

A Message from Our Chair

May 2023

We are just days away from the most exciting time of the year for me and our Ys: summer. It's a fun time of year, with all the energy kids, teens and families bring to our Ys with summer camp and pools opening. And it's a hectic time as we scramble to get ready; we are in the process of hiring over 250 new staff at the High Point YMCA.

This is also the season when I lose the most sleep, thinking about our buses, pools, the volume of activity, and having the right staff in place. I look forward to summer and then wake up in the middle of the night wondering if we covered all our bases.

It's helpful to me to remind myself that there's a balance; it's always safety first, but it's also fun. We need to keep it fun, creative, and energetic for families, while keeping safety top of mind. Working hard to get the right people in place and training staff --training and more training -- helps to maintain that balance.

Spending time with staff and thanking them is also important to me. I'm meeting with an afterschool team that's about to wrap up the year to thank them, and I will be talking with new day camp staff in a few weeks. Our staff are the most important part of the team; they are front and center with the kids. So, I'm showing up, thanking staff, and giving credit to them in front of our volunteers throughout the summer.

My advice to our staff across the state is to enjoy the moment. Enjoy the fun and the mission moments happening all around us. Enjoy the impact and the difference we're making in kids' lives and celebrate it all season long.

Lynn Lomax
CEO, YMCA of High Point
Chair, NC Alliance Board of Directors