

**2013 RVA Assembly Annual Meeting  
May 19 – 21, 2014  
Sheraton Downtown - Phoenix, AZ  
RVA Assembly Meeting**

**I. RVAA General Assembly**

**A. Call to order** – The meeting was called to order by Jim Webber at 3:50 pm, May 19, 2014.

**B. Roll Call** - Hudson

**Present:** Alaska – Julie Webber; Aloha – Kent Ma; Arizona – Harold Cranswick; Badger – Julie Voeck; Bayou – John Cline; Carolina – Kevin Wendelboe; Chesapeake – Lisa DiGiacinto; Columbia Empire – Breen Goodwin; Delta – Joe Williams; Evergreen – Meredith Coupland; Florida – Mary Andrew; Garden Empire – Bob Baker; Gateway – Tim Neels; Great Lakes – Sandy Abbinanti; Great Plains – Sue Mailhot; Heart of America – Lisa Madsen; Hoosier – Mitch Stemm; Iowa – Lynne Updegraff; Keystone – Michelle Carlton; Lakeshore – Erik Lazowski; 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; Ohio Valley – Bob Price; Oklahoma – Shawn McCarty; Old Dominion – Skip Weston; Palmetto – Jim Peden; Pioneer – Nancy Funk; Puget Sound – John Bryant; Rocky Mountain – Glenn Sapp; Southern – Ken Cain; Southern California – Ann Davenport; Sun Country – Mark Noble; Western Empire – John Hughes. Quorum is present.

**Proxy (written):** Gulf Coast – Ken Cain; Intermountain – Tom Donaghy, Iroquois Empire – Mike McNeil;

**Absent (no proxy):** None

**New Commissioners:** None

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

**D. Approval of minutes** – Minutes of Oct 2013 meeting were approved as amended, (Cain/Vick/MC)

**E. Approval of agenda** – Meeting agenda was approved

**F. RVAA Contingency Fund – Praska**

The balance of the contingency fund is \$2934.10.

Judy Praska will apply for a credit card to use for expenditures from the Contingency Fund. Judy Praska will send an email to the RVAA when expenditure is made from the Contingency Fund.

**II. Reports**

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

BOD agenda for May was sent out by Ken Cain

1. PVL has applied to be an affiliated member organization
2. Recommendation to take the Paralympic discipline under USAV as the NGB.
3. By-Law revisions regarding approving BOD committees
4. Revised conflict of interest policy for BOD members

Approved 10/10/14

5. RVA motion 3 regarding where people and clubs can register
6. RVA motion 6 & 7 regarding SafeSport
7. Marketable mailing lists policy
8. Minimal number of votes to take action
9. Beach Assembly discussion
10. Assembly and committee requirements for USA Registered and Background
11. Concept Discussion on the need for an Executive Committee
12. Ethics & Eligibility hearing regarding 513 area code
13. Document review task force report
14. CEO Staff report
15. Board Chair will be elected

Ken Cain requests that commissioners come to the Board meetings. It shows we care and are concerned with what is happening.

Beach Report given to the BOD – Sue Mailhot

BOD requested an independent report on the operations of Beach Office. The BOD is evaluating and addressing the report and its findings.

Thank you to Jon Lee for his service as RVA Rep to the BOD.

Jon Lee thanks the RVAA for making his job on the BOD easier by being concise.

#### **B. NGC Report – Nancy Funk**

Five board seat candidates were vetted:

1. Beach Development – Jeff Conover – this seat has been empty for a long time.
2. RVAA will be elected this meeting
3. JA seat will be elected this meeting
4. Independent seat – Ashley Ledbetter Dombkowski, PhD
5. International Female Beach Athlete – Voting began but was halted.

Three names were vetted. The voting began. It was brought to Nancy Funk's attention that one of the members that should have gotten a ballot did not get a ballot. The balloting was halted. USAV had not applied the correct 10 year rule for membership in this group. The correct 10 year rule was applied identifying more members of the group that should be eligible to run for the position and vote on the position. There is now a correct list for the International Athlete group that satisfies the Beach Athlete Reps. The 10 year rule will also come into play for the Indoor Athlete seat election which will take place next year.

The NGC will have 3 seats to look at this winter - International Indoor Athlete, Beach Discipline, and an Independent Director.

### **III. Vendor Reports**

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

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

##### **a. SafeSport**

The SafeSport program is a work in progress. Everyone has questions about the program and there are still a lot of unknowns. ESIX works with a large number of

NGBs. All are experiencing the same questions. This is a USOC directive – not a USA Volleyball directive. It was passed to all NGBs.

The items involved in SafeSport are issues that have been out there for a long time. We are just now bringing them to the forefront and dealing with them. The exposure to liability is elevated because the public awareness of the program is elevated. Insurance carriers are on top of the exposure that could come forward. We will need to take a look at the insurance coverage to make sure we are covered for what could come forward.

**b. Insurance issues**

As membership grows so do our claims. PA claims are in a downward trend. GL claims are rising. Our insurance carrier will tolerate about a 65% loss ratio. Our loss ratio is running about 100%. This is not good. Errant balls are a problem for non-participants. Slip and falls are a problem. Divider nets are a problem but they are a help in regard to errant balls. The pooling of the nets on the floor is the problem with divider nets. At this point in time ESIX would rather err on the side of the netting than the errant balls.

**c. Insurance Renewal**

An extensive analysis of claims since 2008 was performed.

**i. General Liability**

There was no significant relief in claims since the last update. Some significant claims have come through. For the last 5 years the average loss ratio is over 100%. The carrier wants to continue to renew with USA Volleyball however an adjustment will be needed.

In the process of contesting claims, negligence limits the bargaining power. Larger claims usually involve litigation so the Region is usually involved in the process. The carrier chooses the local attorney to handle the case for the Region.

Types of injury claims being filed:

- a. Slips and falls – on ice and snow outside if not cleared or inside with water that is not cleaned up.
- b. Errant balls – The cargo net properly installed is better than the errant ball injury claims. Cargo netting shows we are attempting to create a safe environment from errant balls. However the cargo netting must not pool on the floor where feet can get caught in the netting. The nets must be taught at the bottom so as not to pool.

**ii. Participant Accident**

There has been a favorable trend for the past 9 years. The rapid price increase is due more to the incorrect number of members reported. There was an 83% loss ratio for 2012. However, the last 2 complete years have been non catastrophic.

The average PA claim cost for the past 7 years is \$2700. The more out of pocket cost the participant carries the more we will have to pick up in claims.

The distribution of claims by body part is: 1. Knee related, 2. Ankle, and 3. Shoulder. Incident rates have stayed the same.

iii. September renewal

ESIX is going to press for a hold on the cost on the PA side and a 20% unit rate increase on the GL side. Anticipate a 6% per athlete increase overall from where we are currently.

iv. Questions

Q. Has there been any study as to where the injuries are occurring? Something that we can then direct education or information to prevent the injuries in those areas?

A. No patterns, trends or abuses are shown in any data. Not getting actionable information on the medical side to pass on.

Q. Do we have a risk management best practices for our tournament directors?

A. We do have some general guidelines that would make sense but no direct requirements. It would be up to each Region to implement.

Q. How far does our liability go with a facility?

A. It depends on the contract that is signed with the venue. The carrier is contractually obligated to what is in the contract with the facility. The tighter the contract is held with the facility, the better the liability can be limited. Contracts for the same facility should be looked over by a local attorney to see where the liability lies on many fronts.

Best practices regarding tournament practices could reduce injury regarding errant balls, slips and falls, etc.

The Medical Payments requirement by municipalities or school districts is “no fault” insurance. Meaning if the requirement is in the contract, and someone brings a receipt saying they were injured at the event, the carrier has no choice but to pay the claim. We offer Participant Accident insurance in lieu of Medical Payments. Fight the requirement for medical payments in the contract.

Q. Regarding the creation of certificates of insurance can we allow for the name of the facility come up for all clubs instead of individually? This would be helpful for multiple clubs using the same facility.

A. One solution is to list “All Registered Clubs” as the club instead of an individual club. If each club needs to be listed ESIX can possibly do this on a Region by Region basis.

Q. Coach injured during practice, but went to hospital and said she was injured at work.

A. A work related injury falls back to Workman’s Comp. Once the Workman’s Comp board is triggered it can get sticky. If the employee is not a full time employee the Participant Accident insurance should be used. If the coach is an employee of the club and the club has not listed them as an employee, the club could have a problem.

- v. Certificates of Insurance  
ESIX is constantly updating the certificate system. Realize municipalities are getting tighter and tighter about the language on certificates. Jennifer Rains is there to help with certificate language requirements.

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

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

For the 9 months of the 2014 season there were 33,493 individuals screened. 2211 had some type of criminal record. 61 were disqualified. Crimes against children remained flat. Multiple drug/alcohol offenses showed a significant decrease. Felony drugs decreased. Felony violence decreased. Sex offenses increased.

For one sex offense the Region became aware of an incident in between background screens and asked for a rescreen. The individual was disqualified. The case is still pending. Without the Region requiring the background screen, this individual would have been involved for another season.

Average turn-around time for a background screen for all regions combined was 2.4 days.

### **b. Industry trends**

- i. SafeSport is a new industry trend. NGBs are now writing the categories for background screens.
- ii. Frequency of screens  
82% of NGBs are now at a 2 year cycle for background screens. Annual screening may become the norm however we don't need to react at this time. If you see legislation from your state coming forward requiring annual screening, notify SSCI.
- iii. Scope of search  
Instant database searches are ineffective, inefficient and not comprehensive enough. 78% of other NGB's understand what the scope of search is and are pulling up their searches.
- iv. What types of crimes disqualify participants  
53% of other NGBs have stricter disqualifiers which included all felonies – financial, etc. The Insurance Committee decided not to include other types of felonies at this time.

The background screen process and fee will remain the same for next season.

Kristen Oddi is still the USAV rep for SSCI. [koddi@ssci2000.com](mailto:koddi@ssci2000.com)

## **IV. Staff Reports**

### **A. Doug Beal – State of the Game**

#### **1. Indoor National Teams**

Both indoor teams qualified for the World Championships.

## 2. **SafeSport**

The vast majority of the USOC/NGB/World that we operate in, don't debate that engaging in a SafeSport program is the right thing to do. This is an increasing societal problem. Addressing it appropriately and putting in place policies is the right thing to do.

All the questions this body is asking are being asked of the USOC. Margie Mara is part of the USOC task force that is driving the process. USAV is privy to the inside information and ahead of the other NGBs. It is likely that sometime in the future an independent third party organization, similar to ASADA for performance enhancing drug issues, will be created. When it will be created, how it will be funded, how large it will be and where it will be located are yet to be determined.

We have two very significant advantages over most of the NGBs.

1. We are much farther ahead today than most NGBs because of policies and procedures we have put in place already;
2. We have a reasonable schedule for roll out of the program over a 3 – 4 year time frame.

This issue will be a growing issue due to the awareness of this issue – talking about it and creating materials to deal with it. This will elicit a lot of complaints that would not have been lodged without the higher profile of the issue.

How do we take the large issue and reverse it? This is what makes USA Volleyball special – what makes participants want to join our organization over others. We need to promote the protections that are available to our members. We care about the environment our members are participating in that is USAV programming.

The level of success we can message will drive the success of our business in the future. This is the area we need to engage in as “best practices”. Communicating with coaches, clubs, parents and participants is very important.

## 3. **PVL**

Doug Beal would start professional leagues tomorrow if he could. The PVL could make our sport commercially viable on the professional level. USAV is committed to the PVL. Whatever bounds are financially available we want to use. USAV wants to increase the financial support, promotional support and the opportunity to play.

Beyond the professional side of this, PVL has two other benefits.

1. It can help us with the US Opens – a marketable element to the US Open tournament. We need events we can market and sell.
2. For the Regions this can be an asset to help grow the membership and programming at the adult and junior level. For that to happen we need to increase the exposure and marketability and create opportunities for the teams to play.

## 4. **Beach Growth**

USAV is happy with the growth of the beach game. The NCAA has committed to women's sand volleyball. The first NCAA championship tournament could be 2016. At least three other junior beach tours have grown. USAV wants to assist the Regions in becoming more involved with beach volleyball.

## 5. **Rio Olympics**

In July, 2015 USAV, in partnership with Omaha Sports Commission, will be hosting the Women's Grand Prix finals. There are a lot of challenges we face in the NORCECA and FIVB world but there are lots of opportunities as well. They recognize the importance of the US market. They want to help us grow the market through the staging of events. Does the Region have good connections – nice sports commission, sports venue, etc., to help host the large events?

Key issues:

1. The USOC is seriously engaged and want to bid for 2024 Olympic Games. One of the ways successful bidders have won in the past is by demonstrating success in hosting international events. Dollars limit what type of event we can organize.
2. Additionally we are increasingly being asked, by NORCECA primarily, to organize more events. Some of the events are modest in regards to organizational demands. USAV wants to partner with Regions to accomplish this. There is almost no end to the opportunities.

## 6. **Membership Growth Initiative**

USAV started a membership growth initiative this year. They are quite pleased with the growth. The Regions are doing a great job. Want to continue to grow the game. This is not a one and done program. Carve out resources to grow new or existing programming. Want to know what USAV can do to increase the growth in the Region.

## B. **John Kessel – Sport Development**

When the elephants battle it is the grass that suffers – African proverb. Sport Development presentation is on the jump drive.

Grassroots webpage

- Links to YouTube on website – FIVB video had 109k views
- 47 Skill & Drill videos – Paralympic, beach, indoor.
- 100 posters on the website - free for downloading.
- 2500 SportKits DVDs and Net bands were sent out – Proctor & Gamble grant
- Sport Development Blog
- Growing the Game Together – Volume II
- Blog Book – John will email out the free book to everyone
- Collaborative lesson plans for school use – doubles, 4's, 6's and sitting
- There is a Men's Collegiate and Boys link on Grassroots page of the USAV website. There are now 136 collegiate men's programs in the US.
- The Game will Find a Way. USAV materials have been taken over by FIVB. They like what we are doing.
- Growing the Game eNewsletter.
- 4400 members of international coaches and trainers access closed pages of the website
- Twitter Account – John Kessel follows all the Regions that have a Twitter account but also has 1000 followers.
- Grant Program – 10 grants  
USAV Net band –promotional when in pictures.  
New ball
- World ParaVolley – stand alone ParaVolley sitting beach competition – 3 on 3 disabled athletes, standing game and sitting game.

- ParaVolley DVD for PE teachers and coaches. Because of the ParaVolley program 63 countries now got the material to grow the sitting game. This will strengthen Paralympic volleyball.
- Filming the Olympians and sitting players telling their stories and post them on the website.
- Filming Skill and Drill videos in California this summer.

**C. Bill Hamiter – Sitting Volleyball**

1. Sitting World Championships – Poland, June 15-21. Both our teams qualified for the Worlds. Top 3 teams in men's pools and 2 teams in women's pools come out into semi-finals. Top 2 teams from Poland automatically qualify for Rio. Because Brazil is hosting they are automatically qualified which removes a barrier for us to qualify.
2. Sitting VB Summit at UCO Aug 7-9  
All Regions were invited to come in and learn ways to grow the sitting game in the Region.
3. Standing Beach VB Championships in November. Want to send one team. If you have any disabled beach volleyball players, contact Bill Hamiter.
4. The Sitting Women's team will be in Phoenix practicing Fri – Sunday at Court One Athletics in Tempe.

**D. Diana Cole – Coaching Education**

1. Introductions of new staff
  - a. Shelly Small new staff member in Education. Schedules CAP and OnDemand courses.
  - b. Rose McPherson a new assistant to Matt Podschweit.
2. Course offerings
  - a. Hybrid courses – on site lessons followed by course work online.
  - b. Beach OnDemand IMPACT course is in the final scripting – Summer release
  - c. Beach IMPACT Plus Course – 6 hours on the sand for enhancement of class work.
  - d. Beach CAP II – hope to have all or part of it at the AVCA Convention in December
  - e. Separate CAP Indoor and Beach hosting agreements are on the jump drive.
  - f. Can license module carrying clinics if certified, fees are associated with the license
3. CAP Coach Recognition Program  
The program is for coaches participating in USAV National events. Goal is to make the CAP Coach Recognition program recognizable with parents, players and coaches at events. Package includes a free recertification module to CAP recognized coaches. Also receive a coupon to give away for a discount on a future CAP course.

**E. Veronica Sanchez – Beach High Performance and Junior Beach Tour Report**

1. Patricia Dougherty runs Beach HP from the Beach office.
  - a. 34 programs
  - b. 5 Summer Camps - age divisions 13U – 19U.
  - c. HP Tryouts – expect over 1200 athletes, male and female, ages 10 - 25
  - d. HP Championships – Hermosa Beach – July – expect over 400 athletes – a 10% growth

Contact Patricia Dougherty in the Beach Office if you are interested in starting a HP Beach program in your region

**2. Junior Beach Tour**

- a. 46 Jr Beach Tour events on the schedule.
- b. Last year had 28 events – large growth.
- c. In 23 states and 25 Regions.
- d. With the P & G Grant they can offer free clinics for beach volleyball. Have 7 clinics scheduled - Free for kids 8 – 12. Bringing National team beach athletes there.
- e. Junior Beach Tour page on website is looking good. Interactive and players able to post pictures.

Interested in having a Jr Beach Tour Stop in the Region, contact Veronica

**F. Charlie Schneider – USAV Director of Communications and Creative Services**

The intent of the department is to build fan base and grow the sport - promoting the sport via electronic media

- In the past year the “Likes” on the USAV Facebook page have more than doubled.
- Facebook page saw 1.531 million unique visitors last year which as a result brought in funding from USOC.
- Creative Services is a new department with USAV. They will take the burden off staff to design and will produce the streaming events for the website. This year they will live stream 17 events on the USAV website.
- Dig Deeper is a fan/member electronic newsletter. The newsletter strategically promotes events like the World League, Opens, etc. The open and click through rates have been great.
- ECal is scheduling software. With the software you can download schedules onto your phone or tablet for the AVP, World League, whatever you are interested in.
- Plans are to build a digital only publication between the quarterly magazines. The digital only publication will be aimed at the junior athlete.
- USAV social media is on 6 platforms now. One new platform is Google +. Google + is not as popular as Facebook but works great for USAV. Google + has a sports marketing component to it. Once they added a USAV profile to Google + they have added more than 1000 followers a day. Because they know they are not as popular as Facebook they offer perks. If you were to search for volleyball related information it would pull from the USAV Google + account and put that information on the front page. This would normally cost a company to do this but it is one of the perks of us using the platform. Google + put the USAV Hangout with Matt & Max on the front page.
- Google Ad Words = \$10,000 in ads per month. It is guaranteed web traffic for USAV. It allows USAV to point towards specific events.
- The website will become mobile responsive in the fall.
- AES results will now be featured on the USAV site instead of going through the AES site.

**G. LMS Questions - Steve Webster, Kathy Ferraraccio**

Documents on thumb drive in the USAV Academy file. Read what is on the thumb drive – if there are questions don't hesitate to call Kathy or Steve. One of them will always reply.

- There were problems – they were aware of them. Need to look forward and build solutions. The USAV Academy has more than 92k users.
- Next year they will solve the scale-ability problem. They will be using multiple servers and load balancing servers. Between now and Sept 1 they will be doing some serious load testing on the system to replicate the December crunch.
- Pre-Quizzes allow starts the content with a 10 question quiz. If they get a 90% on the pre-quiz then they will fast forward through the training. Junior Line Judge, Junior R1, Junior R2, Libero Tracker, Scorer etc.
- Tune up all the use-ability stuff. Webpoint, VRT and CAP teams are working together to drive the USAV Academy. The teams are working collaboratively with one another to solve the problems that occurred.
- The team is working on keeping a junior player from taking the National Ref or Scorer test because of their age. This goes to the use-ability of the site.
- Regarding the username and password problems - what changes are coming forward? The requirement to keep the password the same is no longer a requirement. However, the username must stay the same.
- Regions need to communicate clearly to those in the region, what they need to do and what courses they need to take.
- For those that are looking to just be educated but not certified all the same modules are on VRT.
- The materials are copyrighted by USAV. Don't want to have multiple sets of instructions or materials out there that look like they are official but are not official. The materials are not editable.

## H. Events/High Performance - Tom Pingel

### 1. Events

#### a. 2015 Events

Boys – Columbus, OH – June 25 – July 5

Adults – Detroit, MI – Meetings - May 18-20 – Competition May 22 - 27

Girls – New Orleans, LA – June 22 - July 3

HP Championships – TBA

#### b. 2016 Events

Boys - Dallas – June 29 – July 6

Girls – Indianapolis – June 24 – July 3

Adults - TBA

2016 – Late April 18's National Championships. Qualification process will have to adjust. This is not for sure but planning is underway – logistics are being worked out.

520 teams will be participating at US Opens in Phoenix. This is the second year of split sessions over 6 days. Irina Damy has put together an Adult Competition group which will meet Sunday morning to discuss tournament issues.

### 2. Indoor HP

Teams are being finalized for the NORCECA Championships. 2014 is a NORCECA year which qualifies us for the 2015 World Championships. Girls Youth NORCECA Championships is at the same time as Girls JNC.

There was an unusually high growth of participants at HP tryouts. As a result, there was a high number of participants that did not get invited to programs for the summer.

**I. SafeSport – Quintaya Miller - SafeSport Session – Appendix 1**

SafeSport is not all encompassing. It will not replace a Region's Codes of Conduct/Ethics. It is a supplement. Presentations are on the flash drive.

**1. Questions regarding compliance**

- Q. JB - What are the criteria to decide if this is a SafeSport issue versus a Code of Conduct issue?
- A. It is not a problem if it is dealt with at a Region level. SafeSport does not trump the Region with issues. It is a resource to identify misconduct. Bad behavior does not have to have a label slapped on it – it just needs to be dealt with.
- Q. JC - SafeSport is included in IMPACT. Will this continue as one certification or two?
- A. This is being discussed. IMPACT already had about 2/3 of the SafeSport curriculum in it already. The main goal is to provide the region with resources and to provide a place someone with an issue can call – whether that is the club, Region, National or USOC level.
- Q. LU - Are we going to have renewal courses or review courses on SafeSport?
- A. USOC does not have a plan for that right now. Now it is one and done. USAV is looking at this with the USOC.
- Q. DK – Due Process has to be followed in dealing with any SafeSport or conduct issue. Is this a Region due process or another process that is to be determined?
- A. Track the progress of a SafeSport issue because it will fall back on the Region. When the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party organization is created by the USOC there will be allegations that will go directly to them for investigation and adjudication. Uniform standards for reporting and tracking across the NGBs will be developed. This is probably several years away. This is to keep one person from sport hopping to avoid detection.
- Q. MS - If a Region decides not to support the SafeSport program, what would happen to the Region?
- A. A Region can't opt out. This is a USOC mandate. It would affect the entire sport. It is the right thing to do. We would be negligent if we did not support the program. Risk Management would have a hard time insuring us if we did not stay with the standard established by the USOC.
- Q. DD - The problem is the process – when processes are not yet approved, how does a region move forward?
- A. This is similar to when the background screen program was introduced. Some regions went further in their requirements, some did not. Do what you need to do until the process is established. There is lots of materials out there so a region does not have to reinvent the wheel.
- Q. LU - How do we track those taking the course now?
- A. The person taking the training should print off the certificate and submit it to the Region office until this is linked to Webpoint. This is being worked on in Webpoint now. Need to indicate you are a volleyball person in the training program so that USAV can see it.

- Q. LU - USA Volleyball is pushing this program. Will affiliated organizations have to follow suit if they want to be affiliated with USAV?
- A. The Board can send this to the affiliated organizations. Not sure all the organizations will follow suit. It sends a strong statement to our affiliated organizations.
- Q. SA – More questions came out of the SafeSport Summit than answers.
- A. Quintaya and Delta Region have some specifics that can be done now. The SafeSport contact is a communication person. They don't have to know all the answers but can find them out and direct the person to the right place.

This is a continuation of what we have been doing the past decade. It is important to continue to reach out to other commissioners regarding what to do in the Region.

## **V. Associated Reports**

### **A. Volleyball Hall of Fame - George Mulry**

Executive Director of the Volleyball Hall of Fame since 2011.

Best way to connect with the Hall of Fame

- Connect with the Hall of Fame and volleyball history by visiting the Hall of Fame in Holyoke, MA. There is a 5000sf exhibit hall.
- Launching a new website in Fall of 2014. New interactive experience. This is part of their new branding initiative and marketing plan.
- Membership program. Small membership fee. Benefits of membership to come.

Best way to see something about the Hall of Fame

- Watch the induction ceremonies online. Live on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>
- Traveling displays at tournaments. Piloting with the Florida Region. Steve Bishop has partnered with VHOF to put the displays at tournaments that they normally don't travel to.

What does the Hall of Fame do with the donations?

- Take the Hall of Fame on the road to the AVCA Convention and other events
- Conduct inductee interviews
- Honor the greats by cataloging and digitizing the archives making them accessible.
- Bring in inductees for the annual induction ceremony.

Funding

- Rely on Regions for corporate contributions.
- Holyoke, MA supports the Hall of Fame. They can't do it alone.
- Cumulative giving by the Regions since 2005 has been \$101,231
- USAV has added \$97k to the total.
- Without USAV & the Regions the Hall would not survive.

### **B. AVCA - Kathy DeBoer**

The packet of materials provided includes a certificate for the convention in December. If the commissioner can't attend please pass the certificate on to someone that does a lot of work for you. There is also a certificate for the spring conference in Palo Alto, CA the first week of May.

AVCA is developing some new membership types which will more appropriately serve the club community. A club can sign up a number of coaches for one price. More info will come to the commissioners via email.

**C. USA Volleyball Foundation – Fred Wendelboe**

Thank you to all who donate to the Foundation. The USAV Foundation is a supporting organization for USA Volleyball and the RVA's. That support is part of the charter and mission of the Foundation.

The Foundation is offering a route for the RVA's to place funds with the Foundation to pool the money for a higher interest rate. The Foundation will act as agent for the management of the funds; it will administer such funds as a proportion of the portfolio which will include funds from the Foundation's own investments and other applicants which would be other RVAs. The Foundation will cover all the expenses associated with the management of the funds. The investments will be made by the Foundation at its discretion. The Foundation has experienced a 16% growth in funds since going with Legacy Financial group. The relationship would be that of principal and agent - no trust or fiduciary relationship is contemplated or inferred. The goal is principal retainment and growth. It is not a high risk investment policy but they are looking to grow the principal. There are risks involved as there are in any investments.

The process would be on an annual cycle. The total return of the investment would be calculated at the end of the Foundation's fiscal year. Each Region's funds would be identified. The Region could at that time pull out any or all funds. If the funds were not pulled out, they would then be reinvested for the next cycle. The funds could not be pulled out on a monthly basis.

If the Region is interested in investing funds with the Foundation, contact Fred Wendelboe or Kerry Klostermann.

**VI. Discussion Items**

**A. Lack of Communication - Lisa Madsen**

A team from HOA qualified for Jr Nationals – then 2 major players from the team were invited to join the Youth National team for NORCECA tournament which would conflict with the GJNC. There should be better communication from USAV when selecting players for national level teams when there is a conflict with involvement because it could greatly affected the club, team and remaining players on the team.

Recommended Solution going forward:

1. An email should be sent by USAV to the Region and the club letting them know their player(s) have been selected/invited to the national level team which would conflict with the JNC in which they were already qualified.
2. The team should be given the opportunity to pull out of JNC, without penalty, if the player(s) choose to go play for the national level team leaving their qualified team significantly weaker.

**B. Commissioner Emeritus Award – put forward by Joe Sharpless**

Prior to his death, Joe Sharpless proposed a new award from the USAV Recognitions Committee. The award would acknowledge a Commissioner that has been retired 3 years

or more. The Recognitions Committee will not go forward with this award unless the RVAA backs the award. The RVAA does not see the need for this award at this time.

**C. Detroit – Kris Smith**

Thank you to USAV for putting their trust in the city. They are anxious to have this set of meetings in Detroit next year. Want to break the barriers down for coming to Detroit. They are better than their reputation. Detroit will send out info from time to time regarding the event next year.

Challenge to the Regions –

The Region that sends the most teams to US Open Championships next year – Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau will pay the Commissioner's expenses to the meetings. They have a travel agent that will take care of the logistics. Will coordinate with USAV as to who is sending the most teams.

Any questions contact Kris Smith.

**D. USA Volleyball Academy – Sue Mailhot**

USAV Board member from the Officials' Assembly

USA Volleyball Academy is a new vehicle created over the past few years. It is the educational component for officials training. VolleyballRefTraining.com is where you go to access the USA Volleyball Academy.

The benefits the Academy has brought to us and how to move forward:

1. It is the way of the future – can work on the material at our own time and pace. Will continue to be even better
2. Some Regions created their own curriculum.
3. Looking for 3 or 4 volunteers to go over the curriculum offered and decide what the basic curricula for each position should be. If they want to learn more, they can learn more. The benefit of a standardized course would be so that people could not pick the wrong course to take.

**VII. Committee Reports**

**A. Insurance Committee** Report – Mitch Stemm – Appendix 2

**B. Structure & Function Committee** Report – Ken Cain – Appendix 3

**C. Compliance Committee** Report – Donna Donaghy – Appendix 4

**D. Competition Committee** Report – Mary Andrew – Appendix 5

Resolution brought forward from the Competition Committee to the RVA General Assembly:

The RVA competition committee resolved unanimously to issue a concern to the RVA about the increased amount of play for teams/players at national qualifying events and how it relates to the Safe Sport initiative.

This resolution seeks research and action from the USAV events staff and NQ Directors concerning the reasonable amount of play to protect the health and welfare of youth players during these championship and qualifying competitive events.

## **VIII. Zonal Reports**

- A. Atlantic Zone** – John Hughes - Appendix 6
- B. Border Zone** – Joe Williams - Appendix 7
- C. Central Zone** – Lynne Updegraff - Appendix 8
- D. Pacific Zone** – Meredith Coupland - Appendix 9

Albuquerque would be interested in hosting the 2015 Mid-Year meeting. Evergreen would be interested in hosting a Mid-year meeting.

## **IX. Awards**

### **A. Commissioner Service Awards**

#### **35 Years**

Will Vick – Lone Star

#### **20 Years**

Donna Donaghy – NCVA

#### **15 Years**

Phillip Bryant – Gulf Coast

Judy Praska – North Country

Glenn Sapp – Rocky Mountain

#### **10 Years**

Joe Williams – Delta

#### **5 Years**

Meredith Coupland – Evergreen

Lisa DiGiancinto – Chesapeake

Mark Noble – Sun Country

Andy Reitingner – North Texas

Julie Webber – Alaska

### **B. Best Website Award – Bill Kaufman**

Evergreen Region

### **C. Neville A. “Doc” Booth Commissioner Award**

Lynne Updegraff

## **X. Elections**

### **A. RVAA BOD Rep**

New RVAA BOD Rep – John Hughes

### **B. RVAA Assistant Chair**

Returning RVAA Assistant Chair - Judy Praska

### **C. RVAA Rep to USAV Admin Council**

Returning RVAA Rep to USAV Admin Council - Sue Mailhot

## **XI. Ad Hoc Committees**

**SafeSport Ad Hoc Committee** – Mitch Stemm, Chair, Chris Clauss (JA), Lynne Updegraff, John Bryant, Julie Voeck. Motion to approve the committee as named: Motion Carries

Approved 10/10/14

## **XII. Meetings**

October, 2014 – Hilo, Hawaii

May, 2015 – Detroit, MI

October 2015 - TBA

If you can't go to Hawaii there is the possibility of going to Colorado Springs for video conferencing. June Sander will send out an email requesting interest in video conferencing.

For those that will be attending in Hawaii the schedule is available from Angie. Angie highly recommends that all make air and hotel reservations now as an Ironman competition will be happening in Kona on Sat, Oct 11th. That is a big event.

June Sander sent out the link to the Hawaii hotel on March 27.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.

The minutes were recorded by Becky Hudson

## **Action Items as a result of this meeting**

- Judy Praska will send an email to the RVAA when an expenditure is made from the Contingency Fund.
- Ken Cain requests that commissioners come to the Board meetings. It shows we care and are concerned with what is happening.
- Sue Mailhot is looking for 3-4 volunteers to go over curricula offered for official's training and decide if there could be standardized curricula for each position of the officiating crew.

## **Motions from this meeting**

**RVAA Motion 1:** Move to approve the minutes of Oct 2013 mid-year meeting as amended.  
(Cain/Vick/MC)

**RVAA Motion 2:** Move to apply for credit card for use with the Contingency Fund.  
(Praska/Goodwin/MC)

**RVAA Motion 3 (Competition 1):** Recommend the USAV event staff investigate 4 identified AES roster Issues and present the findings in October 2014 regarding the resolutions. (Motion carries)

1. Automatic Team Code
2. Webpoint officiating information is not transferred to AES issues
3. Automatic AES/Webpoint verification
4. Expired memberships are uploaded from Webpoint to AES

## **RVAA Motion 4 (S & F Committee 1)**

### **Bylaw 7.02 A 2.**

The ~~Board~~ Chair shall appoint the members of the Audit, Finance and Budget Committee and its chair subject to Board Approval.

**Motion 1:** To leave the ByLaw 7.02. A 2. as is currently written in the Bylaws.  
(Vick/Ma/MC) (Motion Carries)

## **RVAA Motion 5 (S & F Committee 2)**

**Motion 2:** To modify Bylaw 7. 02. A 2 to read The Chair of the Board shall propose the members of the Audit Finance, Budget Committee and the Committee Chair subject to Board approval (Updegraff/McNeil/MC) (Motion Carries)

**RVAA Motion 6 (S & F Committee 3)** Move to change “appoint” to “propose” in Bylaw 7.02. B and include “subject to Board approval” as inserted below. (Bryant/Baker/MC) Motion Carries

**Bylaw 7.02 B**

The Ethics and Eligibility Committee shall consist of five persons. Directors on the Board may or may not serve on the Ethics and Eligibility Committee. The Chair of the Board shall ~~appoint~~ propose, subject to Board approval, the Chair of the Ethics and Eligibility Committee in the first year of the Quad. In consultation with the Chair of the Ethics and Eligibility Committee, the Chair of the Board shall ~~appoint~~ propose the other four persons to serve on the Committee, subject to Board approval. Committee members shall be selected from a broad spectrum of volleyball constituencies to optimize objectivity, relevant experience, and diversity. At the discretion of the Chair of the Ethics and Eligibility Committee, a cadre of individuals may be selected to assist the Ethics and Eligibility Committee by serving on the Incident Review Boards.

**RVAA Motion 7 & 8 (S & F Committee 4 & 5): Regarding USAV BOD Paralympic Task Force Recommendations below:**

**Paralympic Task Force**

**Recommendation 1** – To instruct the CEO to file the “Request to Govern Paralympic Sport” with the United States Olympic Committee. If approved, the Board hereby affirms its approval of the Corporation (USA Volleyball) becoming the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport of Sitting (Paralympic) Volleyball.

**Recommendation 2** – To approve the addition of two Directors that shall include i) a Sitting/Paralympic Athlete meeting the definition of an international athlete as defined in the Corporations Bylaws; and ii) a Sitting/Paralympic At Large position.

**Recommendation 3** – To approve the addition of two positions on the Nominating and Governance Committee that shall include i) an international Paralympic athlete representative elected by qualified international Paralympic athletes; and ii) an Independent representative meeting the definition of “independent” in the Corporation’s Bylaws and elected by a majority vote of the currently seated NGC members present and voting.

**RVAA Motion 7 (S & F Motion 4):** To accept the Recommendation 1 of the Paralympic Task Force. (McNeil/Baker/MC) Motion Carries

**RVAA Motion 8 (S & F Motion 5):** Move to accept the Recommendation 2 & 3 of the Paralympic Task Force provided 1 additional RVA position is added to the BOD. (Updegraff/McNeil/MC). Motion Fails

**RVAA Motion 9 (Insurance Committee 1):** ESIX will explore a policy that will allow regions to offer Personal Property insurance to facilities. Motion Carries

**RVAA Motion 10 (Insurance Committee 2):** The RVA Insurance Committee recommends that a committee be formed to oversee development and implementation of the SafeSport plan. Motion Carries

**RVAA Motion 11:** To add the following wording to Op Code 5.02 C 3  
An individual whose region of residence is not the same as the club’s region of residence must have the approval of both commissions to register with a club from a non-adjacent region.  
(Updegraff/Price/ Motion Fails) Yes 17 – No 20

**Motion 11a:** Move to extend discussion 5 minutes. (Goodwin/Williams/MC)  
Straw Poll – those that are in favor of more liberal registration rules regarding where a player may register – register where they want to. 14 Yes – 16 No

Friendly amendment – change reference from 5.02 C 3 to 5.02 C 1 b

Approved 10/10/14

**RVAA Motion 12:** Move to hold presenting the Oct 2013, Motion 3 to the BOD until this item is discussed further. (Goodwin/Praska/MC) 2 Abstentions

**RVAA Motion 13: Alternate to S & F Motion 5:** Move to accept the Recommendation 2 & 3 of the Paralympic Task Force provided 2 additional RVA positions are added to the BOD. Rationale: If 2 positions are added for Paralympic representation, then 2 positions should be added to the RVAA Representation. RVAA membership is larger than all other representative constituencies however their voice is getting smaller with the additional representatives on the BOD (Hughes/Price/Motion Fails)

**RVAA Motion 14:** RVAA recommends one Paralympic Athlete position be added to the USAV Board of Directors (Updegraff/Vick/Motion Carries).

**RVAA Motion 15:** RVAA recommends one RVAA Director position be added to the BOD to balance the representation on the USAV Board of Directors (Updegraff/Sapp/Motion Carries).

**RVAA Motion 16:** Regarding the requirement of the Rostered Adult R2 for 14 and younger age divisions:

Move to change the team officials requirement noted in the Qualifier/GJNC Manual regarding the current rule that reads "The second referee must be a rostered adult for all 14 and under and younger age divisions.

To read: "The second referee be a USAV background screened adult member with officials training for all 14 and under and younger age divisions." (Mailhot/Reitinger/Motion carries)

**RVAA Motion 17:** Move to require USAV to follow what is in the Boys manual regarding consistently applying the rules of eligibility. (Wendelboe/Abbinanti/Motion Carries) 10 yes – 8 opposed,

**RVAA Motion 18:** Move to approve the members of the SafeSport Ad Hoc Committee. Mitch Stemm Chair, Chris Clauss (JA), John Bryant, Julie Voeck, Lynne Updegraff. Motion Carries.

## Appendices

- Appendix 1: SafeSport Session
- Appendix 2: Insurance Committee Report
- Appendix 3: Structure & Function Committee Report
- Appendix 4: Compliance Committee Report
- Appendix 5: Competition Committee Report
- Appendix 6: Atlantic Zone Report
- Appendix 7: Border Zone Report
- Appendix 8: Central Zone Report
- Appendix 9: Pacific Zone Report