

March 21, 2009

Memo to: State Presidents

From: Brooks McCormick, President USASA

Subject: 2009 AGM/USASA Summit

I wanted to give you a quick update on the progress to date in planning and organizing the USASA Soccer Summit. Tom O'Shea has agreed to chair a task force to plan, organize and coordinate data collection for the Soccer Summit. The names and a brief description of their background or affiliation of the other members of the taskforce are attached to this email as well as the rough draft of the working plan and the goals of the taskforce and the Summit. They are the beginnings and they will change and evolve as the process proceeds. USASA will establish a Summit web page at USASA.com which will be updated regularly so you can monitor the process in a transparent manner, however I will continue to send out progress reports as the process continues.

The task force will develop a framework for the summit and recommend goals to be achieved. Then they will seek proposals from qualified firms to do the professional facilitation. The task force will then make recommendations to the executive committee to approve. Much work will be done using surveys and conference calls; the mid-year is too good an opportunity to pass up as most participants will already be attending. The task force will use an appropriate amount of time for a meeting(s) during that event.

I want to point out that a 6 month process culminating in a Summit in Phoenix is the beginning of a longer process. It took more than six months to build up the current levels of frustration, it will take more than six months to find our direction and begin to move forward. Frustration levels will not instantly evaporate at the Summit. This is a process and will take 18 to 24 months to achieve realistic goals. It is very possible that there will be more than one Summit meeting of USASA over the next year or so. This process will be an evolution not a revolution. Again you will be kept informed by email updates from me, the Taskforce and the website to be created on USASA.com.

In naming the members of the taskforce we tried to include more established USASA members, newer participants, men, women and Hispanic's. We also tried to cover all Regions, and include members from National Affiliates and from one of our regional/national leagues. We also followed the membership's clear directive that this taskforce not be a subset of the executive committee. I have therefore only appointed one member of the Executive Committee to the taskforce. I will decline my option under our by-laws to serve as a member of the taskforce, I will make myself available only by the request of the taskforce for a specific reason. While the recommendations of the taskforce are only recommendations and any final decisions will be made at the USASA Summit and approved by the General Council, it is important that they be independent and free to offer constructive alternatives for USASA and its programs.

The taskforce will also develop a budget proposal that will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval as mandated by the membership at the AGM in Orlando. I am scheduling a conference call with Tom O'Shea and the Executive Committee to update them on the progress to date and the plans for the future. We will discuss the possible addition of another member or two to the taskforce but we do want to keep the size manageable. This is your Summit and I have done my best to follow your wishes as expressed at the AGM. Feel free to email or call me as we move forward. I already have several emails with good suggestions that I will forward to the taskforce. I will continue to keep you updated as we proceed.

Sincerely,

Brooks