



**September 2012: ISSUE 36**

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**WELCOME NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Let me officially welcome you to the 2012/2013 club volleyball season!

The Florida Region once again accomplished many milestones during the 2011/2012 season.

- 🏐 Celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an incorporated region
- 🏐 Launched the Team Florida WAVE indoor pro volleyball team
- 🏐 Assumed management of the 20 year old Dig the Beach Tour
- 🏐 Exceeded our goal of 12,000 members
- 🏐 Increased our Corporate Partner support to over \$200K
- 🏐 Won three (3) National Championship titles at the Girls’ JNC

We are very fortunate to have so many dedicated and caring board members, staff, club directors, coaches, officials, and parents across Florida. As I reflect back on what we accomplished together in our sport this past season, I can honestly say that our Florida Region volleyball family is simply amazing. While we all come from different backgrounds and have different views on issues that arise from time-to-time, we always seem to find enough common ground to move forward and accomplish the mission. This is what makes our volleyball family so great.

We want to say THANK YOU for supporting the Florida Region and USA Volleyball over the past 30 years! It is our pleasure to serve you and we look forward to a great 2012/2013 season.

Let us know how we are doing,

**Steve Bishop**, Executive Director  
Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc.





## LETTER FROM THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Dear Members of the Florida Region,

This is my first note as your Assistant Commissioner and like Commissioner Mary Andrew said last month, I am honored to serve the Florida Region in this new capacity.

I had the opportunity to attend three of the four recent District Junior Forum Meetings and was overwhelmed by the dedication of our Club Directors and coaches. As Commissioner Andrew stated in her welcome letter to forum attendees, "You are the heartbeat of the region...." I experienced this first hand as we listened to ideas, comments and concerns. I was most impressed by the enthusiasm to make our Region even better.

As we were discussing the upcoming season, I couldn't help but think how easy it would be to "rest on our laurels." A few stats:

- Outdoor Memberships – Florida Region makes up over 76% of all Outdoor memberships
- Overall Growth in Numbers – Florida Region 1,330 (2nd place)
- Overall Size of Region – Florida Region 12,286 (8th place)

Everyone, *and I mean everyone*, should take pride in how the Florida Region has become a national leader. But can we really just stop and pat ourselves on the back? I think the answer to that question is best found in the explosion of the Beach Season that just concluded. As reported by Steve Bishop, the Florida Region had the largest Beach Volleyball season in the entire United States! That's right, not California, Florida. Obviously there is demand for even more volleyball opportunities in the Sunshine State.

So, here is my pledge and challenge to you...Commissioner Andrew requires her board to listen first, act second. We will take your comments and endeavor to make this Region what you want it to be. But, we need to explore ways in offering more volleyball opportunities to the 19 million residents who call Florida home. Some thoughts:

- Adult Teams - Perhaps tapping into adult recreational leagues around the state
- Boys Indoor - Starting to grow, but there is still significant room for growth
- Special/Para Olympics - If you ever want to experience the true joy of volleyball, observe a couple of matches
- Collegiate Club Teams - a new venue for many of our Junior's as they leave for college

These are just a few areas to explore, but as Mary says, "We are listening".

**Doug Darling**  
Assistant Commissioner  
Florida Region of USA Volleyball



## CLUB HIGHLIGHT – TRIBE VOLLEYBALL

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 **Dean Barboza** and **Tribe Volleyball** will be highlighted.

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

**A:** Its different- I started playing football. I was dating a volleyball player and she asked me to play on the beach with her and her friends and I loved it. So after I was done with football, I could remain competitive by playing beach volleyball. I eventually started playing indoor volleyball.

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

**A:** 15 Years

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

**A:** Husband, Father, Director for Tribe Volleyball, Varsity Volleyball Coach for Calvary Christian Academy, and Sr. Partner for TerraNova Consulting. The secret to any successful endeavor is to understand your strengths and weaknesses and to make sure you find quality people that are strong where you are not. My wife, Tribe Administration and coaches, Support Staff at Calvary, and the Managing Partners at TerraNova make it possible for me to have any success at all.

**Q: What do you like to do in your “spare time”?**

**A:** All my spare time is spent with my children: 9 Year old son Cade, nine month old Daughter Farrah.

**Q: What is your opinion on the growth of volleyball in Florida throughout the years?**

**A:** I think it’s a tribute to the organization of the Florida Region, as well as the quality of most of the directors and their desire to help the kids.

**Q: What are some of your club’s accomplishments?**

**A:** Well, in 3 years we have qualified 8 Teams for the Jr. National Championships - which is a pretty cool pay off since it is NOT one of our goals. This is the 1st year we strongly encouraged our girls to try out for Florida HP and 5 of the 12 players on the HP National Select team were Tribe girls. Also 2 Tribe Girls were on the HP International Youth Team.





**Q: How many of your club kids have gone on to play college volleyball?**

**What colleges?**

**A:** Our goal as a club is to help girls get into college to play volleyball. So the results have been pretty cool. In 3 short years we have helped 27 girls go on to play college volleyball, here are a few schools: University of Pittsburg, UNC Wilmington, UNC Asheville, UNC Greensboro, University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Liberty University, Bradley University, Coastal Georgia, Providence College, West Virginia Wesleyan, Lynn University, Western Illinois University, University Of Chicago, and Tufts University.

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

**A:** I'd say: In my opinion we have the one of the top coaching staffs in the country. Our coaches speak the same language and they have all bought into our "Tribe Culture", where we train technique, effort, attitude and attempt to instill a "growth mindset" in all our players. Where winning is not the #1 goal, getting better is. The winning has taken care of itself: 2012 club season highlights:

- Tribe 12 Rox finish 5th in an Open National Championship
- Tribe 13 Rox finished 2nd in the Florida Region and 10th in the JNCs (JNC Qualifier)
- Tribe 14 Rox won an Open Bid at the Show Me Qualifier (Tribe's 1st Open Qualifier)
- Tribe 14 Cardinal and 14 Navy both finished 9th in the Gold division at Florida Region Bid.
- Tribe 15 Rox finished 3rd in the Florida Region- Bronze Division Champion (JNC Qualifier)
- Tribe 16 Rox finished 3rd in the Florida Region (No JNC Bid Reallocation)
- Tribe 18 Rox Finished 3rd in the Florida Region (Qualified for the JNCs- Declined the bid)

**Q: Do you recall any memorable stories with Tribe Volleyball?**

**A:** Our 16s team is playing in a national event in Louisville in 2010. They have to beat Fusion out of Chicago and then national power Sports Performance in the Semis and Finals. Both matches go a tough 3 sets. With Tribe 16 winning our 1st gold medal in a national event - the environment was incredible! In the finals there was Sports Performance players and parents 5 rows deep singing and chanting at the top of their lungs; it was like no other club event I have been a part of. It was memorable to win in that hostile (in a good way) environment.

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

**A:** Continued growth and having more Florida Region clubs gain national recognition.



Thanks Dean for participating in the Club Highlight. The Florida Region wishes you and your club success in the 2012/2013 season! Stay tuned for next month's Club Highlight to learn about **Terry Small** and **Pinellas Heat Elite VBC**.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER**

It's that time again! **Membership Renewal** time is here for all current and future USAV members. You will notice on your membership cards that it expires October 31st, 2012. You can renew your membership, **AFTER** September 1st, by visiting our website and logging into your account. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (352)742-0080.

**JAB NOMINATIONS**

There are 5 candidates that have been nominated to serve on the Junior Admin Board (JAB). The term of their office (if elected) will be through Aug. 2014.

**JAB NOMINATIONS**

- Lori Eaton** – Gold Coast VBC (District 4, INCUMBENT)
- Russel Williams** – Longwood VBC (District 2, INCUMBENT)
- Tim Harris** – Performance VBC (District 3)
- Jose Morales** – Tallahassee Jrs. (District 1)
- Mike Zarate** – OBV (District 4)



**Good luck to the JAB Candidates! Results will be posted online NLT Sept. 7th.**

**2011/2012 FLORIDA REGION HIGHLIGHTS**

**MEMBERSHIP**

- Met and exceeded goal of 12,000 members in July 2012
- Presented over 30 awards and \$7,500 in scholarships to H.S. Seniors at the 2012 Florida Region Awards Ceremony in May
- Florida Region Member, Rita Crockett, inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame
- Florida Region celebrating 30 years in 2012!

**OPERATIONS**

- Region office moved to a 3,000 sq. ft. office space from a 1,000 sq. ft. location in Eustis, FL
- Monthly Newsletter (Vol-eNews) in its 36th Issue
- Sanctioned over 186 events with 70 of those events managed by Region Staff
- 2012 Board of Director Election
  - Mary Andrew (Commissioner) - Jacksonville Juniors. Volleyball Association
  - Doug Darling (Assistant Commissioner) - National Referee
  - Sam Skelton (Indoor Chair) - Palm Beach Juniors
  - Carrie Prewitt (JAB Representative) - Black Creek Volleyball Club



## EDUCATION

- Annual Education Weekend offering IMPACT, CAP I, CAP II, Beach IMPACT, BCAP, National and Regional Officials Clinics held in December
- 15 Region Indoor IMPACT Courses offered around the state of Florida
- Trained over 200 coaches
- 5 Regional Beach Coaching Clinics offered around the state of Florida
- Trained approximately 25-30 coaches

## INDOOR

- Sent a delegation of 60 athletes, 15 coaches, & 3 staff to Des Moines, IA to the 2012 USA Indoor HP Championships in July
  - Team Florida Girls' National Select (GNS) finished 3rd & won a Bronze Medal in the Gold Division
  - Team Florida Girls' International Youth (GIY) finished 4th in the Gold Division
- ASICS sponsored over \$38,000 in apparel to outfit the entire HP Delegation
- 1st Place Volleyball branded all of the apparel and gear to the tune of \$16,000
- Launched Florida's first women's indoor pro team (Team Florida WAVE) and competed in the first Premier Volleyball Championships (PVL) in Salt Lake City, UT in June and finished 5th overall
- ASICS sponsored over \$21,000 in apparel and gear for Team Florida WAVE
- 1st Place Volleyball branded all of the apparel and gear to the tune of \$8,800
- 40 teams participated in the Florida Region Boys' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships, which, for the first time ever, was held at a convention center
- 35 girls and boys teams participated in the 2012 USAV Junior National Championships
  - 1st Place Finishes: Tampa Bay Jrs. 18's (18 Open), OVA 13 Asics (13 National), Top Select 17 VB Rags (17 American)
- Girls' Jr. Regional Qualifier hosted 334 teams in a 2 day event held in Orlando
- Girls' Jr. Regional Volleyball Championships hosted 314 teams in a 2 day event held in Orlando

## OUTDOOR

- Assumed management responsibilities of the Dig the Beach Volleyball Tour
  - Largest beach volleyball events in the country
- Over 2,200 teams signed up over the course of 8 tour stops this summer
- Largest event - Siesta Key with 400 teams on 44 courts
- USAV Sanctioned affiliate beach volleyball tours provided 15 more outdoor playing



## OUTDOOR (Continued)

- opportunities for Florida Region adults and juniors
  - Florida Beach Volleyball Tour (FBVT)
  - Sunshine State Outdoor Volleyball Association (SSOVA)
  - Orlando Sports Center (OSC)
- Sent a delegation of 16 athletes (6 girls teams, 2 boys teams) to Hermosa Beach, CA to compete in the 2012 USA Beach HP Championships in July
  - Team Florida Beach HP U21 Stephanie Pellitteri/Nina Pellitteri won 3rd Place in the Gold Division
    - Guest coaches Rita Crockett (FIU), Danalee Corso (FSU), & Cindy Phillips (Pro Athlete)
- Rox Volleyball outfitted and branded the entire Beach HP Delegation

## SKILLZYS

**Coaches & Club Directors:** Are you looking for a new and exciting marketing tool for your club? The Florida Region has partnered up with Skillzys, a company who specializes in sports related bag tags.



Think of a Skillzy® as a Boy or Girl Scout merit badge, but for sport. With a similar size and feel of a typical credit card, Skillzys® are colorful plastic bag tags depicting individual sports techniques, basic tactical ideas, or positive character traits. Players earn specific Skillzys® by successfully executing the technique, tactic or by demonstrating the particular trait under the pressures of match or tournament competition.

Skillzys® can be fully customized with team, club, or league logos and colors. They can feature any terminology clients choose to use. All Skillzys® products can be fully customized to include team and club logos, colors, and any text information you desire. Terminology is completely flexible, allowing coaches to design unique pieces that their players will enjoy trying to earn and collect on their backpacks.

**For more information on pricing and customization, contact:**  
**Tonya DeGregorio-Witzel Operations Manager/Team Skillzys®**  
**E: [tdegregorio@skillzys.com](mailto:tdegregorio@skillzys.com) P: 651-328-6953 W: [www.skillzys.com](http://www.skillzys.com)**



## GRASS VOLLEYBALL INFORMATION

The Florida Region of USA Volleyball, Inc. (Florida Region) is interested in partnering with USAV clubs and high school volleyball teams to offer charity Corporate Volleyball Challenges in areas across Florida.

This type of event is a great way to get new recreational members involved in the sport. It can create connections between the local club or high school team and the local businesses that might be interested in supporting volleyball in the local area or even across the state of Florida. Also, it provides a competitive level of grass volleyball for experienced and high level players.

The Florida Region hopes to secure new strategic partnerships with companies that have a statewide footprint. This series of events will take place on a Saturday between the months of September and November based on availability of Florida Region staff.



### WHO CAN PLAY?

**Co-ed Adult Teams (Ages 18 & Above)**  
**Recreational 6's or Competitive 4's Divisions**  
 (Recreational Teams = 4 guys & 2 girls, Competitive Teams = 3 guys & 1 girl)

### WHEN & WHERE ARE THE EVENTS?

**Confirmed Dates:**  
 Nov 10, 2012 - Ft. Myers, FL (Estero Rec Center)

**Available Dates:**  
 Sep 29, 2012  
 Oct 27, 2012  
 Nov 3, 2012  
 Nov 17, 2012  
 Dec 1, 2012

### WHAT IS THE COST?

**Competitive 4's Team Fee:**  
\$120 Corporate Rate or \$200 VIP Rate  
**Recreational 6's Team Fee:**  
\$200 Corporate Rate or \$300 VIP Rate  
 (VIP Rate includes lunch, drinks, and an event t-shirt for each player)

### WHO DOES THE EVENT BENEFIT?

All proceeds from the event will be split 50/50 between the local school or club volleyball team co-hosting the event and the Florida Region of USA Volleyball's scholarship fund.





# Vol-eNews FloridaVolleyball.org

The official source for Florida volleyball news!



## ANY OTHER INFORMATION?

The playing surface is grass! (Wear Sneakers)  
Bring your sunscreen and favorite lawn chair!  
**THERE WILL BE LOTS OF GREAT MUSIC, FOOD, & FUN!**

## EVENT SCHEDULE

8:30a – Team Check-In Begins  
9:15a – Captain’s Meeting  
9:30a – Tournament Begins

E-mail Steve Benson, Events Manager ([sbenson@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:sbenson@FloridaVolleyball.org)) or call (352) 742-0080 for more information!

## USAV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

- Bishop Moore outside hitter **Lindsey Owens** tops the Bright House Sports Network Volleyball countdown as the **best volleyball player in central Florida**. The reigning **Orange County player of the year** slammed home 337 kills, and dug 331 balls for the class 4A runners up. Owens will be playing volleyball and studying engineering at Virginia Tech next year. Lindsey also stars for the **OVA 17 Asics** club team
- **Sarah Geraldson** was named **Florida's Female Scholar Athlete of the Year** on Thursday in front of her former State College of Florida volleyball teammates. Geraldson was able to juggle athletics, schoolwork, and work all while maintaining a perfect 4.0 grade-point average in her SCF career.
- Congrats to **Kyle Dagostino** for making the **Boys' International All-Tournament Team** (one of only three US athletes) at the 2012 USAV HP Championships in Des Moines, IA. Dagostino was on the top Youth HP Team for USA as a Libero. **Way to go Kyle!**



## GIRL'S JUNIOR CLUB TRYOUT DATES

This year, the earliest date for girl's junior tryouts (ages 10U – 14U) is Saturday, **September 1st**. The earliest date for girl's junior tryouts (ages 15U – 18U) is Sunday, **November 18th**. Any club found to be holding tryouts prior to these dates will be subject to fines and/or penalties! Please make sure that you sanction your USAV tryouts at least 30 days in advance so it can receive an event sanction number and a USAV certificate of insurance. Contact **Steve Benson**, Events Manager, @ [sbenson@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:sbenson@FloridaVolleyball.org) if you have any questions.



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## CLUB RENEWAL REMINDER

All club directors must renew their clubs by **September 1, 2012**. Only clubs that complete this requirement by the deadline will be recognized as an official USAV Club. You can renew your club by viewing our website's FORMS page and clicking on the **2012 Club Information Form** located under the **Club Management** heading. Contact Michele Sisser, Florida Region Registrar, at [msisser@floridavolleyball.org](mailto:msisser@floridavolleyball.org) with any questions.

## MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

The Florida Region has reached our milestone of **12,000** members! Thank you to all of our members for supporting USA Volleyball! 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.  
15010 US Highway 441  
Eustis, FL 32726

T: (352) 742-0080  
F: (352) 414-5304  
E: [info@FloridaVolleyball.org](mailto:info@FloridaVolleyball.org)  
Web: [www.FloridaVolleyball.org](http://www.FloridaVolleyball.org)

### Board Members:

**Mary Andrew**, Commissioner  
**Doug Darling**, Asst. Commissioner  
**Donna Beasley**, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Sam Skelton**, 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, Carrie Prewitt**

## 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!

## OFFICIAL FLORIDA REGION BUSINESS PARTNERS

