



April 2012: ISSUE 31

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**WELCOME NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER**

I hope that your season is going as planned and that you have enjoyed playing volleyball in the many tournaments we have had. Again this season, we are seeing our membership grow and we are adding more and more opportunities for our members to participate in quality volleyball.

On another note, this is an election year for two positions on our Board of Directors. The Commissioner and Indoor Chair are up for grabs and we should have some quality members from which you can choose. I implore you to vote. I hope that you have found that the region has met and exceeded your expectations this last six years of my term and I wish to continue that growth and excitement. I ask for your vote and confidence as the incumbent; but, I do ask that you vote so your voice can be heard.

We should surpass the 12,000 membership mark, so let us have all those members take an active role in determining the person they wish to lead the region. Voting will occur online or by ballot, at regionally hosted events, from April 16 to May 30. The online ballot can be found at [www.floridavolleyball.org](http://www.floridavolleyball.org), and the paper ballot will be at the tournament desk of our regionally hosted events. Thank you for taking the time to make your voice known. I hope the rest of your season goes well and that all your goals and dreams are met!

**James Phillips**, Commissioner  
Florida Region of USA Volleyball



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## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the saying goes, “Spring has sprung”. 2012 is flying by and Florida Region volleyball is busy at all levels. Our indoor season is in full swing and our outdoor season will get started this month. Coming up in April (and covered in this edition of Vol-eNews) will be some great programs and events that you should put on your calendar.

I want to extend a big “THANK YOU” to **Sam Skelton** and the Cloverleaf Tour of Champions for their warm hospitality recently. They hosted our first Team Florida WAVE women’s pro team exhibition match in Ft. Lauderdale and it was excellent! The athletes enjoyed the opportunity to show off their new ASICS uniforms, meet their fans, and sign a few autographs. The coaches got an opportunity to see the teams in action, outside of the practice gym. The Team Florida WAVE staff got to showcase the program and received a lot of positive feedback from the fans in attendance. In case this is new information, I encourage you to visit the Team Florida WAVE page on the Florida Region website ([www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)) to learn more about our first pro volleyball efforts. You can see the squad in action next on April 28, 2012 in Orlando!

There are many great things taking place within our sport, and they are happening everyday. All we have to do is stop long enough and look for them to happen. With our fast paced, task driven lives, we sometimes forget to highlight the positive things that are happening all around us. I encourage you to take a moment at some point this month and celebrate someone else in your immediate circle. Tell a family member that you love them (and mean it), tell a business associate that they did a great job (and mean it), tell a complete stranger to have a great day (and mean it). If we would all lay out a few more well-deserved compliments everyday, I’m confident that they will come back to you ten-fold. Another favorite quote says, “You will always find what you look for in life”. So look for positive things in others and let them know when you see it happen! Let’s all work together to create a unique and positive environment in our sport! We can make a difference if we try!

With that said, make plans to join us on May 18, 2012 for our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Region Awards Ceremony in Orlando. We will celebrate many of our Florida Region members that make this region the best in the USA!

Hope to see you on the court real soon!

**Steve Bishop**, CYSA  
Executive Director/President

Florida Region of USA Volleyball  
[steve@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:steve@FloridaVolleyball.org)





## **CLUB HIGHLIGHT – SOUTH BREVARD SPIRIT VOLLEYBALL CLUB**

Each month a member club is featured in **Vol-eNews**. This is a great way to get to know the Club Director(s) and learn more about the clubs throughout Florida. This month **Bonnie Priester** and **South Brevard Spirit Volleyball Club** will be highlighted.

### **Q: Tell us how you got started in volleyball?**

**A:** I played volleyball in high school in Pennsylvania and loved the sport! Then I went to Penn State to study physical education and tried out for the PSU team. I had a 6 week tryout and sadly didn't make it but still loved the sport. I got married and then came to Florida 2 weeks after I graduated in 1985. I started officiating high school volleyball until I got my first coaching position at Palm Bay High School in 1994. I had a very successful 8 years of coaching, 4 final-four appearances, and 1 State Runner Up. In 2005 I started South Brevard Spirit Volleyball Club. I had 2 high school age daughters that played volleyball that I was able to provide a quality club volleyball experience for both of them.

### **Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball?**

**A:** I have coached college, high school and club for a combined 19 years.

### **Q: What are all the job titles you currently hold? How do you manage all of those responsibilities?**

**A:** I am currently a PE teacher at Cocoa Beach jr/sr high, the head volleyball coach at West Shore Jr/Sr high, the director/coach of South Brevard Spirit Volleyball Club.

### **Q: What is the size of your club currently? And when it was started?**

**A:** We have 4 teams, but have had as many as 7 teams in the past. We started in 2005.

### **Q: What is your opinion on the growth of volleyball throughout the years? (With the addition of sand volleyball in college and the Florida Region's first women's pro team, the WAVE)**

**A:** I love the fact that every year more and more athletes are developing a love for the game of volleyball. Kids are starting younger and growing their skills faster and faster. With the addition of sand volleyball and professional volleyball it only adds to the excitement of opportunities for today's student athletes.

### **Q: Do you have a beach volleyball program?**

**A:** We do not currently have sand volleyball in our program. We have introduced it to our athletes through in house beach tournaments. Maybe we will add it in the future.



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**Q: What would you consider to be your club's biggest accomplishment in volleyball?**

**A:** We are a small club that trains kids to love volleyball and grow their skills so that they can be strong, confident athletes for their high school teams. We have had kids go on to get college scholarships.

**Q: What future plans do you have for your club?**

**A:** The future plans include continuing to grow the club and provide a quality program where every athlete feels like they can be challenged and compete in the game that we love.

**Q: If you could brag about your club, what would you say?**

**A:** Even though we are a small club, some athletes that play for us have found college scholarships and have continued to participate in post high school volleyball.

**Q: What do you look forward to in the future for the Florida Region?**

**A:** Continued success and growth for the athletes and programs that support the Florida Region.

*Thanks Bonnie for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club success in the 2011/2012 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Benavia Jenkins** and **A-Vaneb Volleyball Academy**.*

## 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

The deadline to submit nominations for the **2012 Board of Director Elections** is **April 15!** Nominations started **April 1** and will end **April 15**. Check the Region Website for updates.

The positions open for election are as follows:

- o **Commissioner**
- o **Indoor Chair**
- o **Assistant Commissioner (By Appointment)**



## 3rd ANNUAL BEACH KICKOFF

**May 12, 2012 - 3rd Annual Beach Kickoff Weekend @ Clearwater Beach**

**Jr. Beach Bootcamp with Tyra Turner** – A fun-filled day with skill development in beach passing, hitting, and serving. Plus...learn conditioning and nutrition to help your game from beach vb pro athlete **Tyra Turner!**

**Regional Beach Coaching Clinic** – All beach coaches are required to attend a USAV Beach Coaching Clinic before they will be allowed to coach at a USAV beach tournament!

**Beach Officials Training Clinic** – Indoor officials that are interested in learning how to officiate on the sand should attend this clinic! Instructed by National Beach VB Official – **James Phillips**

**For more information and to register: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)**





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## USAV DIG THE BEACH TOUR

The first beach event of the year is coming up in Ft. Lauderdale on the 14th!  
Register online at [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org).

The USAV Dig the Beach tour stops in 2012 will take place in four of the most desirable beaches in Florida:

**Apr 14-15 Ft. Lauderdale Tour Kickoff, Ft. Lauderdale Beach**

**May 12-13 Clearwater Classic & ROX Jr. Beach Kickoff, Clearwater Beach**

*(Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Tryout, 12u-26u)*

**Jun 2-3 Ft. Myers Open & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Ft. Myers Beach**  
*(Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Tryout, 12u-26u)*

**Jun 9-10 Siesta Key Classic & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Siesta Key Beach**  
*(USA Jr. National Beach Tour Qualifier)*

**Jun 30-Jul 1 Ft. Lauderdale Classic & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Ft. Laud Beach**  
*(USA Jr. National Beach Tour Qualifier)*

**Jul 14-15 Siesta Key Open & ROX Jr. Series Tour Stop, Siesta Key Beach**

**Jul 28-29 Ft. Lauderdale Open & ROX Jr. Series Championships, Ft. Laud Beach**

**Aug 4-5 Clearwater Open & DTB Tour Championships, Clearwater Beach**

Register online at [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)!



## SUMMER MEMBERSHIP

The USAV Summer Membership option is now available! For \$20, you will have access to play in any USAV Dig the Beach tour stop or any affiliate tour stop this summer. Please contact [Michele@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:Michele@floridavolleyball.org) with any questions.

## 2012 TEAM FLORIDA BEACH HP ALL-STAR PROGRAM

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball is proud to announce our second annual **Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Program**. In 2012 we will field 10-12 teams in our delegation. Girls and boys are invited to tryout. The 2012 USA Volleyball Beach HP Championships will take place in Hermosa Beach, CA from July 18-22. The cost for selected athletes will include apparel (outfitted by Rox Volleyball), airfare, coaches, lodging, & ground transportation.



### TRYOUT INFORMATION

**May 12** – Clearwater Beach

**Time:** 3pm-6pm

**June 2** – Ft. Myers Beach

**Tryout Fee:** \$50 in advance

**More info:** [HP@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:HP@FloridaVolleyball.org) or (352) 742-0080.



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## 2012 ASICS GIRLS' JR. REGIONAL QUALIFIER

What: 2012 ASICS Girls' Junior Regional Qualifier

When: April 28-29, 2012

Where: Orange Co. Convention Cntr.  
South Hall A - Orlando, FL

Who: For Girl's Junior Teams 12u-18u

40 Courts - Up to 320 Teams!

For Girl's Junior Teams: 12u-18u

Playing Divisions: 12u, 13u, 14u, 15u, 16u, 17u, 18u

Wave Assignments (FINAL) - As of April 1, 2012

AM Wave (8:00AM): 12u, 14u, 17u, 18u

PM Wave (2:30PM): 13u, 15u, 16u



Admission for fans/spectators is \$8 per day.  
We will also offer a two-day pass on Saturday for \$15.

See the Region Website for details!

## 2012 GIRLS' JR. REGIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

What: 2012 Girls' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships

When: May 19-20, 2012

Where: Orange Co. Convention Cntr.  
West Hall A - Orlando, FL

Who: For Girl's Junior Teams  
10u-18u

50 Courts - Up to 400 Teams!

Wave Assignments (TENTATIVE) - As of Jan 15, 2012

AM Wave (8:00AM): 10u, 11u, 15O, 16O, 16C, 17O, 17C, 18u

PM Wave (2:30PM): 12O, 12C, 13O, 13C, 14O, 14C, 15C

**Deadline to register teams in AES: May 18, 2012!**

This year, we will be adding a **Senior Regional Volleyball Championships** in conjunction with the **Girls' Regional Volleyball Championships**. This will be for Men & Women, **ages 50 and above only!** If you are interested in participating in this new event, please contact Steve Benson at [SBenson@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:SBenson@floridavolleyball.org).

**The Florida Region Awards Ceremony** will take place on **May 18** at the Double Tree Resort in Orlando. We are excited to announce this year's guest speaker will be **Dr. Cecile Reynaud**, Former FSU Head Volleyball Coach.

**Please see the region website for ticket prices and details!**





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## TEAM FLORIDA INDOOR HP ALL-STAR TRYOUTS

There is one remaining HP Tryout in Florida. Please note that the deadline for taking advantage of the online registration tryout fee is 2pm on the day prior to the respective tryout. If you have any questions, please contact [Heather@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:Heather@floridavolleyball.org).

### TEAM FLORIDA HP TRYOUT INFO:

**Apr 13 – Tampa (Girls Only)**  
**Tampa Convention Center**  
(in conjunction with the Tampa United Slam)  
**Girls Age Definitions:**  
1993 & above



For more information, please visit [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)!

## POWER-CORE 360

**Power-Core 360** regional training clinics are available for athletes that want to take it to the next level. Led by our Team Florida WAVE women's pro team coach **Nick Cheronis**, each clinic will help you generate substantially more power and arm speed by incorporating the larger, stronger, more powerful muscles of the legs, core, trunk, and arms to turn the body faster.



Sign up online at [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org) to attend a Power-Core 360 regional training clinic prior to your Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star tryout.

**Clinic dates:** Same as Team Florida Indoor HP All-Star Tryouts (see above)

**Clinic time:** 4:00pm to 6:00pm

**Clinic price:** \$99 per athlete (14 & Above Only!)

## WILSON FRIDAY NIGHT ADULT SERIES

### ATTENTION ADULT PLAYERS, CLUB COACHES, & OFFICIALS!

The Wilson Friday Night Adult Series was created to give adult players, clubs coaches, and officials an opportunity to come together and enjoy the game for a few hours the night before the tournament begins. Each host has been kind enough to provide up to 4 courts at each site. Come out and enjoy the music and fun...and make some new friends at the same time. We hope to see you at an upcoming event! Email Steve Benson at [sbenson@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:sbenson@floridavolleyball.org) to sign up!

### UPCOMING EVENT DATE

**Fri - April 13, 2012**

Tampa Convention Center – Tampa, FL

Host: Tampa Slam (Sam Cibrone)

### EVENT TIME

Check-in Begins @ 5:30p, Matches at 6:30p, 7:30p, & 8:30p

Teams will be finalized at 6:15p





## TEAM FLORIDA WAVE



The **Team Florida WAVE** is the first indoor women's pro volleyball team in Florida and is part of the new **Premier Volleyball League (PVL)**, sanctioned by USA Volleyball. The PVL is made up of teams from among the 40 Regional Volleyball Associations across the country. It will offer a single League Championship every year. This year, the championship will be held in Salt Lake City, UT, at the USA Open National Championships in May.

The WAVE is comprised of post-collegiate female athletes from around the state of Florida and is led by Nick Cheronis, former UF Associate Head Coach.

Sarah Sykes, an outside hitter for the WAVE shared her thoughts on being part of the WAVE: *"When I sat down to put on my shoes for the first tryout with the Wave, all I could think was how excited I was to be able to compete again. I didn't know where it was going to go or really what to expect. I've been on the other side of the court line for the last seven years as a coach. I love coaching and watching my girls grow in this game and develop their love for volleyball. But there is a difference between coaching and playing. I was looking forward to this second chance of playing again. As I watched the other girls come into the gym I realized that most of these girls were fresh out of college. I really wanted to go out there and know at the end of the tryout that I gave everything I had and whatever happened as a result was fine with me. Then I heard my number called to stay after the first cut, and then again at the end of the first tryout. At that point the spark that you get when you do something you love really took hold of me. I get to play again, and play volleyball at an extremely high level and learn from coaches who were going to push me in ways I had known and missed, and also in ways that I hadn't expected. Excitement doesn't begin to describe how I felt and feel each day that we practice now. I missed the bond you form when you are on a team. All of my teammates come into practice excited. We push each other, cheer for each other, and are starting to develop that team chemistry that makes athletics such an amazing thing. Once in a while a person gets that second chance, for me this second chance will be something that I remember and cherish forever. I look forward to representing the Florida Wave and I am very honored to be a part of the inaugural season of the PVL."*



### NEXT COMPETITION DATE

**Apr 28, 2012 - Team Florida WAVE Exhibition Matches at GJRQ!**

Location: Orange County Convention Center, Orlando

11am Red vs. Blue

1pm Meet the Team

3pm Blue vs. Red

5pm Meet the Team

Contact [Krissy@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:Krissy@floridavolleyball.org) for more information!

## OVA 17 ASICS

Congratulations to **OVA 17 ASICS** for winning the 17 Open division at the Mideast Qualifier! This is the first Florida team to win an Open bid for the **2012 USAV Girls' Jr. National Championships**. *Way to go!*



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## USAV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- Two members of the FSU indoor volleyball team **Sareea Freeman** and **Sarah Wickstrom** were two of 48 collegiate players selected to the **U.S. Women's A2 Program**, announced by USA Volleyball. Training begins June 26 at Ohio Dominican University in Columbus, while the matches will be held Jun 30-Jul 4 during the USAV Girls' Junior National Championships at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.
- The **Stetson sand volleyball team** wrapped up its stay at Florida State's Seminole Sand Battle with the Gold and Silver Division pairs brackets. Sophomore **Katie DiGirolamo** (Bradenton, Fla.) and junior **Alisha Hoffman** (Leesburg, Fla.) took two matches against opponents from A-Sun rival FGCU.
- FSU Libero, **Katie Mosher** from Ft Myers, Florida was recognized for her significant contributions to the Florida State Volleyball team for the 2011 season. The redshirt freshman libero was honored at the annual FSU volleyball banquet held in early February, 2012 with the **"Most Influential Player"** award. Katie played club volleyball for Florida Region Gold Seal Club, **USA South**, located in Bonita Springs, Florida, and has actively participated on several National USAV A2 teams and Florida Region HP teams for many years during her club and high school career.

If you or someone you know is making headlines, please let us know by contacting [Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:Krissy@FloridaVolleyball.org). You could see your name in the next Issue of Vol-eNews!

## GROWING CHAMPIONS FOR LIFE WEBINAR



**FREE Coaches' Webinar**

"Solving the Mystery of Motivation – Maximizing Your Athletes' Potential"

with David Benzel

Monday, April 9th, 8:30 PM Eastern Time

45-minute live webinar plus Q & A

[Click Here to Register](#)

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## MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

The **Spectator/Fan Membership** option is available for \$25 and includes a full year, NON-PLAYING membership with secondary insurance and entrance into all Florida Region hosted tournaments. This membership option is ideal for those members that plan on attending more than one USAV Event this year. \$25 cost...\$30 value! There is also a new **FREE** membership for all youth who are 8 years old and under. This is a limited membership and must be upgraded to play in any qualifiers or national competition. If you have any questions, please contact [Michele@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:Michele@floridavolleyball.org).

## MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

As of April 1, 2012, the Florida Region has **10,604** members. We are on our way to meeting our goal of 12,000 members! Please let others in your area know about the playing, coaching, and officiating opportunities offered by USA Volleyball in the Florida Region.

## REGION INFORMATION

Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.  
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F: (352) 414-5304  
E: [info@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:info@FloridaVolleyball.org)  
Web: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)

### Board Members:

**James Phillips**, Commissioner  
**Shanon Lewis**, Asst. Commissioner  
**Donna Beasley**, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Mary Andrew**, Indoor Chair  
**Kendra Vanzwieten**, Outdoor Chair  
**Darin Clark**, Official's Chair

### Staff:

**Steve Bishop**, Exec. Director/President  
**Steve Benson**, Events Manager  
**Michele Sisser**, Registrar/Office Mgr.  
**Krissy McKane**, Marketing Coordinator  
**Heather Cormier**, Events Coordinator  
**Sue Wainio-Oato**, Official's Coordinator

### Junior Admin Board (JAB) Representatives:

**Lori Eaton, Russel Williams, Rita Crockett, Sam Skelton**

## OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION CORPORATE PARTNERS



The Official Outdoor Volleyball of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball!



The Official Outfitter of the Florida Region HP All-Star Program since 2006!



The Official Indoor Volleyball of the Florida Region of USA Volleyball!



The Official Outfitter of the Team Florida Beach HP All-Star Program!

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