



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ATHLETIC/ACTIVITIES LEAGUES SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

## 2017 National PAL Conference

The 2017 National PAL Conference was held May 1st—4th in Dallas, TX. This annual event was attended by chapters all over the US, and included programs on mentor training, curriculum, grant writing, fundraising, as well as regional meetings.



We would like to thank the Dallas Police Honor guard, Addison, TX Mayor Todd Meier and Police Chief Paul Spencer for welcoming us to their city.



We were honored to have former NFL player Jack Brewer as our 2017 Conference Keynote Speaker. Mr. Brewer is a strong PAL advocate, and works tirelessly himself with his mentoring and humanitarian efforts. As the Founder and Executive Director of The Jack Brewer Foundation as well as an Ambassador for Peace and Sport for the International Federation for Sustainable Development and Peace at the United Nations, Mr. Brewer brought great inspiration from his background to our convention attendees.

### **Congratulations to our 2017 Award Winners!**

**NPAL Volunteer of the Year**

*Cathy Smith*

**NPAL Male Youth of the Year**

*Ben Long*

**NPAL Female Youth of the Year**

*Ally McGowan*

In addition to our National PAL Award winners, we were privileged to honor Mark Cuban, Steve Letson, Dave Brown, the Dallas Mavericks and American Airlines Arena and staff for their support and generosity to the Dallas Community and National PAL for the #Dallas Strong event that took place last July. #Dallas Strong was an event to unite the community after the tragic shooting of five Dallas officers. We also had the privilege of honoring George Altirs, owner of Capelli Sportswear, for his continued support of National PAL and our efforts nationwide.

Thanks also goes out, of course, to our conference committee as well as Rodney Rowland and the Dunn PAL Chapter who provided all of the photography and videography for the entire conference. The success of the NPAL Conference was a team effort, and we appreciate all of the time and work you all put in!



**Mark Your Calendars! The 2018 National PAL  
Conference will be held in Spring of 2018 at the  
Biscayne Bay Marriott Miami!**





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## Chapter Spotlight

Each issue we will highlight local PAL Chapters and the activities in your communities. We encourage you to submit your chapter's current contact information as well as any news, events, award winners, or press mentions. We also want your input! Have an observation, comments, suggestions, or a best practice? Please share by clicking [HERE](#).

This issue includes a great story about the success and impact of PAL in Oklahoma City. From *The Oklahoman*:

*A year ago, the Police Athletic League started offering sports in Oklahoma City Public's elementary schools, and in only two years of football, volleyball, basketball and soccer, PAL has seen explosive growth. There were 71 total teams a year ago. Now, there are 126 teams.*

*Total number of kids: 1,880.*

*Of the 55 elementary schools in the district, 27 have at least one PAL sport, but another six wanted to participate this year. Executive director Peter Evans said the league just didn't have the resources to accommodate those schools.*

*"Our ultimate goal," Evans said, "is to one day bring this ... to every elementary school in OKCPS."*

You can view the full article at:

<http://m.newsok.com/article/5549440>

### Reminder:

**Teen Summit  
August 3rd—6th  
Potomac, MD**

## From your President - Barbara Bonilla

On behalf of myself and the National PAL Board, I am happy to provide you with the 2017 Spring National PAL newsletter.

First and foremost, I want to update all of you with a staffing change at the National PAL Office. Joe Perschini is no longer with National PAL. We wish Joe all the best and thank him for his time at National PAL. The Board of Directors will be taking on the day to day operations with the assistance of National PAL staff. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or any of the board members.

In this issue, we are highlighting the National PAL Conference which was held in Dallas, TX, May 1-5 2017. For those who attended, we had the pleasure of meeting the fantastic men and women who are committed to providing opportunities to PAL youth throughout the country and developing our future leaders. Our presenters provided us outstanding instruction to improve our programs and we exchanged best practices to increase our impact in our communities. We had the pleasure of honoring our top male and female PAL kids and provide them a monetary scholarship for their use for college. During our awards ceremony Jack Brewer, former NFL player and Captain, who was accompanied by his family, gave an amazing keynote speech.

The board continues to be committed to our member chapters. We have recently applied for a \$6.4 million DOJ grant. We are currently working with corporate partners which will provide you more opportunities to expand your programs. We would like to increase our membership over the next year and we will be reaching out to each of you to help us achieve this goal. Working together, we are stronger.

In future newsletters, we will provide testimonials of successful programs, highlight chapters from each of our regions and solicit your observation, comments, and suggestions.

The Public Safety profession is at its crossroads of survival. Law Enforcement cannot be successful without the faith and trust of the people it serves. PAL is the solution to building trust with our youth and the communities. Let us all join forces to make our communities and this Nation a better place to live, work and visit.

## NATIONAL PAL PARTNERSHIPS — THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

