

General Membership Letter

The 2012 season, our association's 11th, is fast approaching. I hope you and your family are excited about it.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of the many things that have been taking place in preparation for the upcoming season, things that are happening that will add to the strong foundation of our association for the future, and update you on some other exciting news related of SVLA of that past several months.

As we come out of our "off" season, we have the opportunity to reflect on the improvement in skills that players up and down the grade levels gained thanks to the dedicated efforts of both our professional and volunteer coaching staffs at the high school and youth levels.

We also had a success and smooth registration process that has poised us for strong teams at all levels for the spring. Thanks to our registrar, **Barbara Schreibeis**, and her many supporting volunteers.

In October, SVLA hosted the most financially successful **Pumpkin Classic** to date. Congratulations to **Bob Wise**, and his volunteer corps who raised over \$9,000 for the association's capital fund. It is through the Pumpkin Classic, and other non-mandatory fundraisers that SVLA is able to invest in the long-term success of the program. Those who came before us helped secure our ability to enter into the agreement to share the Graham Park facilities with SV Jr. Football through fundraisers. We are continuing this pattern of investment with our soon to be installed **practice wall** at Linder Fields at Cranberry Park. At the rate SVLA needs to consume field space for practices and games, we need to consider the necessity to build our capital fund to be prepared to invest in additional facilities in the not too distant future.

Speaking of the Pumpkin Classic, congratulations to the SV Black team who won the tournament. This is the fourth time in the Classic's nine years that SV has won the tournament.

Physicals & Drug Testing

As announced in an email last week, SVSD is offering physicals and testing in early February – This is mandatory for All High School and Middle School level players. Physicals are encouraged for all youth levels players as well. Please reference the earlier email for details, or visit the SVSD web site for the information.

Other points of interest:

Dining Out events:

Thanks to everyone who have supported the dining out events. To-date, SVLA has been credited with over \$300 simply by are members enjoying dinner with friends and families at some of Cranberry Townships finest eating establishments. Please look or the next dining out date coming up soon.

Night at the Races:

Tickets are selling fast! We are well ahead of last year's event in ticket sales to date, and donated prizes. Please join us for what has become one of the traditional highlights of our offseason. Please see our web site for information on securing your tickets, donating prizes, and offering to volunteer.

Opportunities to Volunteer

Again, the season is just about upon us. There are many ways that you can help make the season a success for all of the participants. We need help with everything from managing the concession stands on game days, to painting and setting up fields for games, to taking photographs.

Alumni

There is a lot to be said about the quality of coaches, many of them, such as Coach **Pete Joram** and Coach **Dave Walter** have been with us since the very early days of the program, and we appreciate them very much. These same men helped to instill a love of the game into their players to the point that these players are now seeking to share their knowledge with the next generations. I am so pleased to announce that more and more alumni are coming back to SVLA to keep in touch with the game and program that they love, and we are able to add many of them to our coaching staff at virtually all levels of the program. It is really a pleasure to see this trend continue and grow.

Speaking of SVLA Alumni...

The past several months, SVLA players continued to have a lot of success beyond their high school careers.

2010 and 2009 Alums, **Jake McAndrew** and **Brent Rotz**, respectively, were part of the Mercyhurst College's first National Championship team.

2010 Alum, **Brian Bohn** saw significant playing time as goalie on the D-I Robert Morris team that went 9 –5

Reserve the Date! If you would like to see the above three players battle against each other on the field, RMU will be hosting Mercyhurst on Sunday, January 29th for a scrimmage. It will be held in the early afternoon. More details to follow.

2009 Alum, **Colin O'Donoghue** worked his way through a very challenging and lengthy evaluation to earn a spot on the Irish National Team, and will compete in this coming summer's European games.

2007 Alum, **Dave Robbins**, in wrapping up a very successful collegiate career at D-II Seton Hill College, was selected to play in the prestigious Division I/Division II North South USILA all-star game. Dave was also named to the All East Coast Conference Teams during his junior and senior season.

2005 Alum, and SV Varsity Head Coach, **Peet Poillon**, continues to enjoy great success in the Major League Lacrosse, earning appointment to another all star team and also to the current Team USA roster for their exhibition tour.

Reserve the Date- Part 2! Also on January 29th, If you're going to the RMU – Mercyhurst scrimmage, set your DVR to ESPN U, otherwise, stake out a good spot to watch **Coach Poillon** and the rest of Team USA light up the scoreboard against the University of Denver in exciting pre-season action. The game will be played in Florida.

Spring Season 2012 – The expectations are high!

Having been around the game and sports in general for quite a while, I believe that I have a pretty good sense for how competitive teams will be from one season to the next. I think that it's reasonable for us to expect big things from not only this year's high school teams, but also from the teams at the middle school level and below. Of course I'm thinking about the wins and loss records, but I'm also expecting big things from how the organization will operate this spring, from the coaching staffs, to the volunteer network. Things are lining up for a positive lacrosse experience in all respects. If you're not already active with the program, consider upping your involvement in SVLA by attending meetings and volunteering in one of the many roles we need filled to make 2012 a great experience for all.

With this being my families eighth season in SVLA, it is another reminder to me how fast time passes, especially when it relates to something you really enjoy and appreciate. I hope that your family has the opportunity to fully take in your child's lacrosse experience and cherish the moments.

JF

President

SVLA