

**Lone Star Volleyball Association**  
**Minutes of the Annual Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Friday, March 8, 2025**  
**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 8:03 PM.

**ROLL CALL:** Absent but excused were Dawna Nims and Shereka McLain.

**GUESTS:** Carter Casteel, Tiffany Wisdom, Gordon Morrison, Brittany Arduini, Jack Zaldivar.

**APPROVAL OF 2024 MINUTES:** The 2024 BOD minutes were approved as written. (Gloria Cox moved/ Joe Campbell seconded).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Urissa Stephens requested two additional items to be added to the agenda – additional spectator fees and fines. The agenda was approved with these additions. (Mark Papich moved/ Wally Simpson seconded)

**DATE AND LOCATION OF 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTIONS MEETING:** The 2025 Board Meeting will be at the Hilton Garden Inn, Houston – Energy Corridor on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> or the Eve of the Cross Court Classic. Time is 8:00 pm. (Mark Papich moved / Hal Naumann seconded)

## **DIRECTORS REPORTS**

**COACHES' DEVELOPMENT:** Mark Papich shared that of the 170 coaches at the Art of Coaching Clinic, only 12 Lone Star coaches participated in the clinic. He is hoping that is the future we can offer more coaching clinics at a better price which will encourage attendance.

**REFEREE'S CHAIR:** Joe Campbell reported that during the 2024 - 2025 season a total of 110 referee clinics have been administered. The Lone Star Region has distributed 31 regular patches and 64 provisional patches. The region currently has 34 national referees, 29 junior national referees, 45 paid certified regional referees, 67 paid certified provisional referees, 8 certified junior R1's, and 13 certified junior R2's. Joe reported that the region has recommended 9 Junior National Candidates: Antonio Colon Mateo, Melissa Fadler, Daniel Martinez, Janine McIntyre, Tafuna Oney, Homero Rodriguez, Brian Smith, Nicholas Stock, and Crag Sweitzer. We also had 4 National

candidates submitting applications with Wil Jefferson and Janine Patton being accepted. Special Congratulations to our newest Junior National and National Referees from last season: Ed Lau and Steven Wohlschlaeger.

**SAN ANTONIO AREA REPRESENTATIVE:** Renee Keller shared that San Antonio is doing well. A lot of new clubs are popping up in the area, and she is seeing a lot of growth in an already busy area.

**ADULT INDOOR AND BEACH DIRECTOR:** Thang Nguyen reported that the Lone Star Region continues to see a drop in adult participation. Adults continue to either age out or they have decided to officiate. The younger adults are mostly coaching and not playing.

Beach Volleyball continues to grow throughout the region. Currently there are 85 Junior Beach Qualifier events in San Antonio, Seguin, Galveston, Austin, Webster. There are also 4 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. The City of Bryan Legends Event Center continues to see success and has been a great addition to the area.

**GOLDEN TRIANGLE AREA REPRESENTATIVE:** Shereka McLain notes that the Golden Triangle is doing well and is growing. A new facility with 6 courts just opened in Orange and will help promote volleyball in the area.

**HOUSTON AREA REPRESENTATIVE:** Ricardo Elizondo reports that Houston continues to see steady growth. Houston has seen several new facilities pop up this season. Ricardo was also proud to announce that Houston Juniors was listed as the number 1 club in the nation.

**SCORER CHAIR REPORT:** Steve Crane reported that there were 6638 certified scorers as of the board meeting. Scorer clinics were held in 58 different cities. He reported that the Region currently has certified 32 National Scorers, 20 Regional Scorers, 271 Provisional Scorers, and 6315 Junior Olympic Scorers, as of March 3, 2025.

**JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT:** Gloria Cox reported that the Region's registered membership has seen a 6.34% increase this year with 2197 girls' teams and a 6.14% growth with 130 boys' teams. Gloria also reported that 133 national bids have been earned in the girl's division and 11 national bids have been earned in the boy's division. The Lone Star Region is currently the second largest region in the country.

**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. The region introduced a new registrar this season. Her name is Holly Mowers.

A US Safe Sport Committee for due process was created. The committee is comprised of Mark Papich, Wally Simpson, Renee Keller, and Urissa Stephens.

**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.

**AUSTIN AREA REPRESENTATIVE:** Urissa Stephens reported that all is well in Austin. Her area continues to grow.

**LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:** Elbert Ortiz reported that although Tiger Gym conducted a private sale of its Tiger Beach, the Lone Star Region retained its full usage rights for sanctioned sand volleyball tournaments. Elbert also reported that the new administration's Presidential Orders align with the Texas' policies concerning transgender competition, and confirmed that LSR's policy is consistent with both. Elbert also confirmed that the Region is involved in litigation regarding claims under the ADA, but did not comment further because the litigation is active.

## **BUSINESS:**

**Tournament Fees:** Joe Campbell proposed that tournament fees be raised by \$10.

- Developmental Tournament - \$145
- 1 day tournament without referee - \$160
- 1 day tournament with referee - \$230
- 2-day tournament - \$425

(Gloria Cox / motion) (Wally Simpson / seconded) Proposal was accepted by the board.

**Referee Fees:** Gloria Cox proposed that referee fees be raised to reflect referee pay across the country.

- \$32 for JR1
- \$34 for Provisional Referee
- \$36 for Regional Referee
- \$38 for a Junior National Referee
- \$40 for a National Referee

(Joe Campbell / Motion) (Elbert Ortiz / seconded). Proposal was accepted by the board.

**Spectator Fees:** Urissa Stephens proposed a raise in spectator fees to help cover the cost of outside security hired for tournaments.

- \$15 for adults (13 and up)
- \$7 for children (12 and under)

(Eddie Dahl / Motion) (Joe Campbell / seconded). Proposal was accepted by the board.

**ELECTIONS:** Commissioner Vick called for nominations from the floor for the positions currently up for election. Brittany Arduini was added to the nominations for Houston Area Rep. Gloria Cox motioned to close nominations / Elbert Ortiz seconded.

**Nominee Presentations:**

- Blair Gillard
- Debbie Trainer
- Tiffany Wisdom
- Brittany Arduini
- Ricardo Elizondo

All non-opposed positions were accepted by acclamation. (Wally Simpson moved / Karen Tarmon seconded)

The floor was open for discussions.

The Board went into an executive session for a brief 10 minutes, upon re-convening, ballots were handed out.

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

- Debbie Trainer will retain her position as Women's Player Representative.
- Tiffany Wisdom will replace Ricardo Elizondo as Houston Area Representative.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn. The time was 11:36 P.M. (Gloria Cox moved/ Thang Nguyen seconded)

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Carrie Baehr**  
**Secretary**