

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

THIS IS US

We have come to the end of the 2017-2018 school year. On the first weekend of June, we conducted our Baseball Championships, Softball Championships and our Boys Tennis Individual Championships. When all of those are completed, that's a wrap!



However, those championships are not our final events of the year. Our culminating event of the school year is our Champions for Character Golf Tournament that was held last Tuesday at Rio Hondo Golf Club in Downey. This golf tournament is the sole funding mechanism for the Jim Staunton Champions for Character program which recognizes student-athletes, coaches, administrators, schools, officials and members of the media who exemplify the very best in ethics, sportsmanship and character in the entire Southern Section. As I look back on last Tuesday, I realize that in many ways, this tournament truly represents who we are and what we stand for. We may be a wide variety of people, from different backgrounds and points of view, but we are united by the same goal of supporting a cause that is of direct benefit to the young

people we are so fortunate to serve. To borrow from a popular television show, This is Us.

Golfers – For the 7th year in a row, this tournament has been sold out by May 1. We have almost 150 golfers who come from as far away as Oxnard in the North, Santa Margarita in the South, San Bernardino in the East and all points in between. Many of our golfers have participated in this event every year and we are so appreciative of their ongoing commitment to this program.

Tee Signs – Many of our leagues, and some individual member schools, are kind enough to purchase tee signs that are placed all around the golf course. It is so gratifying to see the different signs at every tee box, and again, they come from every geographic area in our section, as well as from public schools, private schools, big schools, medium schools and small schools.

Corporate Sponsors – The great relationships we have with our corporate partners is certainly on display. Gatorade, Spalding, Russell Athletic, and the NFHS Network, contribute products and other in-kind donations that are used as auction items and raffle prizes, while also helping defray costs associated with this event. They go above and beyond in their efforts to assist us.

Friends of the CIF Southern Section – We have several individuals/corporations who contribute cash donations for our scholarship program. As you know, we award \$1,000 scholarships to each student/athlete and school who are selected as a Champion for Character. These donations from our friends ensure that we can deliver these scholarships each year.

Staff and Volunteers – Our entire staff, and some very special volunteers, are involved with every aspect of this venture. They devote many hours preparing for tournament day and last Tuesday they worked tirelessly to make sure that everyone had a great time. We are often told by our golfers that our tournament is one of the most organized and well-run tournaments they have ever been part of. Our outstanding staff and volunteers deserve much of the credit for that.

For all of these reasons, and many more, I am so very proud to say, This is Us!

Thank you very much for your help and support, it is truly appreciated. Enjoy a restful summer break and I look forward to another great year working together with you in 2018-2019.

All the best,

Rob Wigzel

