

Lone Star Volleyball Association
Minutes of the Annual Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, March 8, 2024
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 8:02 PM.

ROLL CALL: Absent but excused were Elbert Ortiz

GUESTS: Carlos Tamez, Shelby Williams, Urissa Stephens, Mitch Casteel, Carter Casteel, Carlos Rodriguez, Sahyani Cortez, Zemara Lott, Brittany Arduini, Gordon Morrison, James Mahlen.

APPROVAL OF 2023 MINUTES: The 2023 BOD minutes were approved as written. (Joe Campbell moved/ Wally Simpson seconded).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written. (Virgie Mallett moved/ Steve Crane seconded)

CHANGE OF BOARD DIRECTOR TITLE / NAME: The Adult Tournament Director title is changing to Adult Indoor and Beach Director effective immediately.

DATE AND LOCATION OF 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTIONS MEETING: The 2024 Board Meeting will be at the Hilton Garden Inn, Houston – Energy Corridor on Friday, March 7th or the Eve of the Cross Court Classic. Time is 8:00 pm. (Thang Nguyen moved / Mark Papich seconded)

DIRECTORS REPORTS

COACHES' DEVELOPMENT: Mark Papich shared that The Art of Coaching will host a clinic here in Houston this year. All coaches registered with the Lone Star Region will get a \$100 discount on their in-person registration or \$50 discount on their virtual clinic registration. Ruth Nelson will also host “Go Kids Youth Sports Training” on June 8th and 9th. All the information is on the Lone Star Region website.

Impact Training is now online only, but there is interested in opening in person impact clinics again.

REFEREE'S CHAIR: Joe Campbell reported that during the 2023 – 2024 seasons a total of 103 referee clinics have been administered. There are three last chance clinics in

March. The Lone Star Region has distributed 25 regular patches and 69 provisional patches. The region currently has 33 national referees, 26 junior national referees, 95 paid certified regional referees, 110 paid certified provisional referees, four certified junior R1's, and 171 certified junior R2's. Joe reported that the region has recommended four Junior National Candidates: Elaine Lopez, Helen Ekadeli, Melinda Steadman, and Homero Rodriguez. We also had four National candidates submitting applications with Blair Gillard being selected from the four. Special Congratulations to our newest Junior National and National Referees from last season: Anna Draker, Wil Jefferson, and Pablo Grieco.

SAN ANTONIO AREA REPRESENTATIVE: Renee Keller shared that she is working with area tournament directors to improve the efficiency of tournaments hosted in San Antonio.

ADULT INDOOR AND BEACH DIRECTOR: Thang Nguyen reported that the Lone Star Region continues to see a drop in adult participation. Friendship tournaments in Houston are on the rise but haven't seen this growth move into a sanctioned tournament setting within the region.

Beach Volleyball continues to grow throughout the region. Currently there are 250 girls who play beach volleyball, and there are 85 Junior Beach Qualifier events in San Antonio, Seguin, Galveston, Austin, Webster. There are also three National Beach Qualifiers being hosted within the Region.

BRAZOS VALLEY AREA REPRESENTATIVE: Wally Simpson is happy to report continued growth and development in the Brazos Valley Area. BCS Skyline is the predominant program in Bryan/College Station Area, with one or two smaller programs in the outlying areas. BCS Skyline has grown to 34 teams, which now includes National and locally management programs.

The City of Bryan Legends Event Center is a new facility that has hosted several USAV events, and he hopes to increase that in the coming season. They have also added four sand volleyball courts and are looking to host sand tournaments soon.

GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA REPRESENTATIVE: Shereka McLain notes that the Golden Triangle is doing well and is growing. New clubs are opening, each season. She is growing relationships with the Bayou Region in hopes of creating more opportunities for athletes in both the Lone Star Region and the Bayou Region.

HOUSTON AREA REPRESENTATIVE: Ricardo Elizondo reports that Houston continues to see steady growth. The area lost Willowbrook Volleyball this year, but several other clubs were formed. He hopes to see head referees at each facility in the

future. Ricardo also noted that Claire Powers, from Penn State, is coaching at St. Pius which is promoting volleyball in that area of town.

SCORER CHAIR REPORT: Steve Crane reported that there were 5430 certified scorers as of the board meeting. Scorer clinics were held in 56 different cities. He reported that the Region currently has certified 32 National Scorers, 20 Regional Scorers, 207 Provisional Scorers, and 5171 Junior Olympic Scorers, as of March 4, 2024. The Lone Star Region currently has one National Scorer Candidates – Dawn Roberson. Steve also shared that an electronic scoring system is being introduced into club volleyball. Right now, it is mainly being used at Austin Junior Tournaments, but will be used at the 3rd weekend of Lone Star Regionals.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT: Gloria Cox reported that the Region's registered membership has seen a 6.9% increase this year with 2066 girls' teams and 51 boys' teams. Gloria also reported that 130 national bids have been earned in the girl's division and 12 national bids have been earned in the boy's division.

NEW MEMBER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND MEDIA DIRECTOR: Karen shared that the website continues to be updated. USAV is still working with Sports Engine to make some changes, but the process is slower than USAV would like.

A US Safe Sport Committee for due process will be created before the beginning of the 2024 – 2025 season. (Motion by Karen Tarmon / Seconded by Joe Campbell)

FINANCIAL REPORT: The report was distributed to each board member. Any questions concerning the report must be submitted in writing to the Commissioner or Treasurer.

Eddie Dahl shared that the region is in a good financial position but is down \$80,000 for the building of new beach courts.

AUSTIN AREA REPRESENTATIVE: Virgie Mallet mentioned that the Austin area is continuing to grow with a huge jump in the 14's age division.

CORPUS CHRISTI AREA REPRESENTATIVE: Dawna Nims shared that there are no issues in her area but also not a lot of growth. One club in the area does have beach volleyball and usually goes to Galveston or Houston to attend those tournaments.

BUSINESS:

ELECTIONS: Commissioner Vick called for nominations from the floor for the positions currently up for election. (Gloria Cox motioned to close nominations and Hal Naumann seconded)

All non-opposed positions were accepted by acclimation. (Mark Papich moved and Virgie Mallett seconded)

Nominee Presentations:

- Hal Naumann (Vice Commissioner)
- Mitch Casteel (Vice Commissioner)
- Joe Campbell (Referee Chair)
- Carlos Rodriguez (Referee Chair)
- Virgie Mallett (Austin Area Rep)
- Gloria Cox for Kevin Carlyle (Austin Area Rep)
- Carlos “Charlie” Tamez (Austin Area Rep)
- James Mahlen (Austin Area Rep)
- Urissa Stephens (Austin Area Rep)

The floor was open for discussions and went into Executive Session, for 10 minutes. Upon conclusion, all members returned to commence the voting.

ELECTION RESULTS: The votes were counted, and the results are as follows:

- Urissa Stephens will replace Virgie Mallett for Austin Area Representative
- Joe Campbell will retain his position as Referee Chair
- Hal Naumann will retain his position as Vice Commissioner

HONORARY MEMBER: Will Vick made a motion to make Virgie Mallett and Mar Resendiz Honorary Lifetime members of the board. Karen Tarmon seconded. (Motion was accepted and approved by the Board)

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn. The time was 10:42 P.M. (Thang Nguyen moved/ Marc Holmquist seconded)

Respectfully Submitted,

**Carrie Baehr
Secretary**