment.

Thank you,

Amanda M Probe
Executive Directors
Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.