



*Summary report to Board of Directors*

*Vice President participation in US Soccer Federation 2020 Annual General Meeting*

*February 13-15 Nashville Tennessee*

This was my third year attending the USSF AGM as a delegate for South Carolina Youth Soccer Association. Interesting to note the contrast in attendance during an election year for executive board seat (2018 & 2020) versus non election year (2019). Beyond the networking and workshops, really enjoy comparing notes with representatives from the various youth and adult councils from across the country. Several states combine youth-adult into a single state association. While not our model in South Carolina, would certainly like to see board explore benefits of a closer working relationship with SCASA.

Of several sessions attended either solo or with Executive Director, I'd like to two in particular I'd like to spotlight for future board discussion:

### **Innovate to Grow**

USSF grant program open to youth and amateur organizations [Innovate to Grow link](#). In 2019 59 applications led to 27 grants totaling \$2.2M. The recipient must also be financially invested in what should be a sustainable program once grant period concludes.

- US Blind Soccer
- Minnesota – referee growth plan, cover 50% of new referee costs
- Wyoming – program funded for three years benefitting Native American reservations with intent to move players from rec through competitive play.
- Tennessee – grant to benefit Nashville inner-city schools.

Alabama- spoke to their ED extensively before and after the Saturday evening dinner program. Interesting cross-border program designed to grow rec leagues and launch referee program to support. ED noted she is not a grant writer and expected application to be kicked back for more details and metrics. Pleasantly surprised to learn awarded a grant for \$250K over three years.

The more sustainable the program, the better chances of receiving grant.

**Action item:** propose SCYSA take up the task of uncovering potential opportunities for the 21 grant cycle when the budget expands to \$3.1M. Whether as a board initiative or sponsoring board member working with membership.

### **SafeSport Workshop** [safesoccer.com](http://safesoccer.com)

Born of 2017 Safesport Act signed into law in February 2018

USSF is clearly placing more emphasis on compliance with this program with each passing year. Going so far as to avail Chief Legal Officer (Lydia Wahlke) to help navigate questions, concerns or gray areas. Clear message to states was get your membership on this now.

Having completed the 90 minute training in 2019, recommend all board members undertake certification process to help more fully evangelize program to our membership.

Kevin Kollegger, VP