

**2015 RVAA Assembly Mid-Year Meeting  
Oct 9-10, 2015  
Doubletree by Hilton, Denver, CO  
RVA Assembly Meeting**

**I. RVAA General Assembly**

**A. Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by Jim Webber at 3:25 pm.

**B. Roll Call - Hudson**

**Present:** Arizona – Harold Cranswick; Badger – Julie Voeck; Carolina – Kevin Wendelboe; Chesapeake – Lisa DiGiacinto; Columbia Empire – Cody March ; Delta – Joe Williams; Evergreen – Meredith Coupland; Florida – Mary Andrews; Garden Empire – Bob Baker; Gateway – Linus Shyn; Great Lakes – Sandy Abbinanti; Great Plains – Sue Mailhot; Heart of America – Lisa Madsen; Hoosier – Mitch Stemm; Intermountain – Jason Baddell; Iowa – Lynne Updegraff; Iroquois Empire – Mike McNeil; Keystone – Michelle Carlton; Lone Star – Will Vick; Moku O Keawe – Angie Andrade-Morioka; New England – Dave Peixoto; North Country – Judy Praska; North Texas – Andy Reitingner; Northern California – Donna Donaghy; Oklahoma – Shawn McCarty; Ohio Valley – Bob Price; Old Dominion – Skip Weston; Palmetto – Jimmy Peden; Pioneer – Nancy Funk; Puget Sound – John Bryant; Rocky Mountain – Wendy Sapp; Southern – Ken Cain; Southern California – Ann Davenport; Sun Country – Mark Noble; Western Empire – John Hughes. Quorum is present.

**Proxy (written):** Aloha – Donna Donaghy; Bayou – Sue Mailhot; Gulf Coast – Ken Cain;

**Absent (no proxy):** Alaska, Lakeshore

**New Commissioners:**

**C. Rules of Order** – Rules of Order were read by Ken Cain

**D. Approval of minutes** – The Minutes of May, 2015 meeting were approved as amended.

**E. Approval of agenda** – The Meeting agenda was approved as amended.

A motion was put forward to enter into Executive Session to discuss a sensitive matter involving a USAV Region. The meeting moved into Executive Session with 38 Region representatives.

The RVAA emerged from Executive Session with a motion to remove the IVA report from the RVAA Agenda to allow the Intermountain Region the opportunity to exhaust the proper complaint process.

**F. RVAA Contingency Fund – Praska**

The balance of the contingency fund is \$7,934.56. Twenty cents of interest was earned since May.

**II. Reports**

**A. BOD Representatives – Cain & Hughes**

1. Commissioners please plan to attend the BOD meeting. It is a good working BOD and it is important that you attend.

**B. NGC Report – Nancy Funk**

**1. For 2016**

- a. Three BOD positions coming up in June 2016:
  - Beach Male Player – Todd Rogers
  - Beach Development – Jeff Conover
  - RVAA Rep – Ken Cain

Todd Rogers and Jeff Conover are both in their first term and will be eligible for re-election. Ken Cain is in his second term and is not eligible to be re-elected.

Notices will be going out to all groups to remind them to begin the process for election of their board member.

- b. **RVAA NGC position** held by Nancy Funk expires December 2016.

**C. Board ABF Report – Cain/Praska**

**D. Rules Commission - Kevin Wendelboe**

There is nothing to report. The May meeting is not a working meeting. The next meeting of the Rules Commission is in February.

**III. Vendor Reports**

**A. Insurance Report – ESIX & SSCI Report**

- 1. **ESIX** - Mike Price, Jennifer Rains, Shawn Lankey

- a. **Insurance issues**

- i. **September Renewal**

- a. The per-athlete rate for this season was held to \$4.08 after the renewal. A 2% increase over last season.

- b. Participant Accident

2013-14 resulted in a higher number of claims. The thought behind the rise in claims was that the carrier reserves were set too high and because there was an error in processing the Incident Report Forms. This turned out to be true.

Chubb International is the new carrier for 2016. The rate was set at \$2.10 with the change in carriers. Claims administration was moved back to American Specialty. AIG could not understand the claim nuances that we have and they were too big with too many people involved to work with us.

- c. Liability

Exposure changes, player counts, number of events, and the loss history is what is taken into account for the liability insurance. This has not been favorable for USAV for the past 5 years. ESIX expected challenges on the renewal based on the loss history. They were forced to go out and market the insurance to other carriers. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row they had to market to carriers. This can burn the market or cause the carriers to work with them. One competitor came back but the overall picture was not better so the same carrier was kept.

The types of claims they are receiving: participants colliding with equipment, spectator slip and falls and injuries due to coming in contact with equipment.

ii. **Regional D & O Policy**

The Regional D & O policy is in place for all 40 regions. There were 8 claims in the past 2 years which is a dramatic jump.

For 2016 the deductible was raised to \$1000 per claim. Coverage is effective Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. The summary is available on the shared document link.

iii. **Insurance Committee Meeting**

ESIX has been asked to work on a program for learning to play. It would be a waiver for clinics or demos – no membership would be required. They will report back to the Insurance Committee with any information they have.

It was noted that when renting equipment for an event, there is no coverage for the rented equipment by USAV liability insurance. This includes sport court or fork lifts.

Incident report forms need to be sent to the Region who submits to American Specialty. It is up to the Region to know what is happening in their region. Do not hold onto the forms – send them on to the carrier quickly. Claim will not be processed until the Incident Report form has been received.

SafeSport – USAV law firm has become involved with the SafeSport agency. This involvement has made some significant improvements in the way the structure has been done. This is a positive improvement in the way the funding is being done. This is a positive for the RVAs.

iv. **Questions**

Q. Sometimes a region gets Incident Report forms 8 months to a year after the incident.

A. The report forms should come in immediately after an incident. When they come in late the validity can come under question. When submitting a late form make a note on the form saying it is late and also indicate if you are not sure of the validity. Do not hold onto the form. The carrier will take a closer look at the claim on our behalf.

Q. Transgender Minor Participation

A. USAV has an adult transgender policy. Some state associations have adopted policies for transgender minor participation. USAV has asked Dr. Bill Briner, Chair of Sports Medicine and Performance Commission, for guidance. Individual was born one gender and is living as another gender and wants to play club volleyball. Each Region could set their own policies according to their state laws. USAV needs guidance on this in the event this comes up in qualifiers and the JNC. At this point there is no exclusion for covering sexual abuse transgender items.

Incident Report Forms – need to keep these items in check so we can keep our costs low.

## **2. SSCI Report – Randy Rodebaugh/Byron Palmer**

### **a. Background Screens – Statistical Recap**

All the info is on the file share.

Just over 37k screens were conducted through the program this year. 5.86% had some criminal history. 73 individuals were disqualified based on their criminal past. This is in our normal range over the past 5 seasons. However 14 disqualifications fell into the sex crimes category. This is by far the highest number – almost a doubling of this number. Several theories as to why the higher number is two-fold:

1. there is greater awareness of the public of those types of crimes, and
2. there is a greater willingness among law enforcement to prosecute these type of cases now.

Sexual offenses were the driving force that caused the requirement for background screens. 1 arrest was from 1999, 6 of the 14 were arrested in 2015. Many of those individuals had passed a background screen in the past but crossed the line emphasizing the need for continued background screening individuals.

Turnaround time on the screen was 2.01 days for a background screen – across the regions range of 3.46 days to 1.33 days across the regions. A lot of jurisdictional issues outside their control have an effect on the turnaround time.

Since 2004 almost 600 individuals have been removed from coaching as the result of the background screen program.

### **b. Significant Events from 2015**

#### **1. Legislative Issues**

Florida was the first to legislate background screen policies for those working with youth in sports. Now Pennsylvania has enacted a 3 fold screening policy.

PA Act 153 – Anyone (employees and volunteers) that works with children in Pennsylvania have to go get 3 separate checks through 3 different agencies at a great cost to the individual. This is a result of the Jerry Sandusky case. As this law worked its way through the courts there have been a few changes to the law:

1. the search is now free for volunteers,
2. Lower the cost,
- and 3. It is now required every 5 years instead of every 3 years.

SSCI decided to leave this to the individual hiring entity to make sure the applicant has the proper screenings. The individual will get the results and bring them to the hiring entity to show them they are qualified. They have been able to do this without having to go through Webpoint or having to do an additional search.

A law in Colorado was defeated this past year but will be brought back next year. The law will be for those working with youth sports. The sponsor of the bill in Colorado has talked to SSCI about their search protocols. The proposed law will probably mirror the search USAV is already doing. The difference could be how frequent they require the checks.

SSCI is constantly keeping an eye out for state legislation that come forward.

#### **2. JVA/AAU programs**

AAU has not changed anything on their background screen requirements. They still have a low cost ineffective database search. JVA has changed their

program. They have switched to comprehensive search (county courthouse search) every 2 years. The cost will be \$20 for the screen. 10 day turnaround time. There is still a difference between our search and their search: we search multiple counties; they search only one county – the longest residence in the past 5 years.

JVA is willing to accept USAV background checks if someone has one, but they are still accepting AAU background screens as well. It is unclear why they are changing their program if they still accept AAU background screens.

3. Questions

Q. What are the requirements for teams that come into PA to play?

A. Going in or out of the state, there is no minimum requirement before you must be screened. The law only applies if you reside or work in the state for 30 days or more.

Q. A coach in Florida passed a USAV background screen but did not pass the school BG Screen.

A. It depends on what criteria the school is requiring as to the reason for the disqualification.

#### IV. Staff Reports

##### A. Staff Introductions - Margie Mara

Susan Barkley & Molly Crockett – Webpoint

Bernie MacLean – manager of Human Resources, Stacy Kerns - Director of Finance,

June Sander and April Biebel - worked on the meeting arrangements. April also arranges travel.

Kerry Klostermann – Secretary General

Chris Vadala (COO)

Patty Fadum – Region Services – great resource branding/outreach projects,

Tori Hoke – Region Services – organization and meeting schedules for RVA Assembly

##### B. State of the Game - Doug Beal

1. Gold Map – A number of sports in the winter games realized remarkable membership growth through this Gold Map program. USAV needs the RVAs to be involved in this and responsive when we send out communication. How the message is delivered is the compelling issue and driving force as to the success of the Gold Map program. The individual athletes that are highlighted and the scripts are critical to reaching potential participants. The opportunity to connect with millions of potential participants from the youngest kids to oldest adults is far beyond what we could do and pay for. Because of their long term commitment and investment to the Olympic Games NBC has been massaged by the USOC and the NGB Council to address these types of issues on a sport by sport basis.

2. Volleyball in Rio will be dominant across the NBC platforms of programming. The exposure will depend on the US results as the Games progress. NBC is enormously committed to our sport. The effort the Brazil Federation is putting forward is over the top.

3. The Open Court Concept could play into the Gold Map program very well. It may work better in some regions than other but it has great value for all.

4. Qualifying process for Rio Games

Both sitting teams have qualified. This is the first time for the men in a long time. A full complement of teams in the Olympics and Paralympics is paramount for us. Only the host team, Brazil, will have as many teams involved in Volleyball as we hope to have.

The Indoor Men won the World Cup and qualified early. Doug is optimistic that the Indoor Women will qualify soon and that we will fill the two spots per gender in the Beach program. It is very possible the Beach Women will have to use the Continental Cup for qualification. We have never had to go that route to qualify before. One country team per confederation can qualify for the Beach within the process through NORCECA. This option was not available 4 years ago.

5. We have never had the level of success at age group teams – both beach and indoor – as we are now. It shows in the impact that we are having with young players on our senior level teams. Players right out of college are starting and are key players. This is a tribute to the broad based growth of our sport, the proliferation of our junior clubs, and the quality of coaching. The sport is growing at every level. RVAs and NCAA are both a huge part of it.

6. SafeSport

The USAV perspective on SafeSport has not changed. It is positive and valuable for the NGB, the participants and the RVAs. When the SafeSport Agency gets established this will relieve the RVAs of the responsibility, cost and expertise to deal with issues we are not qualified to deal with. The USOC is going through a nominating governance process to hire staff and the legal and governance issues involved with this program. This organization is much more complicated than USADA. It is an undefinable area when we talk about abusive or problematic behavior. Abuse is a growing problem in our country and we need to stay ahead of it. The tentative start date for the organization is mid-2016.

The USOC has a significant financial commitment from the NCAA and is close to the same type of arrangements with professional sports organizations. The more buy in by other organizations the more credible the Agency becomes and professionally staffed the organization becomes. The broader the Agency becomes the broader the complaints it can handle.

Everything within the USOC has been slowed because of the fiasco with Boston, then the ramp up of LA for the formal bid and the imminent arrival of Rio overshadows many other issues. Feel very good about the USOC and how the organization is proceeding.

7. Power Conferences and Olympic Sports

There is current discussion in our country about the relationship of sports to colleges and the autonomy of the power conferences. This is potentially a problematic issue for us and many other NGBs. If costs continue to increase and the 5 conferences continue to operate without any framework for cost many think a reaction will be the cutting of sports - Olympic sports - from NCAA programs. The USOC can take a stand on this issue and make a difference. The value of Olympic sports on college campuses is valuable to all of the NGBs. The NGBs have been encouraging the USOC to develop a department to work on this. The USOC will be hiring someone to take this on.

Had a great discussion at the Olympic Assembly with a high level NCAA person – Kevin White and Larry Scott

All agree this is a very concerning issue and that the USOC is the organization that needs to take a stand on this.

There is a consortium of national coaches associations that are very engaged with this issue for over a year. The 5 conferences have huge autonomy. They can make policy decisions and financial decisions. They are making cost decisions that they can't even afford. Their decisions have very broad consequences for their own programs. Their own college sports programs are at risk. Each NGB has a different issue to deal with. It incumbent for us to have staff and people in the RVAs who know what is going on in their local university programs and can pass it on. How do we protect our sport at the college and high school level? Internally USAV will need to devote personnel and money on this issue.

The 5 power conferences have been frustrated for many years with the NCAA because they could not make financial decisions on their own. The NCAA took all 3 division levels into consideration before making any decisions. The big 5 conferences overreacted. There have been some very costly decisions made. The big 5 increased the value of a scholarship by \$2000 - \$5000. Not all schools can take on this cost. It makes them more desirable for athletes. Unlimited food is also part of the funding allowed. Licensing issues have not even been addressed and the image that the schools might have to end up paying for. Sixty-five schools make up the 5 power conferences. They want to be autonomous in making decisions they think apply only to them. This affects all the schools that want to keep up with the Jones'. The national dialogue needs to be centered around the broad based education opportunity instead of the football and basketball programs. The fear is that if the conferences can't limit themselves it may go to Congress to decide this issue. This may not be best for developing sport.

8. Hosting Events

In 2016, in addition to attending the Olympic games, USAV will be hosting more international events. It is a big challenge and a big cost.

- Adding a weekend of the Women's Grand Prix in the US.
- May host the NORCECA Olympic Qualifier – Jan 7-9 in LA if it happens for us. 4 teams for one spot to the Olympic games
- 2 NORCECA events are part of our requirements – Women's Jr Championships and Women's Pan Am Cup.

9. Member Growth initiative

USAV talked with several commissioners about the membership growth initiative. The idea is to motivate regions to grow by possibly providing support to the Regions for staffing, infrastructure and facilities (offices).

10. Philip Bryant and Gulf Shores Region has been awarded the first 2 years of the NCAA Beach Championships. They have done a terrific job there with the previous tournaments.

11. USOC Museum

The City of Champions is an initiative in Colorado Springs to build an Olympic Museum. Dick Celeste, former governor of Ohio and former President of Colorado College, is spearheading the fundraising program to build a 60k sq. ft. museum on 2 acres. \$50m has been raised so far of the \$75m needed.

**C. SafeSport – Quintiya Miller**

Training numbers: 20,000 have taken the SafeSport training. The top 5 regions for training are: Iowa, Ohio Valley, North Texas, Delta, and Keystone.

The tentative date for the opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> party organization is July, 2016. They have yet to discuss with the USOC what types of incidents they will be dealing with and what will be pushed back to USAV or the Regions.

USAV is working on some grant money to allow each region to send one representative to Colorado Springs next spring for investigative training so they will be more prepared when they get phone calls.

**D. Sport Development - John Kessel / Patty Fadum**

1. P&G Grant – Applied for and received a grant from Proctor & Gamble. The funds were used to develop a volleyball like a beach ball. The goal is to get a ball in every kid's hand. This is also being worked on with a balloon ball.
2. Partnering with Huddle Group to produce STEM Kits for Schools. The first 20 kits will be marketed to schools by December.
3. RVA Kits in a Box – Sitting VB, New Club, Youth, Boys and NCVF – easy to understand resources. 7000 Sport kits have been given out.
4. Club Director's Symposium will take place during the dark days between the two weekends of national qualifiers. They will bring in club directors and have a best practices session from tennis and lacross. Hope to have 2 sessions per year.
5. Open Court Concept was introduced by Charlie Snyder
6. ADM Parent's Coaching Book – Basically a coaching for dummies book
7. Media - Videos, Interviews, National Team Practice, New Posters, Webinars, working on new webinars/videos all the time.
8. RVA, IMPACT, CAP, SHAPE, MSO

**E. Events & High Performance - Tom Pingel**

**1. National Team Finishes**

- a. Women's Jr National Team  
World Championships competition time is difficult because of the lateness of the event. Women's Jr National team attended an event in Italy instead and won the event.
- b. Men's Jr National Team  
Competed in the FIVB World Championships  
Finished 11<sup>th</sup>
- c. Girls Youth team  
Medaled at the Youth World Championships in Lima, Peru
- d. Boys Youth Team  
Argentina – Youth World Championship – finished 7th



**2. HP Championships**

HP Championships were held in Des Moines, IA. 100 teams participated. 56 region teams participated representing 21 Regions.

A Holiday Camp in December will be held for Region HP players only. Invitations will be sent out to those athletes of regions that are participating.

**3. Events**

**a. Introductions**

Kristy Cox, Girls & 18s Championships  
Irina Dany – US Open Championships  
Danny Lahr and Joel McCosley - Sport Court

**b. Age Waivers**

Because of the early 18s Championships USAV will be allowing 17 year old juniors born in August the opportunity to play in the summer GJNC. They will be applying the 18 & Under waiver to the 17s age division to allow them to play in the summer.

An 18s player will not be allowed to play in 2 qualification divisions and then play in another division at Championships. **A 17 year old can – written description**

**c. 2016 18s Early Championship scheduling**

Early 18s is for all divisions except for American. The 18 Patriot will be in the spring, Continental is a new division. It will be comprised of 8 US teams and 4 international teams. Continental Division will be in the summer. The 18 American will be scheduled in the summer for 2016 and 2017. The 18s plan is being finalized.

The early 18s Championship creates space in the summer championships. So USAV is increasing the size of the fields in the USA and American Divisions. The American Divisions will increase from 48 to 64 teams. The extra berths will go to the Regions. **USA Division will increase from 48 – 64 teams as well.**

**d. 2016 Events**

- Girls JNC will be in Indianapolis, June 24–Jul 3
- Girls' 18s Championships will be held in Milwaukee, WI, April 29 – May 1
- Boys JNC will be in Dallas, June 29–July 6
- Adults will be in Orlando, FL, May 27–June 1
- HP Championships will be in Ft Lauderdale, FL July 26-30 (later than normal)
- NCVF will be in Louisville, KY, April 7-9

**e. 2017 Events**

- NCVF - Kansas City Apr 13-15
- Girls 18s has not been decided yet - Apr 28 - 30
- US Open – Minneapolis – May 26 – 31. The meetings will be May 22 – 25
- Boys – Columbus - July 1 - 8 (hold off releasing info until end of the month press release)
- Girls JNC – Minneapolis – June 24–July 4
- HP Championships – Ft Lauderdale - July 18-22. Going forward the odd years will be held in Ft Lauderdale, the even years the tournament will move around

**f. Sport Court - Joel McCausland, Randy Resley**

Sport Court and USAV have been partners for 25 years. Joel has seen the tremendous growth in volleyball since putting tournaments in convention centers.

Sport Court would like to improve the quality of the partnership with USAV. Most in the room are involved in the business side of the game along with all its challenges. There is a lot of used product out there. Sport Court would like to make it easier to update old product.

Product support

- Sport Court provides the National Championships courts and other product support.
- They will offer a rebate on every registered lead you generate
- They will provide special pricing on event flooring and rental support
- This is a limited time USAV Pricing offer
- They have financing support with a national leasing partner. There are 5 year lease to own deals out there
- They will offer facility planning support for design/build projects

#### **F. Coaching Education - Diana Cole**

1. USAV has been recognizing CAP and BCAP certified coaches at the Jr National Championship events the past few years. This year they will add the Jr Beach Championships event as a BCAP coach recognition event this summer.
2. Changes or Enhancements
  - a. The RVA IMPACT Instructor refresher webinars were completed in September. The refresher was recorded and is available as an OnDemand course for instructors that were not able to attend a webinar. Once an instructor has completed the refresher they will be given access to the IMPACT materials.
  - b. The materials are posted to the Resource page as a restricted access course available to certified IMPACT Instructors. If any other RVA personnel need access to the education materials send their info to Amber, Whitney or Diana and they will be given access.

The Materials can be accessed 2 ways now

1. Under the Education tab on USAV Website – click on CAP programs – Resources – Student Resources or Instructor Resource page – this will take them to the Webpoint login page.
  2. From Webpoint – click USAV Academy.
- c. A free OnDemand course allotment has been released for the RVAs for the new season. The start date for the free courses changed from January to the beginning of the season. Also a Region can now split the free IMPACT course allotment between Beach and Indoor IMPACT OnDemand courses. Contact the Education Department to split the RVA allotment.
  - d. The cost to members for the OnDemand course was reduced from \$50 to \$40.
  - e. The length of time for a student to take the course was extended from 21 days to 60 days.
  - f. The student login in process was simplified. It is now through Webpoint then the USAV Academy link.

3. BCAP II students have been trained. A couple of Beach IMPACT instructors have now been trained. Contact USAV to have an instructor come do an in person Beach IMPACT. Beach IMPACT Manuals are ordered through the National office.
4. CAP Course options – tailored course formats are available.
  - a. A typical course is a 2 day format.
  - b. A hybrid format for CAP I and BCAP I is 1 full day on site and then the classroom sessions are taken online.

**G. Beach High Performance and Junior Beach Tour – John Ruger & Veronica Sanchez**

**1. USA Beach Volleyball**

The big take away from Detroit from John Ruger was how do add value to the Regions; how do we make the regions stronger; what is our role in adding value to the Regions; and how to build the USAV Beach volleyball brand.

- a. The only way to get to elite level competition is through USAV programs – international competition and moving up through the pipeline. This is a strong motivational incentive for the participants.
- b. To accomplish change USAV had to improve communications. USAV embarked on creating a new app for Beach Volleyball. This app will be the major communication tool for Beach Volleyball. Staff will communicate with each of the athletes through the app, members will be able to register for events and access the schedule. Officials' info will also be available on the app. Each event will be able to check officials' credentials so that tournament and official standards can be met.

The results of the JBT events and the player evaluations from the HP tryouts will be posted to the app within 2 days after the completion of the event.

- c. Critical to the change is a new ranking system. The current ranking system does not take into account strength of field. USAV has begun working with the USOC on a system called ELO. This will compare matches of every athlete across the country. The ranking will be based on competition. This will be for USAV members only.
- d. USA Beach is looking to expand outside of Southern California. They want to reach into the other regions and create some centers of excellence. The plan is to open a center somewhere on the east coast in 2016 so that kids don't always have to travel to SoCal for camps. They want to have a coach and a center of excellence within driving distance for participants.
- e. USAV Beach would like to see Beach Regional Championships. They would like to work with the regions to make sure the events are up to their standards.
- f. Olympic Day  
USA Beach is working with the USOC on a logo with the rings that will be tied to Olympic Day. June 23<sup>rd</sup> is Olympic day. It is a worldwide event. It is held 5 weeks before opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games. NOTE: The local event can't have sponsors that conflict with USOC sponsors.

- g. USAV will be integrating the JBT and the BHP programs together. The JBT and BHP have been running their own programs independently. USAV is trying to put the two programs together.

**2. Beach High Performance Program**

2015 – 30 tryouts with 1300 participants

2016 HP Championships will be July 13-17 most likely in Hermosa Beach.

**3. Junior Beach Tour**

2015 - 62 stops with over 8500 participants

2016 – National Championships will be held July 22 – 24 with the location TBA

Combining the programs

USAV Beach will be looking at running an HP Tryout at the same location as a JBT event. Combining the programs is a better use of our resources, staff and facilities.

The JBT is the place where kids compete – HP is for camps, development and training.

**4. Individual Event Surveys**

USAV Beach will be producing an individual event survey. The survey will be about 5 questions about the event – registration, ease of website, tournament operation, etc. The app will help with the survey.

This year ran a test survey following HP Championships with 32% return rate; 93% saying they would return to play again. JBT Championships survey produced a 40% response rate 78% were satisfied or very satisfied; 85% said they would return again.

**5. World Championships Trials – U17, U19, U21 age groups**

USAV Beach will be holding Trials for the underage World Championships in the U17, U19 and U21 age divisions. The trials will be held in Hermosa Beach. One team per age allowed – possibly two teams. Previously the coaches made the selection. This time it will be by competition. Probably a single elimination tournament – winner goes. Anyone who participated in a JBT or HP event in 2015 and is a USAV member will get in free to the Trials. There will be a cost to those that did not participate in an event last season.

The Trials will be about 50-60 days prior to the event. Market this as a great opportunity to compete against the world, represent your country and it is fully covered by USAV.

The World Championships sites will be in Cypress, Brazil and Luzerne.

**H. Officials' Development Update – Kathy Ferraraccio**

Most of the work is done by volunteers on the officials' development side. USAV is in the process of building an Officials Development Program. Kurtis Larsen was hired to start this off.

Contact Jeff McKinney to set up a National clinic in your area.

There is a change in the National clinics this year. They will be combined with a Regional clinic. The Regional clinic is geared for Region level officials. The cost is \$25 (\$20 for Nationals) whether an official attends one or both of the clinics.

Scoring and Referee exams are expected to be online by Oct 15<sup>th</sup>.

Because of the split GJNC the National Referees will be rated at Boys JNC and the Junior Nationals will be rated GJNC.

Nationals and Jr Nationals can meet attendance requirements by attending the Opens or the JNCs. Discussions are ongoing as to how to accept officials at these tournaments. If Nationals fill up the Open Championships, Jr Nationals would not be accepted. Working on the platform as to how to accept the officials into the tournaments.

Working to get trainers and raters to the Qualifiers and Bid tournaments to help the regions in looking at referees. Need the money to do this. If want a clinic or training camp in your area contact the Commission to set one up.

VRT and the USAV Academy – The Region should send their clinic curricula to Steve Webster or Kathy Ferraraccio if they have not already done so. Referees and Scorers can't access anything until your curriculum is set up in the Academy.

## **I. Director of Communications and Creative Services – Charlie Snyder**

### **1. Update on Department work**

- a. Working with the USOC on a mobile app. The app is set to launch on Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>. The app is the website version of a mobile app.
- b. By the end of the year our website will be mobile responsive meaning the site will be scalable to whatever device someone is using. When the website is responsive this will take the form of an event oriented app.
- c. Pursuing an RFP process for the USAV website. We have been part of the USOC digital network since 2008 and they pay us to be part of their network. However this restricts USAV from doing some things and promoting sponsors. They are considering whether or not this is in the best interest of the organization.
- d. NCAA Championships in Omaha  
Looking to do a 3 week social media campaign in Omaha. Partnering with Spread Fast a social media accelerator. Fan Zone on the website – the templates that are found there are built by Spread Fast. The campaign will be run with the region, local media, local organizers, tv broadcaster and the school SID's. National team tryouts at NCAA Championships is part of the media campaign.

USAV built a 30 second promo with Karch Kiraly that will be put into streams and TV broadcasts. Made a deal with ESPN 3. They televise about 400 womens collegiate matches, the NCAA Championships, men's, and beach events, We will promote their broadcasts and they will run this promo 100k times. We are also working with 12 conferences to show our promo. They are pushing to get into more broadcasts and conferences.

### **2. Membership growth initiative**

Three prongs to the Membership Growth Initiative:

1. NBC Gold Map Program. This was very impactful for the winter NGBs. Going to do it for the summer NGBs this next year. It will be promoted on air and on cable to show where to go to try this sport.
2. AI group is working on extra functionality of the Webpoint database to create a "Find a Club" functionality on the website. The functionality will sort via zip code, gender, beach or indoor and provide Club info, contact info and RVA Contact info.

3. Open Court is a program that will take advantage of the Olympic momentum. This is an RVA club membership opportunity – open gym, open beach. The concept is to open the gym after the Olympics to try volleyball. The goal is to create membership growth. They will be offering suggestions on how to handle that day – what to do on that day. Marketing would help to promote the day to our community. This is an opportunity to get new members, offer membership info, tryout info, etc. Capture the audience of people that we don't have access to.

TV is important to this growth initiative. This is a massive marketing and grassroots opportunity on TV that we don't have to pay for.

Other sports also have this; we could do this on an annual basis.

We will also be offered this opportunity a week after the Paralympic Games for certain sites.

John Kessel will provide what to do's – if you have 5 people show up, if you have 500 people show up, Charlie Snyder will help with marketing concepts - creating Facebook event pages, and promotional info. More work will go on in the next few months to work through this process to see how it will work. Each RVA should think this through and see how it can work in the Region.

Need to work with the RVAs and the Marketing Department so that are all on the same page and accurate info is given out. Want to make sure all 40 region commissioners get input and info on the program.

## **V. Best Practices**

### **A. Florida Region – Mary Andrews**

Sitting Volleyball

Mary accepted an invitation to Oklahoma City by Elliot Blake and Bill Hamiter, USAV Sitting program.

3 year plan

- Expose people to sitting volleyball - press conference with Brooks Medical Center - sports rehab hospital
- Launch a 5 city exhibition and clinics for sitting volleyball
- Involve the able bodied players with the disabled. Boys' teams and universities got involved with the clinics.

Results – check Florida Region website

1<sup>st</sup> year clinics went great – made a banner to highlight the program

2<sup>nd</sup> year – continued exposure – develop coaches and identify talent to feed into their current system.

3<sup>rd</sup> year – hope to develop competition between cities. Find a hero in each community to help make this happen.

Brooks Rehab Center has 14 adaptive sports teams they take to competitions around the world. They have now added sitting volleyball.

Find a facility and invite people to come.

Wheel chair basketball players are now also playing sitting volleyball.

Held a PVL exhibition match and offered a Sitting Volleyball exhibition at the match and at the Regional Championships. Identified some players to train and take to the

US Opens to compete. The Florida Board funded the team to attend the tournament.

Sitting volleyball is a great activity for bonding a team. This works to get outside the indoor practice rut and break some ice. It is a great community service project for people to get involved with on a volunteer basis.

There are grants available – for specialized nets, to start a program and to attend clinics. Not all net systems are conducive for sitting volleyball. Talk to Elliot Blake about grants.

Florida's annual budget approximation

- \$9000 original budget
- Spent about \$10,000 in the first year – mostly due to travel to US Opens that they did not anticipate when setting up the program.
- Applied for and was awarded a grant from USAV that lowered the expenses below the original budget.

Region programs help US Sitting volleyball expand their pipeline.

The military is highly involved. If the Region has a lot of military establishments in the area, this is somewhere to start.

#### **B. John Bryant – Coaches**

Everyone needs a way to get more certified coaches.

Puget Sound worked with Diana Cole and Bill Neville to institute CAP University. They offered a 10 week session – 4 hours each session. This was to entice more coaches to become trained.

The benefit to the coach is that the CAP course is delivered in sizable chunks. The Puget Sound Region decided if you get your CAP through this program, every year you coach in the region you get 1/3 of the fees paid back to you.

#### **B. Jen Armson-Dyer – IMPACT Certificates**

Hand out business cards for Vista Print.com after the clinic then send the digital file.

### **VI. Discussion Items**

#### **A. Membership Incentives - Abbinanti**

Merchandise that can be co-branded – joint logo website is being produced now. The link to the website in the shared file.

Parent Education Newspaper – A parent education piece is published in January and given out at the Qualifiers and Bid tournaments. If interested in some of the newspapers, contact Patty Fadum.

Membership Incentive Committee – John Bryant, Jimmy Peden, Andy Reitingner, Sandy Abbinanti.

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for the membership incentive program. The first year there were 16 regions that received incentives for growth and membership. In 2015, 5 Regions that

received awards. Those that met the benchmark for membership were: Intermountain, Moku O Keawe, New England, Northern Cal, and Ohio Valley.

Incentives are given in two categories: Regions with 10% or higher percentage growth for the season or a 1,000 member growth.

For the past 5 years our normal growth rate was 6%. This past year we experienced a 3% growth.

What is the best way to grow the membership? Rebates to Regions have not been working. Rebates to club directors and rebates to the Regions for staff or facility help may be the way to go. Discussion groups: Rebates, free or reduced services, program in a box, staffing and facilities.

**B. JVA Issues – Jimmy Peden**

Email Jimmy Peden if your Region has some JVA/AAU issues. He will form a committee to address some concerns. Tori Hoke will take the information for USAV.

**C. Website Email Access – Kevin Wendelboe**

Last year USAV took away email addresses as part of a data import from AES. Several big tournament directors have asked for those email addresses to be included so that they can email participants directly. If the info is sent to club directors and teams it is not getting to the individual participant.

Chris Vadala – This is on the agenda for the management team to discuss following these meetings and bring solutions in May.

Dave Peixoto suggests a check off box in AES for the individual that gives permission to release email to college coaches.

**E. Other Elections Upcoming With RVAA Voting Delegates**

Beach Assembly Admin Council position - Member Organizations – Jr Beach Development – Ashley Ivey Swift held the position

**F. Regional Insurance – Ken Cain**

This was handled in Insurance Committee – ESIX is looking at getting this insurance for us. To cover clinic attendees that are not members. Talk to Florida to see about their group insurance through K & K for non-members to attend clinics.

ESIX – there would require a list of guidelines to be followed to limit the risk. This would be for Regions to do community events without making all the people involved become members.

**G. Sudden Cardiac Arrest law in Washington**

Washington was the first to pass a law requiring education on concussion to use facilities. They are now requiring an education component for sudden cardiac arrest for anyone that uses or is inside of a school facility. This may come also come to other states as well.

**VII. Standing Committee Reports**

- A. Education Committee** Report – Lynne Updegraff - Appendix 1
- B. Marketing/Branding Committee** Report – Lisa Madsen - Appendix 2
- C. Strategic Planning Committee** Report – Joe Williams - Appendix 3
- D. Compliance Committee** Report – Donna Donaghy – Appendix 4
- E. Competition Committee** Report – Mary Andrew – Appendix 5



Approved 5/23/16

- F. **Insurance Committee** Report – Mitch Stemm – Appendix 6
- G. **Structure & Function Committee** Report – Ken Cain – Appendix 7

### VIII. **Zonal Reports**

- A. **Atlantic Zone** – Mike McNeil - Chair - Appendix 8
- B. **Border Zone** – Joe Williams - Chair - Appendix 9
- C. **Central Zone** – Lynne Updegraff - Chair - Appendix 10
- D. **Pacific Zone** – John Bryant - Chair - Appendix 11

### IX. **Nominating Committee Appointment**

Harold Cranswick, Chair; Judy Praska (RVAA Associate Chair); Michelle Carlton (Atlantic); Will Vick (Border), Erik Lazowski (Central); Angie Andrade-Morioka or Meredith Coupland (Pacific).

### X. **Meeting Planning**

May 2016 – Orlando, FL

Oct 7-8, 2016 – Las Vegas, NV

### XI. **Acknowledgements**

Angelo Iasello had cancer surgery and is doing well

Incentive committee – have patience, good things are coming

### XII. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 pm

The minutes were recorded by Becky Hudson

### **RVAA Motions from this meeting**

**RVAA Motion 1:** Move to approve the Minutes of May 2015, as amended (Abbinanti/Cranswick/MC)

**RVAA Motion 2:** Move to go into Executive Session regarding a sensitive matter regarding a USAV Region. (Cain/Reitinger/MC)

**RVAA Executive Session Motion 1:** Move to remove the IVA report from the RVAA Agenda to allow the Intermountain Region the opportunity to exhaust the proper complaint process. (Reitinger/Peixoto/MC).

**RVAA Motion 3:** Move to approve the meeting agenda as amended (Cain/Reitinger/MC).

**RVAA Motion 4 (Structure & Function Motion 1):** Move to approve the requested Op Code Revisions except as specified in Article VI. 4.03 A 8 regarding SafeSport as it needs further discussion and study. (McNeil/Bryant/MC Committee). Motion carries RVAA

**RVAA Motion 5 (Structure & Function Motion 2):** Move to approve the changes in Articles I – IV of the RVAA Admin Manual (Updegraff/Bryant/MC Committee) See Appendix 1 for information  
Motion carries RVAA

**RVAA Motion 6 (Structure & Function Motion 3):** Move to revise Article VII, Section 11 of the RVAA Admin Manual regarding the Duties, Qualifications and Terms of the RVA Assembly Chair, RVA Assembly

Approved 5/23/16

Associate Chair and RVA Assembly Administrative Assistant and remove those references in other parts of the Admin Manual (Bryant/Updegraff/MC Committee) See Appendix 2 for information. Motion Fails RVAA

**RVAA Motion 7 (Insurance Committee Motion 1):** The Insurance Committee approves the updated Regional Insurance Fund Administrative Guidelines dated May 26, 2015, as amended."  
Motion Fails RVAA

**RVAA Motion 8 (Competition Committee Motion 1):** made by Andy Reitingner: Seconded by Sue Mailot. The competition committee recommends the formation of a uniform committee, to be chaired by Andy Reitingner, whose members will be selected by the chair from the competition committee, the Officials Commission, the RVAA, and the Rules Commission. The deadline for this committee to bring forward a uniform rule change recommendation shall be January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. Passed unanimously in committee.  
Motion Carries RVAA

**RVAA Motion 9 (Competition Committee Motion 2):** Chaperones being charged admission at NQ's - Motion made by Joe Williams: Seconded by Andy Reitingner. The competition committee recommends that rostered chaperones not be charged admission to national qualifiers. Passed unanimously in committee - Motion carries RVAA

**RVAA Motion 10 (Education Committee Motion 1):** To include the following in the RVA Administrative Manual as the purpose, membership and calendar for the Education Committee. MC Committee

- **Purpose:**  
The Education Committee mission is to work with USAV structures to review, develop and present high quality educational materials to RVA members at free or nominal cost and nominal time commitment.
- **Members**
  - 1 RVAA member from each zone.
  - 1 JA member from each zone
  - USAV Education Staff
  - USAV Grassroot Staff
  - And other staff as requested
  - Open to other USAV members if they request to work on a project.
- Education Committee Meetings will be held at the Annual and Mid-year RVA meetings. Other meetings of the committee can be held via phone conference. This will allow the inclusion of JA members, staff and outside individuals at a nominal cost.
- Tasks can be assigned to small groups within the committee. These task groups may also meet via phone conference.
- **Calendar**
  1. Assign projects at October and May or as handled at phone conferences between meetings.
  2. Have projects report at each Educational Committee meeting.
  3. Reviews on task group projects emailed by the 15<sup>th</sup> of every even month.
  4. Each task group may use Google docs or other platform to track projects to allow all committee to view the progress and comment if desired.

Motion carries RVAA

**RVAA Motion 11 (Marketing and Branding Committee Motion 1):** To include the following in the RVA Assembly Administrative Manual as the purpose, representation and calendar for the Marketing & Branding Committee.

**Purpose:**

To explore and create strategies by which RVAs, either individually or in partnership with other RVAs and USA Volleyball are able to generate increased and more diversified revenues while establishing themselves as the brand of choice in the volleyball marketplace.

To establish a forum for dialogue between the RVA's and the National Office with respect to marketing/branding initiatives that result in mutually beneficial resource acquisition and brand enhancement.

**Representation:**

- 1 RVAA member from each Zone
- USA Volleyball staff
- Other staff & RVAA members who would like to attend or by request

**Calendar/Meetings:**

- Committee Meetings will be held at the Annual and Mid-year RVA meetings. Other meetings of the committee can be held via phone conference.
- Tasks can be assigned to small groups within the committee. These task groups may also meet via phone conference.

Motion carries RVAA

**RVAA Motion 12:** The RVAA Insurance Committee recommends that the RVA Assembly approve the updated Regional Insurance Fund Administrative Guidelines as written in the document dated May 26, 2015. (Stemm/Vick) Motion carries RVAA

**Motion 12a:** To extend 5 minutes (Cain/McNeil/MC)

**RVAA Motion 13:** Voting members of the RVAA Committees shall be RVAA Members only (Updegraff/Price) Motion Carries RVAA

**RVAA Motion 14:** To revise Article VII, Section 11 of the RVAA Admin Manual to move all duties of the RVA Assembly Chair to that location. (Bryant/Cain) Motion carries RVAA

**RVAA Motion 15:** All projects and recommendations from all Committees shall be approved by the RVAA either at the Annual, Mid-Year meetings or by electronic vote. (Updegraff/Hughes) Motion carries RVAA.

**RVAA Motion 16:** Request that USA Volleyball be directed to provide free On Demand IMPACT courses as a member benefit beginning Jan 1, 2016. (Williams/Wendelboe) Motion carries RVAA

**RVAA Motion 17:** The RVAA recommends to the USAV BOD that all complaints against a Region be referred to the RVA Assembly Chair. (Cain/Noble) Motion carries RVAA

**RVAA Motion 18:** RVAA requests that current and future CAP certifications have no expiration date. (Williams/Funk) Motion carries RVAA

**RVAA Motion 19:** Revise RVAA Motion 17 to change "all complaints" to "all complaints involving an alleged compliance issue" (Noble/Vick) Motion carries RVAA.

**RVAA Motion 20:** RVAA recommends that the USAV BOD approve RVAA Motion 17 from May 2015 RVAA Meeting. (Cain/Updegraff) Motion carries RVAA.

**RVAA Motion 21:** Move to adjourn the meeting (Praska/Vick) Motion carries RVAA

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1:** Education Committee Report
- Appendix 2:** Marketing/Branding Committee Report
- Appendix 3:** Strategic Planning Committee Report
- Appendix 4:** Compliance Committee Report
- Appendix 5:** Competition Committee Report
- Appendix 6:** Insurance Committee Report
- Appendix 6a:** Regional Insurance Fund Administrative Guidelines May 26, 2015
- Appendix 7:** Structure & Function Committee Report
- Appendix 7a:** RVAA Admin Manual Revisions regarding Article VII Section 11
- Appendix 7b:** RVAA Admin Manual Revisions regarding Articles I – IV
- Appendix 8:** Atlantic Zone Report
- Appendix 9:** Border Zone Report
- Appendix 10:** Central Zone Report
- Appendix 11:** Pacific Zone Report