



October 2012: ISSUE 37

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WELCOME NOTE FROM THE INDOOR CHAIR

Welcome volleyballers!! The playing season is quickly approaching and your tryouts are just around the corner. It is a pleasure to serve you as your Indoor Chair and I look forward to seeing some awesome high level competition. Parents and players alike, please remember that how you approach the season is everything. Be solution driven and you will reach new heights in your game and have a much more enjoyable season with your respective clubs.

When you consider trying out for a club there are a few things to remember. The strength of our region is due to the fact that we are loaded with great clubs for you to join and choose from. In your tryout experience your first step is to renew or become a member of the Florida Region. When you get to the part on registration to choose a club check the undecided box unless you are sure you know the club you would like to affiliate with. You do have the option to tryout with various clubs. This can help you to see which is the best fit for you as an athlete. As you go through your season we as a region board and staff are here to serve you. Feel free to call the region office during the appropriate hours as they will professionally take care of your needs.

Thank you for being a part of the best region in the United States as we continually lead in our great sport of Volleyball!!

See you on the court!
Sam Skelton
Indoor Chair



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October is here along with the start of our 2012/2013 USA Volleyball season. We are very excited to begin our 31st year as a Regional Volleyball Association (RVA) under the umbrella of USA Volleyball, the National Governing Body (NGB) for the sport in the United States. Last season we maintained our position as the 8th largest RVA in the US with 12,400 members. Thank you to everyone in our Florida Region family for helping us achieve this new membership milestone!

As most of you know, high school and college volleyball is in full swing across the state of Florida. Inside this issue of *Vol-eNews* you will find a list of colleges that are nationally ranked. Please join me in congratulating them as they work so diligently to prepare for the post-season. We wish them all well as their respective season's progress!

On another note, I recently attended the 33rd FIVB World Congress in Anaheim, CA. I was honored to be able to serve on staff and welcome the volleyball leaders from 206 federations across the world. This was a highlight in my personal volleyball experiences as I was able to witness the first ever democratic election of a leader in the FIVB organization. While our USA candidate (Doug Beal) did not win, USA Volleyball was credited with hosting one of the most successful FIVB congresses since the FIVB was founded in 1947. Additional information on the FIVB can be found here: www.FIVB.org

Lastly, as we head into the 2012/2013 season, I encourage each of you to help us find ways to grow our volleyball family. We have a great sport that can be played by volleyball enthusiasts from elementary school to well past retirement. With interest in volleyball at an all-time high after the 2012 London Olympics, let's find a way to introduce our great sport to players of all ages and skill levels. Together we can make volleyball a more well known sport in the USA. (This only makes sense as volleyball was founded in Holyoke, MA in 1895.) Let us know your ideas!

We look forward to hearing from you,

Steve Bishop
Executive Director/President

Florida Region of USA Volleyball
www.FloridaVolleyball.org





CLUB HIGHLIGHT – PINELLAS HEAT ELITE VBC

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 **Terry Small** and **Pinellas Heat Elite VBC** will be highlighted.

Q: When did you get involved with volleyball?

A: In college, at the University of Tampa, I learned everything I could from Coach Chris Catanach and Dr. Eric Vlahov. Upon graduation, I was hired to teach and coach at East Lake High School, and started our club 2 years later.

Q: How long have you been coaching volleyball?

A: 16 years; I started coaching at East Lake High School in 1996 and we started our club in 1999.

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

A: I am a father, a husband, a teacher and a club director. I have lots of help! Our club runs smoothly because of the same core of individuals that have been with us from the beginning; my wife, Barb, Donna Collins, Kim Foster and Kelleigh O'Neill. I couldn't and wouldn't do this without them. I also have a very dedicated group of coaches as well.

Q: What are some of your personal accomplishments in regards to volleyball?

A: Winning a state championship with East Lake High School in 2010 was my biggest personal accomplishment in high school. Qualifying a team in the Open division for the Junior National Championships was amazing, too.

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

A: I find it amazing that kids are playing competitive volleyball at the ages of 8 and 9, when just a few years ago it was difficult to have enough girls to field a 12's team. It's also great to see the kids playing more on the sand and the opportunities the kids have for sand scholarships now.

Q: Tell us about your new practice facility.

A: For the past 2 years, we've had 1 full court as well as a 1/2 training court for private lessons. As of October 1st, we will be expanding next door to where we are currently located, which will allow us to use our 2nd full court (and not have to rent as much space at The Long Center, across the street).

Q: Does your club do anything to promote youth volleyball (11 and under)?

A: I am pleasantly surprised how many 8-10 year old girls are learning to play volleyball. We offer beginning volleyball which teaches the basics, we have a



Friday night middle school training during the school year and we currently have 38 girls that are 11 and under participating on our mini-club teams.

Q: Tell us about your boy's programming at your club.

A: Last year, we had two 14 and under boy's teams as well as a 16 and under team. One of our 14 and under teams qualified for the Boy's Junior National Championships in Dallas this past summer. We are looking forward to expanding our boys program this season.

Q: Tell us about some memorable moments with Pinellas Heat.

A: Back in 1999, I was honored that I had 27 families and 2 high school coaches that trusted me enough to join me on this journey. In recent years, it's been wonderful to have players come back and coach with us.

Q: What would you attribute to your club's success?

A: I ask for feedback often and I truly value the opinion of our families. I think they trust us to always do what's best for their daughters. We are a family.

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

A: I look forward to the continued growth of the sport, both girls and boys, and for more of those players to get out and play on the sand too. So many players weren't continuing to play volleyball in college and now more are having the opportunity to continue to play in college with the addition of sand volleyball scholarships.

*Thanks Terry 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 **Debbie Moriconi** and **Phantom Volleyball Club**.*

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 if you have any questions.

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. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at (352)742-0080.



INTERNATIONAL SCORER – JENNIFER WILLIAMS

Congratulations to Florida Region Official, **Jennifer Williams** (pictured bottom right), for earning her certification as an international scorer. Jennifer is one of four candidates that recently received her certification.



Q: How were you introduced to volleyball?

JW: My older sister started playing and played for a club team. My first year playing I played on an 18 and under team when I was in middle school. From there, I fell in love with it!

Q: What is your favorite part about officiating volleyball?

JW: I simply love the game. Officiating is a way for me to be a part of the volleyball community. I love being able to travel the country doing something I love and meeting people along the way.

Q: Tell us your funniest officiating moment?

JW: I think one of the funniest moments was having a junior girl line judge at Girls JNC come up with a touch...then proceed to run over to me screaming "there was a touch" while holding the touch signal with the flag and being careful not to enter the court by running all the way around the end line! I was being observed and had to keep a straight face. Needless to say my observer does a great reenactment of the whole thing!

Q: What has it taken to get to this level of certification?

JW: Great mentors! I have been very lucky to have so many great officials help me along the way. Without the mentoring from them, I would not be where I am today in my officiating ranks.

Q: What advice would you give to a new Official?

JW: Watch and learn. I learned so much just from watching higher ranked officials. Be open to feedback. If you truly want to improve and move up you must be patient and willing to work on the things you need to improve upon.

2013 REGION EVENT DATES

Team Florida WAVE Indoor Pro Team Tryout, January 4

- o Location: Orlando Sports Center - Orlando, FL

Coaches and Official's Education Weekend, January 4-6

- o Location: Orlando Sports Center - Orlando, FL
- o IMPACT/ CAP I & II/Beach IMPACT/BCAP
- o Official's Training Clinic (Regional & National)

2013 Boys' Florida Fest, February 2-3

- o Location: Ocean Center - Daytona Beach, FL



- o Boys' National Bid Tournament

2013 Region Awards Ceremony, April 19

- o Location: TBA - Orlando, FL

2013 Girls' Junior Regional Volleyball Championships, April 20-21

- o Orange County Convention Center - Orlando, FL

2013 Girls' Junior Regional Qualifier, April 27-28

- o Orange County Convention Center - Orlando, FL
- o Teams wanting to compete for National/American bids

2013 Team Florida Indoor HP Development Camp, May 4

- o Location: TBA

2013 Team Florida Indoor HP Training Camp, June 1-2

- o Orlando Sports Complex - Orlando, FL

2013 Boys' Junior Regional Volleyball Championships, June 15-16

- o Location: TBD

2013 USA Volleyball Indoor HP Championships, July 22-28

- o Location: Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center - Ft. Lauderdale, FL

OFFICIALS UPDATE

The Florida Region would like to congratulate the following officials who achieved a new certification level over the summer:

New National Referees:

Joe Donnelly
Tom Eagen
Kim Harrell
Scott Lowery
Laurie Obreza

New Jr. National Referee:

Joe Liguori

New International Scorer:

Jennifer Williams

New National Scorer:



Rachael Stringer

Please join us in congratulating these individuals. They have worked very hard over the years to improve their knowledge and skills in order to provide the best possible officiating for players in our region and around the country! Thank you and congratulations!

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:
 Oct 27, 2012 - Port St. Lucie
 Nov 10, 2012 - Ft. Myers, FL (Estero Rec Center)

Available Dates:

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



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(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.

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

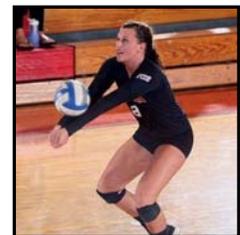
8:30a – Team Check-In Begins
9:15a – Captain's Meeting
9:30a – Tournament Begins

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

USAV MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



- o **AnneMarie Chin** earned **Big South Defensive Player of the Week** honors. Chin, a freshman at High Point University, was also the recipient of the **Walgreen's "There's A Way" Scholarship** presented to her at the 2012 Florida Region Awards Ceremony this past May.
- o **Emilee Taylor** was selected as the **Travelynx Student-Athlete of the Week** at Flagler College. Taylor helped lead Flagler to a 3-0 week with a win at No. 8 (NAIA) Embry-Riddle aeronautical University and two more victories (Augusta State and Montevallo) to open the Peach Belt Conference season. She averaged 3.90 kills, 3.30 digs and 0.90 blocks per set. At ERAU, she recorded fourth double-double of the season with 15 kills and 17 digs.
- o **Valerie Gonzalez**, a middle hitter for Seacrest and member of USA South, received **all-tournament honors** after compiling 72 kills, 39 digs, four aces and 16 blocks while leading the Stingrays to a second-place finish.
- o **The U.S. Paralympic Women's Sitting Volleyball Team** won the silver medal at the **Paralympic Games** after being edged by China, 22-25, 25-15, 32-30, 25-15 in the 2012 London gold medal match.





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

NEW OUTDOOR CHAIR – NANCY COTHRON

The Florida Region would like to welcome **Nancy Cothron** as the new Outdoor Chair. Nancy was born in Tampa and competed on the track, basketball, and cross country teams at her high school, but found volleyball to be her true love. One year of high school and playing beach volleyball every day was enough for Nancy to become a starter for the FSU squad. Nancy joined the squad as a walk-on in 1977 and competed in both volleyball and track for the Seminoles. “My greatest blessing was to be coached by Dr. Cecile Reynaud for four years”. Cecile is well known in the volleyball community, has written many books for coaches and players, and travels the world teaching and learning about volleyball. Nancy played both professionally indoor and on the beach over in Europe. She returned home and continued playing on the professional beach tour before marrying her husband, Tony Cothron. They have 3 boys together and two are currently in college exploring their potential volleyball careers as walk-ons. Nancy is also an IMPACT Cadre for the Florida Region, AVCA member, CAP I and CAP II certified. If you would like to send Nancy a welcome note, please do so at Nancy@FloridaVolleyball.org.



AVCA TOP 25 POLL – FLORIDA COLLEGES

Congratulations to the Florida colleges who made the Coaches Top 25 Poll and the many more that made Honorable Mention in the most recent polls!

NCAA DI, AVCA Poll 9/24/12 (Rank – School – City)

- o #12 – University of Florida (Gainesville)
- o #14 – Florida State University (Tallahassee)

NCAA DII, AVCA Poll 9/24/12 (Rank – School – City)

- o #7 – University of Tampa (Tampa)
- o #21 – University of West Florida (Pensacola)

NAIA, AVCA Poll 9/18/12 (Rank – School – City)

- o #8 – Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona)

NJCAA DI, AVCA Poll 9/26/12 (Rank – School – City)

- o #8 – College of Central Florida (Ocala)
- o #9 – Miami-Dade College (Miami)
- o #10 – State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (Bradenton)



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- o #17 – Florida State College at Jacksonville (Jacksonville)
- o #18 – Hillsborough Community College (Plant City)
- o #19 – Pensacola State College (Pensacola)

For a complete list of colleges who made the Coaches Top 25 Poll, please visit www.avca.org.

MEMBERSHIP COUNT UPDATE

The Florida Region has exceeded our goal of **12,000** members last season! 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

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Board Members:

Mary Andrew, Commissioner
Doug Darling, Asst. Commissioner
Donna Beasley, Secretary/Treasurer
Sam Skelton, Indoor Chair
Nancy Cothron, 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!

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