Greetings NPAL Member Chapters & Guests,

I send you this Inaugural National PAL Newsletter, as a renewed effort to communicate more effectively with our member Chapters and guests, to highlight initiatives, and recognize the PAL family. This letter to you is about redirecting and refocusing National PAL...A new beginning if you will! Many of you within our conversations, have heard me express loudly that...This is PAL’s Time! It is PAL’s time to no longer be “The World’s Best Kept Secret,” but to stake our collective claim as being the “World’s Foremost Leader in Engaging Kids, Cops & Communities!” Please help us to spread the word, as our PAL Chapters around the country are doing amazing work with community youth, while aiding in changing their life’s trajectory! It is time that the world recognizes National PAL for its many positive effects upon our society...Let’s collectively stand up and BE HEARD! #NPALPride #NPALProud

NPAL and its Board of Directors is proud to announce that effective Monday, September 10th the National PAL office relocated to its new office location at 301 McCullough Drive, Suite 400, Charlotte, NC 28262. Additionally, the new phone number for contacting National PAL is 704-909-2841.

NPAL Member Chapters, please remember to submit your nominations for “Inspirational Persons of the Month” within the categories of Youth, Volunteer, Law Enforcement and Alumni! All nominations submitted must be provided as a one page “typed” Word document, which highlights what makes your nominee so special.

NPAL is taking the lead and seeking to expand its base nationally by identifying communities within states where there may not be an established PAL Chapter and establishing a Chapter that would be operated initially by NPAL. The first initiative was kicked off with NPAL soliciting and communicating with Charleston, West Virginia Chief of Police Steve Cooper, Corporal Errol Randle, Detective Eddie Whitehead and Mayor Danny Jones about the need for having a Chapter within their city. Within a very short period of time, NPAL-Charleston, WV PAL was established to serve the youth of their community!

We thank you for your continued support of National PAL, and we look forward to working together to build strong communities!

Regards,

Jeff Hood
Chief Executive Officer
National PAL
On behalf of myself and the National PAL Board, I am happy to provide you with the Fall 2018 National PAL newsletter. Jeff Hood, NPAL Executive Director, has been in his position for just over one year and the National PAL Board of Directors couldn’t be happier with the job he is doing for our organization and our Member Chapters. He has opened a new National PAL office in Charlotte, North Carolina and is committed to making National PAL a national name.

The Board, along with the National PAL staff, continues to be committed to our Member Chapters. We have recently applied for continued funding from U.S. Department of Justice. We are currently working with corporate partners, which will provide more opportunities to expand programming. 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.

During the Board of Director’s Annual Board Retreat, dozens of strategic issues were identified and debated, but the Board selected the following critical strategic issues to focus on:

1. Find methods of raising funds from diverse funding sources
2. Develop a National PAL Alumni Association
3. Increase National PAL’s name recognition
4. Promote National PAL's police and community relations in the news and social media

The Board also reviewed our mission and vision statements and they are as follows:

**Mission Statement** - The National Association of Police Athletic/Activities League (National PAL) and its Chapters work nationwide promoting the prevention of juvenile crime and violence by building relationships among kids, cops and community through positive engagement.

**Vision Statement** - World’s Foremost Leader in Engaging Kids, Cops and Communities.

The National PAL Board of Directors continue to work hard to strengthen our National Organization. As a member, I encourage you to get involved on a Board Committee. Please reach out to the chair if you are interested in volunteering with their committee.

- **Bylaws Chair, Ronald Allen**
- **Membership Chair, Kenny Ragland**
- **Conference/Special Events Chair, Michael Russell**
- **Program Chair, Open**
- **Sports/ Athletic Chair, Jerry Babcock**
- **Boxing Chair, Terrel Harrison**
- **Basketball Chair, Rodney Rowland**
- **Conference Committee Co-Chair, Michael Russell**
- **Fund Development/Marketing/Website Chair, Chris Hill**
- **Marketing, Barbara Bonilla**
- **Website, Rodney Rowland**
- **Finance Committee, Joe Plescia**

Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

**Barbara Bonilla**  
Chairman of the Board  
National PAL
The National Police Athletic/Activities League’s 74th Annual Conference took place earlier this year from April 30 - May 4, 2018. National PAL’s Annual Conference provides PAL officers and civilian staff who may not have the training or experience in running a nonprofit, a chance to learn from professionals with documented success in this area. Dedicated youth serving professionals from across the country shared best practices and gained new ideas to take back home to serve their youth. The conference was also an opportunity to welcome Walt Aikens, an NFL football player for the Miami Dolphins and former PAL kid, as the new National PAL spokesperson.

The Conference kicked off with a golf day fundraiser for pre-registered attendees at the Miami Beach Golf Club. The conference schedule was packed with diverse sessions including topics ranging from Chapter collaborations, fundraising, and youth mental health training. One of the strongest components of the conference was the PALs helping PALs session. The Conference also presents opportunities for Chapters to network with each other during the event. Through this networking, Chapters see and understand how others in the field are accomplishing the mission of PAL. Networking with other Chapters from a variety of backgrounds and experiences allows Chapters to identify best practices and improve programming for their youth. The 2018 National PAL Annual Conference in Miami, FL was the strongest one yet.

SAVE THE DATE

2019 NATIONAL PAL 75TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2019 75th Annual National PAL Training & Conference is scheduled to kick-off on Monday, April 29th and conclude the evening of Thursday, May 2nd after our closing gala! The host location for the 2019 event will be in Los Angeles, California at the beautiful L.A. Grand Hotel Downtown. The National PAL Conference Committee is excited as we look forward to hosting the event and have already begun planning for your arrival. Be on the lookout for an email in the near future with conference registration details and hotel reservation information!

#NPALRocksLA2019 • www.thelahotel.com
National PAL receives funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to implement its innovative National PAL Mentoring program in local PAL Chapters across the country. This year the 2nd National PAL Youth Mentoring Summit was held at the Bolger Center in Potomac, MD in an effort to promote National PAL’s mission of engaging youth, law enforcement and community.

The Summit offered dynamic sessions to youth peer mentors, as well as sessions for adult mentors, program staff and volunteers. The adult tracks emphasized best practices for implementing the National PAL Mentoring grant, training on the curriculum and tips for developing quality mentoring relationships. Youth attending the Summit had the opportunity to connect with peers from different backgrounds residing in different parts of the country. For some youth participants, it was their first nationwide youth summit.

WASHINGTON, D.C. EXPERIENCE

The Bolger Center’s location allowed youth to be taken on a day trip to Washington, D.C. where they were able to explore and even meet with Senators and Representatives from their home states. The National PAL Youth Mentoring Summit has become one of those life changing moments of the year for youth participating in the PAL program. It expands their horizons and engages them in activities that are often not available in their home communities.

Barbara Bonilla, Chairman of the National PAL Board of Directors, expressed how powerful it was to watch youth from her Chapter and other Chapters experience new things because of the opportunities made available to them through the National PAL Mentoring program.
Mentoring Spotlight: Fairfield PAL

Though Fairfield, CA PAL has been around for 10 years, 2018 marks the first year that they have implemented the National PAL Mentoring Program. Heather Sanderson, Mentoring Program Coordinator for Fairfield PAL, shared how excited they were to run the program this year. She appreciates the support they received from National PAL staff, Fairfield police officers and staff, and community members to run a truly meaningful program. Through funding from the National PAL Mentoring Program, Fairfield PAL is implementing an impactful program that they call PAL Ninja Warrior.

Ninja Warrior training and competitions are a recent phenomenon where individuals tackle outrageous obstacle courses that include climbing, jumping, balancing and swinging. The Ninja Warrior aspect became their main mentee marketing tool as the recruitment tagline was “Are you tough enough to be a PAL Ninja Warrior?” This elicited a major response from the youth at their Chapter and tied it in to the Badges for Baseball curriculum, allowing them to work as a team to build courses and train to lead up to their ultimate Ninja Warrior competition.

One of the main highlights of the curriculum has been the lesson on resiliency. Fairfield PAL is located near the home of professional wheelchair basketball players called the Road Warriors. The Road Warriors players conducted a workshop on resiliency with the mentors and mentees, and even played a basketball game with the mentees afterwards. Through this opportunity, youth were not only able to hear about resiliency from these players, but saw it firsthand as they were playing alongside of them. Sanderson attributes this to the opportunities created by resources made available through the National PAL Mentoring Program.
National PAL has powerful Chapters that serve youth on the frontlines of social struggles throughout the country. Each Chapter has their own unique story and reason for being initiated in their community. One of the most recent additions to these impactful National PAL Chapters is Charleston West Virginia (WV) PAL. This Chapter did not begin in the same manner of most of PAL’s Chapters. Typically, local police departments reach out to National PAL because they see how a PAL would benefit youth in their community. Charleston WV PAL represents a new way for PAL Chapters to come to life. National PAL will move forward with identifying the need for law enforcement and youth engagement/programming in specific geographic locations and putting a plan into action where community members can be elevated to start a PAL.

In early June, Jeff Hood, Chief Executive Officer of National PAL, attended a meeting in Charleston, West Virginia. As he began conversations with local residents about their community and services offered, it became apparent that they were lacking community-based programs that engaged youth and local law enforcement. After reaching out to Charleston’s police chief and others on the local police force, National PAL was able to initiate conversations about what a PAL Chapter could look like in their community. With the increased impact of opioid abuse and high rate of teen pregnancies, it was not difficult to convince the local police department of the positive impact a PAL would have.

BECOMING AN OFFICIAL CHAPTER

By the end of June, Charleston, WV PAL was chartered as an official Chapter of National PAL and looks to provide safe and secure out of school opportunities for youth to disengage them from negative influences.

Detective Eddie Whitehead, current Executive Director of Charleston WV PAL, was extremely familiar with PAL programming when he was notified that National PAL had reached out to his department about starting one in their community. He had been eager to start a PAL with his police department. After National PAL reached out about starting the program in Charleston, he was encouraged to present the idea to their Chief and move forward with opening a new Chapter. Eddie believes that the success they have experienced with starting as a new Chapter came from the support from National PAL, community organizations and other non-profits.
At the 2018 National PAL Annual Conference, our 2018 Annual Award Winners were announced across four different categories. Winners were chosen from students and professionals associated with PAL Chapters that were among the past year’s monthly award winners and recognized in the PAL network as those who inspire their PAL colleagues and friends, and who are steadfast in their service to their communities.

Frank Sharkey, named as Co-Volunteer of the Year for 2018, is greatly valued by Vernon PAL and National PAL for his service to the organization. Frank was one of the original founding fathers of the Vernon PAL, which opened its doors over 25 years ago, and he has continued to help lead Vernon PAL while serving in various positions on the Board of Directors.

Joan Crader, named as Co-Volunteer of the Year for 2018, is an invaluable member and leader of the Nassau County PAL Special Needs Unit, and National PAL is lucky to have her as a part of the organization. The Special Needs Unit services the special needs population of Nassau County, New York and their families, providing programming to more than 250 individuals with varying degrees of developmental and physical disabilities.
Jason Zaragoza, honored as a 2018 Co-Alumni of the Year, is a true PAL success story, and continues giving back to Oxnard PAL. National PAL is honored to have him as an example for other PAL kids to follow. Currently serving as a deputy city attorney in Oxnard, Jason received his law degree from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles after graduating with his Bachelor’s from UCLA.

Armando Garcia, named as a 2018 Co-Alumni of the Year, is a success story for San Mateo County SAL and National PAL. Armando is the Program Coordinator for SAL’s Soccer for Success and Lunchtime Soccer programs and is the head coach for four teams in SAL’s competitive soccer club. Armando organizes and runs mentoring classes for youth providing life skills and education.

National PAL is honored to announce Chief of the Wilson, NC Police Department, Thomas P. Hopkins, as the 2018 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Since become Wilson PD Chief in 2010, Chief Hopkins has sought to put the “community” in “community oriented policing” for the Wilson community. Not only has he grown the Wilson PD PAL substantially, he led the PAL into becoming its own 501(c)3 non-profit in 2015, which provides free community programming to all interested PAL kids.

National PAL is pleased to announce Zayna Mennel of the North Miami Beach PAL as its 2018 Youth of the Year. Zayna is a steadfast student leader and an example for other PAL youth to follow. Since joining PAL in 2015, Zayna has donated more than 2,500 hours of service and has participated in several leadership initiatives. She became a member of the Florida PAL Leadership Program through the NMB PAL where she mentors other youth, and assists with the NMB PAL Cheer Program as an Assistant Coach.
2018 NATIONAL PAL BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

National PAL is very pleased to announce that our 2018 National PAL Boxing Championships, scheduled for September 16th - 22nd in Oxnard, CA will officially return to its level of prominence, as it has been designated by USA Boxing as an Official Rankings Tournament. Additionally, we are equally excited to announce that our 2019 National PAL Boxing Championships event will be classified as an Official Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

National PAL would like to give special thanks to Terrell Harrison and the Oxnard PAL for, yet again, stepping up to be our event’s official hosting site and event coordinator!