

10,000

We are slowly inching toward the 10,000 member mark between here and the Skaneateles YMCA. Everyone is working hard to plan for when we hit 10,000 and we will be celebrating for an entire week. Be sure to check for special activities that will be going at both Auburn and Skaneateles to celebrate our 10,000th member. Naturally, we are thankful for all that are members here and also for our many visitors who come in from around the city and from all over the country.

Soap Box Derby will be here before you know it. This event will take place on Saturday, May 26 at Hoopes Park. It is always a great family experience and it must be quite a thrill for those racers to come down the hill and hear all the people that are yelling for them. People line both side of Genesee Street by Hoopes Park to cheer their drivers on. If you are thinking of participating in the Soap Box Derby, now is the time to register and get your car ready. We have some cars available here at the Auburn YMCA, so be sure to contact Steve Komaneky and start building that car today!

We have had a young man who has been a member of ours for a number of years. We have watched him grow up as he is one of our gym rats and spends a lot of time playing basketball in the gym. Recently, we have noticed that he has been in arrears on his payments and besides the dreaded buzzer that goes off when your card is scanned, some of our desk staff gently reminded him that a payment was due. After a couple of weeks when we were told a payment was coming but nothing materialized, one of our desk staff brought it to my attention and asked if we could possibly give him a break for a couple of months and scholarship him. After checking with our membership director, Beth and our CEO, Kurt, it was decided that this was a good option for him. This young man has greatly matured in the past couple of years and one of the things he likes most is still playing basketball. Better to be here with us than out on the streets, possibly getting into trouble. He was very grateful, as was his parent who was struggling in today's economy. I know I say it all of the time, but this is what we are all about. We turn no one away due to inability to pay. We are happy to extend memberships due to extenuating circumstances and we are able to do this because of the generosity of so many members, companies and the general public who believe and support us in what we do.

As the weather finally becomes a little bit worse, but nothing like previous winters, we are starting to see the YMCA get even more busy. There are days when I look at the clock and it seems like I just got here but it is already time to go home. All of us who are employed by the YMCA do so much more than our job descriptions. We are able to cross between programs since we know about most of the programs that are offered here. A big part of our day also goes to taking the time to talk to members, socialize and see how they are doing. We also try to answer any of their complaints in a timely manner. It takes a good deal of time to do all of that and deal with our daily job duties. But through everything, I would rather work here than anywhere else. We have a great staff, everyone gets along and we all believe in the mission of the YMCA.

Right now, the staff is working on the **Annual Support Campaign** so we are all busy getting out to various people to see if they want to help with the campaign. We are also preparing for our annual Health Fair which will be held on Saturday, March 3 from 7:30 am to 10:am. The Auburn Memorial Hospital Laboratory will be here to draw blood for the cholesterol and glucose screening. Be sure to fast 12 hours before you have the testing done. There will also be a variety of vendors with the all the latest medical information. On Friday, March 2, there will be a Healthy Kids' celebration which will be geared more to the youth of the community. More information will follow on that event.

February is half way over even though this year we get an extra day before we "leap" into March. Summer will be here before you know is so get busy working out and come see us at the Auburn YMCA.