

Dear Club Members,

It's been an exciting couple of months for our Club. We held a hugely successful National Skating Month event, got our beginner synchro class up and running, sponsored a clinic featuring world-renowned instructors and were invited by KSDK to appear on its morning program during the Olympics. Thanks to all who worked together to get us off to a great start this year!

**Club Ice Extended**--We are very excited to announce that due to high demand for lessons from our incredible and highly-qualified coaching staff, we will be offering Club ice at the Kirkwood Ice Arena during the period in which the Brentwood Ice Arena shuts down for its annual maintenance. Our Club ice in Kirkwood will be available from 4:30-6:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Tuesday, April 20 and ending Thursday, May 20. Look for reservation forms to be posted on our website later this week.

**Brentwood Ice Arena Update**--While we're on the subject of the Brentwood Ice Arena, I thought this would be a good time to update you on the rink's status. I've heard that rumors continue to be spread by members of the skating community that the rink is closing at the end of this year. While it saddens me that persons not involved with managing our Club or the Brentwood Ice Arena would spread these and other rumors, nothing could be further from the truth. No decision has been made by the City with regard to development of the recreation center and the most recent news is that the mayor has suggested the City investigate plans for rebuilding or updating the recreation center to include an ice rink. While a determination by the City of what will be done with the recreation center is still a long way off, both the City and the Club are making plans now to offer programs at the Brentwood Ice Arena throughout the next year. As I have said in the past and will say again, St. Louis Skating Club is one of the oldest skating clubs in the Country and will continue to fulfill its mission of promoting, encouraging and improving all areas of amateur skating in the greater St. Louis community no matter what eventually happens to the Brentwood Ice Arena.

**Annual Spring Show**--Make plans now to attend the annual spring show at the Brentwood Ice Arena on Sunday, April 18 from 3:00-4:30pm. This year's show celebrates the music of Broadway and will feature skaters from the Brentwood LTS program and St. Louis Skating Club. Admission is free.

**Upcoming Test Sessions**--We will be continuing our tradition of offering regular testing for our members nine months of the year. Our next two test sessions will be held at the Brentwood Ice Arena on Thursday, March 18 and Thursday, April 15. The dance partner for both test sessions will be the always-popular Andrew Beck so make certain to turn in your test forms early.

**Fleur de Lis Enhancements**--Our Board, in cooperation with the St. Louis Fleur de Lis coaching staff, has been hard at work developing a plan for enriching our synchro program next season. We are very pleased that St. Louis Fleur de Lis co-founder, Julie Binz, has agreed to take the helm as our director of synchronized skating and that next year, we will be fielding two USFS teams in addition to an ISI team. Coaches Brittany Wisenor and Sally Knoll will be returning next year (along with some new additions.) While more information will be provided to you about next season in the coming weeks, we are very excited that choreographer/coach Heather Paige has agreed to work with our USFS teams on developing their programs. Heather coached the Miami University Collegiate team to four consecutive national championship titles before joining the Starlights two years ago. Since joining the Starlights, she has been instrumental in helping the organization move its junior team up the ranks to become the Chicago-area's only senior-level team, a team which earned an international bid in its first year as a senior-level team even before its medal winning performance at this past weekend's national championships. Look for more information about a March 30 informational meeting and our April 24 tryouts to be posted on the St. Louis Fleur de Lis website soon.

**Annual Banquet and Meeting**--Our Annual Banquet and Annual Meeting promises to be a lot of fun this year as we head to Grant's Farm on Sunday, May 2. This year marks a very special year for us as St. Louis Skating Club celebrates its 80th year of being a member of US Figure Skating. Regina Ray will be serving as our chair for this year's event. Parents willing to help Regina should contact her at draray94\_2@sbcglobal.net.

As always, please feel free to email me with any questions or suggestions on how we can make YOUR club better. In the meantime, enjoy the Spring weather,

Rod Sharp, SLSC President