

**Lone Star Volleyball Association**  
**Minutes of the Annual Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Friday, March 10, 2023**  
**Hilton Garden Inn**  
**Houston - Energy Corridor**

**PRESIDER:** Will Vick, Commissioner

**RECORDER:** Carrie Baehr, Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Commissioner, Will Vick, called the meeting to order at 8:12 PM.

**ROLL CALL:** Absent Mark Papich, and Mar Resendiz.

**GUESTS:** Brittany Arduini, Ricardo Elizondo, Glenn Lietzke, and Kathy Lietzke

**APPROVAL OF 2022 MINUTES:** The 2022 BOD Minutes were approved as written. (Marc Holmquist moved / Karen Tarmon seconded)

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The 2023 Agenda was approved as written and amended. (Wally Simpson moved / Marc Holmquist seconded)

**ELECTIONS:** Commissioner Vick called for nominations from the floor, for the positions currently up for election. Gloria Cox called for a motion to be made to close nominations / Karen Tarmon seconded. All non-opposed positions were accepted by acclimation. (Virgie Mallett moved / Wally Simpson seconded).

- Gordon Morrison, Houston Area Representative was opposed by Brittany Arduini and Ricardo Elizondo.

**DATE AND LOCATION OF 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTIONS MEETING:** The 2024 Board Meeting will be at the Hilton Garden Inn, Houston – Energy Corridor on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. (Hal Naumann moved / Marc Holmquist seconded)

## **DIRECTORS REPORTS**

**VICE COMMISSIONER:** No report.

**SCORER CHAIR:** Steve Crane reported that there were 4858 certified scorers as of the board meeting. A total of 205 clinics were held in 57 cities. He reported that the Region currently has certified 31 National Scorers, 17 Regional Scorers, 142 Provisional Scorers, and 4668 Junior Olympic Scorers, as of March 10, 2022. The Lone Star Region currently has two National Scorer Candidates – Nicole Junell (accepted), and Dawnlee Roberson (alt).

**REFEREE'S CHAIR:** Joe Campbell reported that LSR currently has 33 National, 27 Junior National, 98 Certified Paid Regionals, 104 Certified Paid Provisionals 104, 3 Certified Junior R1, and 171 Junior R2 (an 8% increase over last year). Joe reported that the Region is recommending 3 Junior National and 4 National Referee Candidates. The Lone Star Region hosted 110 referee clinics with total attendance of 2,755 as of March 10, 2023. A virtual coach's referee course was implemented with success.

**ADULT TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:** Thang Nguyen reported that adult friendship tournaments continue to happen twice a month in Houston. In Junior Beach, the Region will host 3 national Beach Qualifiers this year with an additional 75 plus events in Texas. The Region currently has over 200 girls in the beach volleyball programs.

**JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT:** Gloria Cox reported that the Regions registered membership has seen an 8.3% increase with the boys' numbers up 10%. We closed the 2021-2022 Season with 1829 teams, and the current number for the 2022-2023 season is 1981. The first ever Boys' Regionals was held in conjunction with the Cross Court Tournament. There were 119 LS teams that competed in the Girls' Jr National Championship.

**TREASURER:** The report was distributed to each board member. Any questions concerning the report must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner or Treasurer. The region is doing well and allocating some funds to grow the adult participation and social media would be beneficial.

**WOMEN'S PLAYER REPRESENTATIVE:** Reported the majority of calls come from juniors who are redirected. There are not women's teams participating except in Friendship tournaments. Adult area representative is still participating and trying to stir up membership for women.

**HOUSTON AREA REPRESENTATIVE:** Gordon Morrison reports that Houston is stronger than ever before. There are more tournaments and more players and Houston is continuing to see growth throughout the area. Willowbrook is no longer a volleyball facility after 23 years and two owners.

**MEN'S PLAYER REPRESENTATIVE:** There are currently no men's teams in the region. Ideas are needed to help promote the adult volleyball program.

**AUSTIN AREA REPRESENTATIVE:** Virgie Mallet reported that encouragement is given to the parents to read the Lone Star Region Handbook, so they may know the rules and the transgender policy that the Region has. The Austin area is continuing to grow and has recently seen an increase in interest from adults.

**BRAZOS VALLEY REPRESENTATIVE:** Wally Simpson shared there is a new facility, Legends Event Center, in the Bryan-College Station area owned by the City of Bryan. Legends Event Center is interested in running USAV tournaments. With the designation of a new head coach at A&M, there seems to be a new buzz around.

**CORPUS CHRISTI REPRESENTATIVE:** Helping to develop new clubs in the area and encouraging clubs to participate with each other to develop volleyball. Outdoor volleyball is growing in the area, but no USAV sanctioned events at this time.

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA REPRESENTATIVE:** Shereka McLain notes that the Golden Triangle is doing well and is growing.

**COACHES DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR:** Nothing to report.

**SAN ANTONIO REPRESENTATIVE:** In Lieu of emergency absence of Representative, Commissioner Will Vick spoke about the positive growth in the San Antonio area.

**MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE:** Karen Tarmon noted that Sports Engine continues to be a work in progress but is seeing a lot of positive with the program. She continues to communicate with club directors around the region when issues arise and encourages all members to reach out to her instead of the website to work thru the kinks. Karen and Gloria are making updates to the tournament information in the handbook, and those should be available in the upcoming months.

**COMMISSIONER NOTES:** Will Vick noted that all payments for AES (Tournament Entry System for single and multi-day events) for use within the Region have been paid and will be paid until further notice. High Performance Teams are no longer part of the Region.

#### **BUSINESS:**

**REGISTRATION FEES:** The membership registration fees will remain at \$50 for the Full Membership and \$25 for the Outdoor Membership.

**TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES – 2023/2024 SEASON:** A motion was passed in the previous year's Board Meeting to increase the entry fee for events 5% for two seasons. The new tournament entry fees for the 2023-2024 season will be:

1 day Developmental events will be \$135

1 day coach refereed events will be \$150

1 day paid refereed events will be \$215

2 day paid referee events will be at \$415

**2023/2024 Tournament Gate Fees:** Gate fees will remain the same as in previous seasons. The max allowable charge is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids (excluding convention centers).

**BOARD LAWYER:** Transgender competition raises unresolved questions of gender equity, sports fairness, and identity validation, all of which the Lone Star Region is not built to answer through its sanctioned competitions. The USA Volleyball Gender Competition Guidelines will govern USAV-specific events with respect to transgender competition in those events. In alignment with the Texas regulations governing youth interscholastic athletic competition, it will be the policy of the Lone Star Region that athletes competing in Lone Star Region sanctioned events must participate on the gender-specific team to which their unamended birth certificate designates. Motion Elbert Ortiz / seconded Will Vick

**ELECTION RESULTS:** A Ballot was cast for the election of Houston Area Representative: Gordon Morrison (Incumbent), who was opposed by Brittany Arduini and Ricardo Elizondo. Ricardo Elizondo was elected for the position effective 9/1/23 through 8/31/25.

**HONORARY MEMBER:** Commissioner Vick made a motion to have Gordon Morrison inducted as Lone Star Region Lifetime member. (Will Vick moved/Virgie Mallett seconded)

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn. The time was 10:47 P.M. (Thang Nguyen moved/Karen Tarmon seconded)

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Carrie Baehr**  
**Secretary**