

June 17, 2016

It has been quite the frenzied week at the Clubs as final preparations for the summer program have dominated all activity. For those of us at Wednesday's Board meeting, what a program staff we have, eh? Yesterday, we hosted the Spokane School District's Community Partnership meeting at the Northtown Club, including Superintendent Shelly Redinger and a number of other agencies and groups (including Spokane Police, the YMCA, Communities In Schools, United Way, Big Bros/Big Sisters, Spokane Libraries, MLK). Everyone took note and commented on the busy hub of staff training and program preparations for next week. With opening day of summer '16 upon us, I'm excited to report that week one registrations are catching up (better late than never!) to expectations: nearly 200 at the Mead Club and over 200 at Northtown.

Next, especially for the benefit of those who couldn't make the Board meeting, here are some important items from the meeting to share:

- Our statewide coordinator for all Washington Clubs, **Matt Watrous**, was on hand as a guest and gave a report on his views regarding our organization compared with all other organizations in the state. He cited our marketing efforts our strong partnerships as most impressive! He also helped us celebrate the nearly-\$50,000 of funding he has helped to secure for our Club programs! The evening before, Matt and I were joined by our Youth of the Year, Kaitlin, for a presentation in front of the Washington Elections Conference at the Davenport Grand Hotel. No surprise: Kaitlin wowed the crowd!
- **Mead Boys & Girls Club** - Kim, Heather Havens and I shared details of this week's meeting with Mead School District officials regarding the deteriorating condition of our Club. We learned the heating system and a significant portion of the roof are failing much more rapidly since we last met, prompting the district to prepare us for a "temporary" move of most program spaces to a different part of the building. "Temporary" because, if the heating system fails completely (by the way, repair/replacement of the outdated boiler/steam system is not possible), the Club will most likely need to move to another location. We're identifying contingencies now so a plan can be developed. Meanwhile, the old Northwood Middle School may not be available as a new Club site as previously anticipated, mostly due to staging of other schools during their construction. However, the District wants to remain our facility partner and will very soon propose options for us to consider.
- **Live Mas 2016** – as Elliott reported, and then followed up yesterday with his email to all, now is the time to shore up team entries and sponsors. Please be sure to let me, Erin or Elliott know if you need any help, ideas, etc. and we'll get on it!
- **Fish & Chip** – as Erin reported at the meeting, and then followed up with her email yesterday, we can still truly impact this year's event that we hope to provide \$55,000 for program operations. We can especially boost the success of the gala dinner and sports auction Friday evening, July 8 at Northern Quest Casino. Plus, it's quite the entertaining event with close-up access to the many NFL players and retirees. Seats are available for \$100 each – even though I'll be working it, I've bought a couple of seats – join me!!