

UTAH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

REPORT TO REGION IV

San Francisco, CA

January 6, 2007

We want to wish all of you a healthy, prosperous New Year and hope that your holidays were enjoyable. It is always difficult to get going again after the holidays, but another season will be soon upon us. As with a number of other State Associations, we have been fairly dormant since the USASA Midyear Meeting as we were near completion of our season at that time. As this report is being written it is snowing and it's coming down fast. I guess we should not complain as our friends to the east in Colorado have had their fair share of the white stuff.

As we look forward to the start of our 2007 season, we are currently working through major changes in our Bylaws to more easily accommodate new league entries. Most of you are aware that within our State Association, the Association is also the league. Somehow we have managed to stay within that framework, however with inquiries from areas outside the metropolitan area of Salt Lake City, the time has come for us to revise our bylaws. Having said that, we are once again trying to have a couple of leagues join the Association and hopefully we can accomplish this over the next few months.

Like a number of State Associations, we are also concerned about the direction of not only the USASA but also the USSF. If we look at the direction of organized soccer, it seems that the first thing that comes to mind is that it is disorganized and for starters we should look at the top. Even though we are still fortunate that for the most part we, as adults, only have to deal with one organization. We know that our counterparts in the Youth Associations are not that lucky. Our good fortunes are not going to last forever if we do not deal with this issue. It seems obvious that our Federation has little interest in our Associations and as time goes by it is becoming more and more difficult to sustain a State Association due to their relaxed membership rules. Nearly all of us do not have the luxury of having huge membership numbers, so when a USSF affiliated organization comes calling on our members and they respond, each one of these occasions has an immediate impact on us. Although it stings for the Youth Associations, their large membership numbers probably make it a bit easier to absorb, but they are just as concerned as us, if not more so. Quite honestly, it is difficult to figure out how to approach this but it does need addressing. The last time we checked, we are still a charter member of the United States Soccer Federation and we received a plaque that states this. What meaning does this have? Annually we pay \$100.00 to be a member of the USASA and in some way this creates a co-op for us to work together and combine our resources, however our charter membership with the USSF seems to be of little value. If the hand writing isn't on the wall yet, it will be within the next few years and if we want our Associations to stay intact, our need to take an active role is apparent and finding solutions will not be easy.

We look forward to your comments and we want to thank our friends from California-North for hosting this meeting and taking us away from the cold and the snow, even if it is only for a weekend.

