



Winter 2010

The TOPSoccer meeting during the 2009 Region IV Fall Workshop in Wyoming this past October was a successful one, with 8 State Associations from Region IV represented. Thanks to Sandy Castillo, TOPSoccer Chairperson from CAL-South, for chairing the meeting in my absence. Notes from that meeting were previously emailed to all members of the Region IV TOPSoccer Committee and the State Associations in Region IV.

On Saturday, January 16, 2010, I attended the Arizona Youth Soccer TOPSoccer playday during the 2010 Region IV ODP Championships, in Phoenix, Arizona. Approximately 10 players and buddies participated in the event. A FUN time for all in attendance, as well as those who participated. This was our second TOPSoccer activity or event scheduled in conjunction with a large Region IV event. By all accounts, it was a very successful activity for Arizona Youth Soccer and the local TOPSoccer Programs. Pictures and video from the Arizona TOPSoccer Playday in January can be found on the Region IV TOPSoccer page under News and Events.

During the past 3-4 months I have been communicating with the Colorado Youth Soccer TOPSoccer Chairperson Luann Levine, to coordinate the finalizing of the agenda for the 2010 Region IV TOPSoccer Symposium, this coming April in Denver, Colorado. Our agenda for our 7th Annual Region IV TOPSoccer Symposium the weekend of April 9-11, will have 3 speakers from the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD) in Colorado, speakers from Colorado Youth Soccer, and a Coaching Training Session for the "TOPSoccer Buddies", which should make for a very educational and informative weekend, for all those attending the event. On Sunday, April 11th, after the Symposium is over, Colorado Youth Soccer is holding a State Level TOPSoccer Coaching Course. This course is a US Youth Soccer Coaching Education Course developed specifically for anyone working with players who have special abilities or needs.

The Registration form, with Hotel Contact information, and a copy of the agenda have been emailed to all State TOPSoccer Chairpersons and State Associations, as well as being posted on the Region IV TOPSoccer Webpage under "News and Events" Thanks to the Region IV office and Region IV webmaster for their assistance in developing the Registration Form and posting on the RIV website, respectively.

Oregon Youth Soccer, who will be hosting the 2010 Region IV Presidents Cup, June 16-20, 2010, in Medford, Oregon are in the process of working out the details of the planned TOPSoccer activity scheduled sometime during the 2010 Region IV Presidents Cup in Oregon this June. I anticipate an update on what Oregon TOPSoccer has planned for the event in June at our Region IV TOPSoccer Committee meeting scheduled on Saturday, April 10th, in Denver during this year's RIV TOPSoccer Symposium.

The 2010 US Youth Soccer adidas Workshop in Fort Worth, Texas, this month, and the 2010 Region IV TOPSoccer Symposium this April in Denver, Colorado, will be the last two US Youth Soccer events I attend as your Region IV TOPSoccer Chairperson. I have chosen to step down from the position of US Youth Soccer-Region IV TOPSoccer Chairperson effective May 1, 2010. It has been my honor and privilege to represent all of the wonderful players, buddies, coaches, parents, and volunteers involved in TOPSoccer Programs throughout Region IV of US Youth Soccer.

I want to pass along a special thanks to all the members of the Region IV TOPSoccer Committee, both past and current, who I have had the pleasure to work with. I truly feel we have accomplished a lot during the 11 years I have served as the Region IV TOPSoccer Chairperson. I wish each of you much success in your continued efforts on behalf of **ALL OUR PLAYERS WITH SPECIAL ABILITIES.**

Ray Welch