

Editorial

Dear Readers,



Youth work in our association could certainly be viewed with a critical eye: decreasing membership and children and adolescents with less free time due to school, but whose recreational opportunities have become more diverse and whose decreased presence in our training areas is supposedly due to this and digital media. Or, we could look at our resources and the positive events in our association instead. I think we should build on that and be optimistic about the future! For two years now, we have seen increasing numbers of new youth members. More than 240 members have now been qualified for youth work in our club in numerous youth head seminars. Our leisure and sports offering for children and adolescents is becoming more and more diverse.

Youth work at SV means fun, community and skills development, but also assuring the livelihood of our association. I feel that the people who are committed to youth in our association do so primarily because they enjoy the atmosphere at the youth events and spending time with our young members. Based on this motivation, numerous events, competitions, projects and seminars for children, adolescents and juniors are organised and carried out year after year. This sets us clearly apart from all other member associations of the VDH. But above all, this motivation enriches the everyday life of our club, thus ensuring its future in the long term.

An example of this is the North Rhineland Federal Group's project *Kind trifft Hund* (Child Meets Dog) Or the project workshop for youth work, a unique form of cooperation at SV which was held for the third time in October of this year. There, federal group heads of youth, committed members interested in youth work and young people themselves shared the responsibility of developing great ideas and measures for youth work in our association over the course of two days.

Among other things, this work produced the guidelines for the promotion of youth work, which represent the initial structural financial support for local and federal groups, and the new contribution scheme for children and adolescents at *Verein für Deutsche Schäferhunde (SV) e. V.* Also in this year's project workshop, new innovative ideas and offers for the very youngest in our club were created. You can look forward to reading more about it soon.

Yours truly,

Daniela Thoring, Association Head of Youth