

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
OF THE
OHIO VALLEY REGION, INC.**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Valley Region, Inc. ("Corporation") was held on June 1st, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Homewood Suites in Columbus, Ohio.

I. QUORUM - The following Board Members were present:

Mr. Bob Price, Mr. Terry Miller, Ms. Patty Salvatore, Mr. Brian Hemelgarn, Ms. Gretchen Niebling, Mr. Chris Bielby, Mr. Tom Kohl, Ms. Sandra Borer, Mrs. Michelle Hills, Mr. Adam Evans, Mr. Paul Claridades, Mr. Gary Hajek, Mr. Bill Zehler, and Mr. Al Herbert. Mr. Stephen Donahue arrived at 10:13pm.

Staff: Ms. Diane Hood, Mr. Ron Wyzynski, Mr. Mike Fultz, and Mr. Matt Mihelic

Guests: Ms. Tonya Thompson, Mr. Josh Hall, Mr. Keith Burke, and Mrs. Stephanie Grieshop

II. CALL TO ORDER – Commissioner Bob Price called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum of directors was present and the meeting, having been duly convened, was read to proceed with business.

III. Board of Directors Election Results

On, Sunday, May 13th, the Board of Directors election was declared closed, which according to the Bylaws, was to officially end on the last day of the Junior Championships. A complaint was officially filed by a member regarding the handling of bulk ballots submitted on May 13th.

Commissioner Bob Price made the executive decision to void bulk ballots on the grounds that the potential was there for the ballots to be compromised. A 3rd party was involved in handling the ballots as they were turned in as a batch or a set. Council was then sought by our Attorney Mike Fultz and the RVA. Commissioner Bob Price stated that he will assume all responsibility for this action and felt that it was the right thing to do. A complaint was then filed on the voiding of the bulk ballots on May 17th. The issue that was being addressed is whether the ballots got altered from the time it left the individual voter's hand before it made it to the voter station.

The OVR Attorney, Mike Fultz, reiterated that 5 board members were up for re-election. The 5 members and the other candidates running for the Board were requested to step out of the room so the current Board members could engage in a discussion. The candidates running for election were then permitted to come in one at a time and make a statement. He also recommended that the Board choose the route from the options that he will present after the individual statements, and before the envelope from the independent accounting firm is opened with their findings.

A candidate asked for the rationale as to why the candidates couldn't stay if this is an open meeting. Attorney Mike Fultz stated there are no laws requiring running candidates to leave, or we could go into an Executive Session. It is a risk for the candidates who choose to stay because they could potentially be removed depending on what action the Board decides to pursue. It was made clear that there would be no debate between potential candidates. After the candidates have the opportunity to speak, he will provide the Board with the options.

Keith Burke declared that he will remove himself as a candidate and an elected board member if he receives enough votes. He is now acting as a visitor.

Commissioner Bob Price stated that ballots that were submitted in bulk were initially voided. Ballots were accepted beyond the cut-off date due to the fact that they were postmarked prior to May 20th (the incorrect date that was printed on the paper ballots). Keith Burke stated that he filed the original complaint because he witnessed a packet of ballots being handed to Ms. Gretchen Niebling from a candidate. Ms. Gretchen Niebling stated that she had received other ballots the same way.

Ballots were then taken to an independent accounting firm. Ms. Gretchen Niebling sent the firm all of the electronic information and she FedExed the paper ballots. The FedEx package was sealed (never opened) and given to the accounting firm. A letter accompanied the envelope of results from the accounting firm. The accounting firm conducted a total count of all ballots, as well as a total count of ballots minus the voided ballots.

Discussion ensued regarding clarification and how many ballots were received after the intended May 13th deadline.

Mrs. Tonya Thompson asked if the original complaint was given to Commissioner Bob Price directly, as according to our Bylaws, a certified letter was required. Commissioner Bob Price was provided an email. She also asked if an investigation was conducted, if anyone contacted those people from the bulk ballots if they had actually voted. Mrs. Tonya Thompson suggested that we form a committee to determine if these ballots had been compromised like our Bylaws state.

Mrs. Stephanie Grieshop had sent Commissioner Bob Price a letter via certified mail on behalf of herself, Mr. Adam Evans, Ms. Sandra Borer, Mr. Glen Freed, and Ms. Tonya Thompson. Their concerns included the May 20th deadline is as major issue because in the Bylaws it is not clear that the deadline was set as the last day of the indoor or beach championships. The deadline date was also included on the written ballots. The issue of the multiple ballots in the same envelope was also a point of frustration because in the past, clubs have sent in multiple ballots in a single envelope, with the approval of the Election Chair. There is no language in our Bylaws that states we cannot send in any ballots in bulk, and there are no instructions listing how

paper ballots should be submitted. The group feels that if the Board truly feels these votes are compromised, an investigation should occur.

Written statements were read from Mr. Glenn Freed and Mr. Steve Yates. Mr. Adam Evans made a statement he hoped the decision that would be made would be centered on promoting the growth of volleyball in this region. Ms. Michelle Hills stated the votes from the coaches in her club were submitted in bulk as she encouraged her coaches to vote, and then submitted them in bulk. She made the suggestion that Board's election process should begin in the Bylaws. There are no Bylaws that state ballots cannot be submitted in bulk. Ms. Diane Hood recommended the Board do a resolution stating that they include the ballots submitted by May 20th. This whole issue can be prevented in the future if we amend our Bylaws, to include Beach or not include Beach, and make the election cut-off date as explicit as we can. Ms. Sandra Borer stated that she was glad that this happened so that we can fix it and make it better for the membership from here on out. Ms. Patty Salvatore questioned why this discussion wasn't being held in an executive session. She hoped that the decision made will be the best for our members, as we should honor those people who took the time to vote. Mr. Matt Mihelic stated that he thought this election needed to be completed somehow, someday, and that the Board ends up doing what is right. Lastly, Mr. Chris Bielby stated that the Board will make the best decision for the members of the region.

Attorney Mike Fultz suggested that the Board read the list of options that he created and go through each option with all of the candidates present. The hand out included 6 options:

- 1) The Nomination & Election committee counts all ballots and the Board takes no action.
- 2) The Nomination & Election committee counts all but the disputed ballots and the Board takes no action. The disputed ballots would be the ballots submitted in bulk, even though there is no evidence that the ballots were tampered with.
- 3) The Board can step in, reclaim its authority that was delegated to the Nomination & Election committee, and then certify the top 4 candidates. This option may imply that the bulk ballots were open to fraud.
- 4) The Board can step in, reclaim its authority that was delegated to the Nomination & Election committee, and then certifies the top 4 candidates, and leaves the 5th seat open. This option would imply that the bulk ballots were open to fraud.
- 5) The Board steps in reclaims its authority that was delegated to the certifies the top 4 candidates and appoints someone to serve as the 5th candidate for 1 year.
- 6) The Board agrees that the election is voided in its entirety and conducts a new election

Commissioner Bob Price restated that his original decision was founded in research and council. His primary concern was that the ballots could have been compromised, and that possibility was his sticking point. He was advised to employ a 3rd neutral party to count the ballots, which is why he went with the independent accounting firm.

Mr. Brian Hemelgarn made a motion for the Board to vote and accept option 1, which is where the Nomination & Election committee counts all ballots submitted and the Board would take no action. Gary Hajek seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mike Fultz opened the envelope from the accounting firm with a summary of the voting results: 326 ballots cast electronically, 2 mailed-in received prior to or on May 13th, 9 mailed-in received after May 13th, and 141 hand carried. Per our calculations, there are 4 candidates that received the most votes via electronic voting who would still be elected when adding in the mailed-in and hand carried ballots. The only change would be with the 5th place finisher. This position would change when including the hand carried ballots. Another candidate received five more votes in total than the next place finisher.

There were several issues with the bulk-handled ballots: 2 of the ballots in one batch had the same OVR registration number, but with different names and signatures. Another batch had at least 7 ballots that cast identical ballots. Most significant, in another batch, 23 out of 27 ballots cast votes for one candidate, and only that candidate.

Recess was granted to tally votes at 9:09 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:33 p.m. Ms. Gretchen Niebling read the election results. The 5 individuals who were officially elected to the Board are Ms. Sandra Borer, Mr. Stephen Donahue, Ms. Diane Hood, Mr. Matt Mihelic, and Ms. Patty Salvatore.

IV. OVR Audit

The Board was presented with an updated status report from Clifton, Larson, Allen, the firm conducting the audit review; Ken Douglas of the firm was contacted 2 weeks ago because the firm had promised to have a report for the OVR done a year ago so that we would have an opportunity for each Board member to review the audit report. Ron Wyzynski and Commissioner Bob Price had a conference call on Wednesday, May 30th at 10:00am. They talked extensively about the review process. As of right now, the issue that they are having is that there appears to be a discrepancy of \$200,000 and \$250,000. Mr. Ron Wyzynski is working to resolve that issue with our accountant, Larry Smith. That must be rectified before the firm will complete their report. The firm is concerned that they had asked for our bank account, our money market account, and our payroll account to be reconciled on a monthly basis. It has not been done. Mr. Ron Wyzynski and Larry Smith are meeting again with the accountant in order

to get all of the information to them in order to finish their report. It is important to note that the accounting firm has not identified any instances of fraud or misconduct.

He believes that there have been some issues with the books for the months of Oct-Nov-Dec, due to the change in the fiscal year end, as they were never reconciled. They are trying to reconcile all of 2017.

V. REPORTS

OVR Business

Mr. Ron Wyzynski reported that Q sport has requested to be the exclusive vendor for all of our Greater Columbus Convention Center events and Marathon has cut their contribution to the Winterfest tournament from \$5000 to \$2500. Last year in 2017, we had 1817 girls teams, 57 boys teams, with a total of 21,158 members registered. This year, we saw an increase with girls teams at 1906, boys teams at 78, and total members registered at 21,682. We have 493 certified officials in the OVR, and Mr. Ron Wyzynski suggested that all officials be re-evaluated. For the President's Cup, we have reserved halls A, B & D as long as we have enough courts. Parking for our tournaments held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center continues to be an issue because we need more of the chaser tickets to accommodate all of the workers at our events (ex: teams who help set up/tear down, officials, etc.).

New for next year is that we will be required to collect and provide documented evidence of hotel use by teams coming to the Greater Columbus Convention Center for tournaments. The OVR will need to use someone who has access to all of the hotels data, so we are hiring Valerie Gillespie to be our hotel liaison. With Valerie, we will be essentially creating a housing commission for the OVR. Mr. Ron Wyzynski reiterated that this is not "stay to play", but we have to track our usage in order to continue using the convention center on the dates we have set.

With the teams that we send to the National tournament, Mr. Ron Wyzynski suggested that teams who qualify at the OVR Bid tournament maybe could get an additional \$100 towards their fees as opposed to OVR teams who earn Bids at other qualifying tournaments.

USA Volleyball will be renting 16 of our courts for the National tournament being held in Detroit this year. The USA Open will be in the Columbus next year, so USA Volleyball may use our equipment. Mr. Ron Wyzynski also offered to help Mr. Paul Claridades with getting the Huntington tournament filled next year.

Mr. Ron Wyzynski shared upcoming dates for tournaments to be held for the remainder of the 2018 season, and beyond. All of these tournaments will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, with the exception of SpikeFest, which is held in Huntington, West Virginia.

Tournament Dates for 2018 & 2019

2018

Boys Holiday December 15th & 16th

2019

Winterfest Girls January 26th-27th

18's Qualifier & Boys Winterfest February 1st – 3rd

President's Cup & Boys Regionals February 16th – 17th

2019 SpikeFest in Huntington, West Virginia March 29th – 31st

BID Qualifier April 13th – 14th

Junior's Championships April 27th – 28th, May 4th – 5th, May 11th – 12th, May 18th – 19th

BID USAV Open Championships May 24th

Boys Holiday December 14th – 15th

Mr. Ron Wyzynski also shared data on the number of Junior Championship entries from 2014 through 2018.

Year	Number of Entries
2014	1,232
2015	1,327
2016	1,306
2017	1,278
2018	1,462

Mr. Gary Hajek reported on the progress being made with the OHSAA in getting boys volleyball sanctioned and recognized as a varsity sport. Mr. Gary Hajek stated that since Jerry Snodgrass has been named as the OHSAA Executive Director, he feels that we should see some steps in the positive direction here very soon. Jerry Snodgrass was instrumental in getting lacrosse sanctioned, and he has reassured Mr. Gary Hajek that it's not about the finances as it is about providing the opportunity for kids to play. He is planning on attending the Boys State Volleyball Championships on Sunday, June 3rd.

Mr. Gary Hajek is not able to attend tomorrow's meeting, so he requested that we move forward in preventing another incident with the elections like we did this year. Commissioner Bob Price recommended that maybe we establish an Ethics and Eligibility Committee in order to address some of these clarification issues. An official review of the Bylaws and the Operating Code needs to be performed. The Board was reassured that they will make this a major point of discussion for tomorrow's meeting.

Mr. Terry Miller summarized the information that was conveyed at the National tournament in Dallas; one example was that they did away with scoring monitors. There was a discussion held on reducing a work crew to 3-4 men/women for matches.

Mr. Bill Zehler motioned for recess. Motion was seconded by Mr. Tom Kohl.

Meeting recessed at 10:45 PM.

Meeting reconvened at 8:31 AM.

Updated Communication

The Board's actions on the election have been completed, but the grievances have not been rectified. Upon the conclusion of yesterday's meeting and the counting of the ballots that was certified by the Board, Mr. Keith Burke had removed his grievance. Commissioner Bob Price will contact Ms. Stephanie Grieshop about the grievance she filed on behalf of herself, Mr. Adam Evans, Ms. Sandra Borer, Mr. Glenn Freed, and Ms. Tonya Thompson.

Commissioner Bob Price called the meeting to order.

The following Board Members were present:

Mr. Bob Price, Ms. Patty Salvatore, Mr. Brian Hemelgarn, Ms. Gretchen Niebling, Mr. Matt Mihelic, Mr. Tom Kohl, Ms. Sandra Borer, Mrs. Michelle Hills, Ms. Diane Hood, Mr. Paul Claridades, Mr. Bill Zehler, Mr. Al Herbert, and Mr. Stephen Donahue.

Absent: Mr. Terry Miller and Mr. Gary Hajek

Staff: Mr. Ron Wyzynski, Mr. Dave Chapman, and Mr. Don Burroughs

OVR Operations

Commissioner Bob Price reported that the region needs to get in touch with our insurance company in order to determine if concussions and abuse cases are not covered. The RVA (Regional Volleyball Association) insurance fund has a balance of \$1 million. That fund is maintained to protect the RVA from insurance increase coverages, and a proposed 6% increase of \$4.72/per person paid to USA volleyball has been made. This proposal has not been passed but has only been proposed by the insurance carrier. The RVA also has a contingency fund of \$13,900 that is used for administrative functions as deemed necessary. The OVR contributes \$100 to that contingency fund on an annual basis, and with 40 regions each contributing \$100, the fund receives \$40,000 yearly.

Commissioner Bob Price provided statistics on the National background screening report of NCSI, the National Center for Safety Initiatives. USA Volleyball performed 36,037 background screens, with 1,340 that resulted in criminal backgrounds. There were 63 disqualifications in

total. 44% of the background screens showed crimes of violence, 37% were of alcohol and drug abuse, and 11% were felony drug charges. Only 3 screens showed crimes against children. Commissioner Bob Price stated that in the OVR, we had maybe 6 people who were denied membership because they couldn't pass the background screen. RVAA determines the criteria for the background screen, which is why we cannot use other background screens from areas of employment. At the National meeting, a motion was made that all felonies would eliminate individuals from membership, but that motion did not pass because there may have been situations that are considered felonies that have nothing to do with kids. There is an ongoing investigation of an alleged sex violation, and he was not permitted to disclose information because of it being an active investigation. Due to the allegation, we have withheld membership from that individual.

Commissioner Bob Price shared concerns from other regions about the cost for the teams to enter the High Performance tournament. The High Performance Director at the national level is now Keith Hoke. Commissioner Bob Price reminded the Board our membership subsidizes the cost of international teams participating in the event. Currently, the High Performance program is being highly scrutinized and it has to be addressed by USA volleyball, as numerous regions made the statement that they are no longer going to participate in the High Performance program or tournament. USA Volleyball has to have a certain amount of money that they feel is necessary to run their High Performance program, and if this program doesn't produce enough of a profit, the difference is absorbed by somewhere else within the organization. Commissioner Bob Price stated that we contribute \$1 per membership (\$22,000+ from the OVR) to support the HP program and it was suggested at the National meeting that maybe we contribute \$2 per person.

Mr. Al Herbert reported that USA Volleyball is currently negotiating financial terms with Sport Engine and Webpoint. In 2019/2020 there may be a change from one system to a completely different one as the current one expires at the end of the upcoming season. USA Volleyball is also negotiating a contract for registration management, as there were only 2 people who were managing that up until this point. The concern is that AES and the background screening are all owned by the same corporation, NBC Sports. The OVR was offered the opportunity to be involved with a trial run of the new system, but Mr. Al Herbert declined the offer. His rationalization for the decline was rooted in the fact that the OVR does not use Webpoint like other regions do (building tournaments, registering clubs, roster building, etc.). No other region uses an online system that we use because of our size.

Commissioner Bob Price informed the Board that the RVAA (Regional Volleyball Association Assembly) feels that there is a need for private communication for the commissioners. The RVAA has taken \$5000 out of the contingency fund to use a private social media platform to communicate (slack.com). Commissioner Bob Price has the opportunity to include 2 other

people on the Board to be included on this communication platform. Commissioner Bob Price is unsure as to why the RVAA feels that this private communication tool is necessary.

Commissioner Bob Price shared information regarding grant opportunities with the Board, as the RVAA/USA Volleyball has ten \$10,000 grants for the purpose of encouraging programs that promote volleyball. Mr. Matt Mihelic was encouraged to apply for boys development, Mr. Brian Hemelgarn was encouraged to apply for a junior officials development program, Mr. Bill Zehler was encouraged to apply for youth league development, specifically for 3rd-5th grade kids.

Ms. Diane Hood shared information regarding the Congressional hearing on sexual abuse within the USA Olympic teams. Suzanne Lyons of the United States Olympic Committee, testified on May 23rd. Anyone can view the 2 hour and 47 minute Congressional hearing live and it is available online. One of the outcomes was Congress members stated Suzanne Lyons should resign her position as the CEO of the USOC. Jamie Davis, the CEO of USAV, described SafeSport and faced criticism because SafeSport was created in 2010 but it took 2017 until a Center was officially opened. The situation with Rick Butler of Sports Performance was brought up numerous times in the hearing. Volleyball was not the only sport represented at the Congressional hearing, as taekwondo, gymnastics, and swimming incidents were discussed.

Ms. Diane Hood shared that Shellie Pfohl, the CEO for SafeSport, also testified. When SafeSport first opened up last year, they received on average 30 reports a month; now it is three times that. Two Senators, John Thune (R-S.D.) and Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), proposed the Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, which would send \$1.5 million in federal money over five years to the U.S. Center for SafeSport. This legislation would add a new responsibility for the United States Olympic Committee: "to promote a safe environment in sports that is free from abuse, including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, of any amateur athlete."

Ms. Diane Hood stated the USOC, as part of their response to the sexual abuse cases filed against them, worked with SafeSport to develop a climate survey that is 85 pages in length. The purpose of the survey is to gather perceptions of sexual violence and misconduct, as well as experiences, that will allow SafeSport and the USOC to develop future initiatives on how to move forward. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not the OVR send this survey to our adult members. It was decided that the OVR would not send the survey to our adult members.

Ms. Diane Hood reported that the OVR has received at least 3 separate reports that involve the police, and she has received numerous parent emails voicing concerns or complaints of bullying. Ms. Diane Hood made multiple trips to clubs this past season, in order to observe what parents are concerned about.

Ms. Diane Hood shared that the USOC has created a Parent Tool Kit that is available online, and she stated that it is a wonderful resource as it breaks down information for the different age levels. The question was discussed on how do we as a region disseminate this info to our parents in an effective manner. Ms. Tonya Thompson of Maverick Volleyball Club has expressed interest in being involved with initiatives with SafeSport and the OVR.

Commissioner Bob Price introduced Ms. Beth Conway, a former coach and teacher, sexual assault counselor to the Board. Ms. Beth Conway and Ms. Diane Hood have been given the task of creating a parents roundtable for the OVR, with the goal of educating our parents and get them involved as a proactive measure and to increase our level of communication with our region members. Ms. Beth Conway shared that the objective of the collaboration of this team would be to review SafeSport rules, guidelines and information on awareness and prevention of sexual misconduct/abuse, as well as provide parents with further information on sexual violence, counseling services and hotlines for their child and themselves if abuse occurs. The parent roundtable would ultimately provide parents within the region with tools and information awareness if sexual abuse were ever to happen to their child. Ms. Beth Conway stated these roundtable sessions would last about an hour, and ideally each session would accommodate 10-20 parents. Ms. Diane Hood stated that she and Ms. Beth Conway would request that clubs within the region advertise the parent roundtable opportunity, have parents sign up, and then they both would personally visit to meet with the parents. Ms. Michelle Hills requested the Toledo Volleyball Club to be involved immediately once the parent roundtable is developed in the fall.

Discussion ensued regarding ways that the OVR can get clubs and club directors to include SafeSport information and resources on their websites. Ms. Patty Salvatore suggested that we create a webinar to allow those people who may feel embarrassed or uncomfortable to attend a face-to-face meeting. Mr. Brian Hemelgarn suggested that the OVR website include a button or a link specifically for parents on SafeSport information and guidelines.

Events

Mr. Al Herbert shared information that was discussed at the Dallas National tournament meetings. He stated that our 18s qualifier can now have as many as 3 open bids, when up until this point, the OVR used to only get 1. Mr. Al Herbert stated that this should increase interest in our event, even though we share the date with the Lone Star tournament for 2019, but with 3 bids, we should see an increase in teams registering.

There are some changes that will take place next year at the OVR Bid tournament and our Qualifier event. When a team checks in at the bid tournament or the qualifier, they will sign what bids they will accept (because there are multiple types of Bids). Mr. Al Herbert expressed that there were many instances where other teams would be waiting for 45 min for a team offered the bid to decide whether or not they will accept.

Mr. Al Herbert shared that Mr. Chris Bielby has placed a button on the OVR website that will allow coaches and club directors to print your roster directly from the OVR website. He also shared that Mr. Chris Bielby will be involved with adding information onto the website with the new hotel policies and procedures for tournaments held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Mr. Al Herbert shared with the Board that our members have appeared to be more comfortable with our registration system. Unfortunately, we experienced a glitch with AES recognizing people having SafeSport certification. The good news is that SafeSport certification for some of our members expires on October 31st, 2018, so the glitch should be corrected as members get recertified.

Mr. Al Herbert brought up a complaint from some of our region members regarding the lack of National tournament availability. Discussion ensued regarding the regions obligation to host National tournaments. Mr. Al Herbert and Mr. Tom Kohl shared that the OVR sanctions more events than any other region in the US. It has been the Boards experience that even when we do offer National clubs with tournament opportunities, the tournaments do not fill up and the National club teams do not attend.

Mr. Al Herbert moved that the OVR allow non-USAV sanctioned event results to be entered into the OVR seeding system for the upcoming season. Ms. Michelle Hills seconded the motion. Mr. Bill Zehler commented that this seeding would impact not only the National teams, but also a lot of American level teams. Discussion ensued regarding how this motion will allow us to have an improved seeding situation for teams to competitively play against one another. The points for the qualifier tournaments are also going to significantly change, as they will carry more weight so those teams who place will be awarded more points. We currently accept tournament results from USA tournaments. A friendly amendment was made by Ms. Michelle Hills to include only National teams in accepting tournament results from non-USAV sanctioned events. Mr. Al Herbert accepted the friendly amendment. The motion carried.

Girls Program Director

Mr. Bill Zehler stated the region witnessed an increase of about 100 additional club teams registered for the 2018 season. He shared that the increases were specifically in the regional level teams, although there was a small increase in American level teams. Mr. Bill Zehler believes that we should see an increase in the number of National level teams because the National Championships will be in Indianapolis next year. This year, we had 52 registered 10 & under teams in the region, and the largest age group was our 14s division. Due to the number of 14 & under teams (268 total), Mr. Bill Zehler suggested that we may need to have a 4th division at just the OVR Championship tournament. Commissioner Bob Price recommended that we label the four levels: National/American/Regional/Patriot.

Mr. Bill Zehler shared that we had just over 1000 player reassignments, and these were mostly completed by the club directors. Currently, we have 30 requests for ASEP course for new clubs to be created.

Mr. Bill Zehler shared statistics from this year's Junior Championships, as we had 1463 teams participate and only 1 team didn't show up. Zero refunds were issued as well. Mr. Bill Zehler stated that the floating pools system that was utilized this year may not be needed next year because we were able to get additional space to get 15 courts the last weekend in April. There will be 62 courts available the other 3 weekends. Mr. Bill Zehler suggested that we host the 18s National Junior championships earlier next year in order for the club teams to get ready to go to the National tournaments. This could be accomplished if 4 courts at the OVR bid tournament (B/C/D halls = 44 courts) are dedicated to the 18s National level teams.

Mr. Bill Zehler shared that many of the team expressed confusion with the medals that were awarded at the OVR Championship tournaments, so in order to alleviate further confusion, medals for next year will be labeled with 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. Ms. Sandra Borer suggested that the OVR invest in a backdrop in order to allow teams to take photos with medals. This backdrop can be placed out on the concourse.

Mr. Brian Hemelgarn requested if possible to have the 17s and 18s divisions be on the same weekend to make it easier for the region to schedule certified officials. It is difficult to do this because so many of our high school players are multisport athletes, which is why the older kids play on Sundays in order to avoid track meets, softball games, etc. Discussion ensued.

The issue of the step in serving line that is present for some of the 10s through 12s teams was discussed at length. The OVR makes a rule modification to allow for the step in line and discussion ensued regarding some consistency on which levels are able to have a step in line. It was determined to keep the OVR modified rule as is.

Jrs. Tournament Director

Mr. Tom Kohl stated this year, 4 individuals have lost their tournament bonds. Commissioner Bob Price commended Mr. Tom Kohl for enforcing the policies that have been set in place. Mr. Tom Kohl shared that the OVR experienced an 8% drop in tournaments filling. Mr. Tom Kohl stated that the region is just at the point where we have to deny tournament requests because the tournaments just won't fill. Discussion ensued regarding how tournaments are given sanctions. He reported that he has to be very selective and careful in sanctioning tournaments because if he sanctions too many in the same age level in the same part of the region, then tournaments will just not fill. Mr. Tom Kohl shared that if he sanctions additional tournaments after some have filled, club teams will try to move and drop out of tournaments because they can go to tournaments that are closer to them. Commissioner Bob Price led a discussion as to

what our priority is as a Board for tournaments: is to provide playing opportunities? Is it to support our club programs?

Commissioner Bob Price questioned if it would help officials and tournament directors to adjust the number of officials required to host a tournament. Mr. Brian Hemelgarn had surveyed the officials within the OVR regarding the number of officials needed to run tournaments, and included the proposal of 4 officials needed for a 3 court tournament, and 8 referees for 6 courts tournament. Overwhelmingly, the officials who responded that they do not like 5 referees on a 4 court tournament because they may have a situation when they have to work 4 matches in a row. The officials requested that we stick with 6 officials for 4 court tournaments. Mr. Brian Hemelgarn asked if we at any risk for sanctioning tournaments if they are breaking fire code. Mr. Brian Hemelgarn also shared his concern over tournament directors hiring officials before tournaments have been officially sanctioned. Discussion ensued.

Boys Program Director

Mr. Matt Mihelic shared that we had 72 boys teams registered 2018 season. Next year, the OVR is hosting the USA Volleyball Open National Championships at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on May 24th – 29th. Mr. Matt Mihelic shared that we had 2 new boys clubs created this year, and the region experienced some growth from the 12s to 14s levels. Mr. Matt Mihelic shared a proposal to incentivize clubs that have only had girls teams to host a BIVL team within their club. The proposal includes a specified amount of time that the clubs would dedicate to the BIVL league, with 1.5 hrs a week for 6 weeks in the fall. The clubs will keep the league fee, and the OVR would reimburse the clubs for gym time, with a maximum reimbursement of \$500. Commissioner Bob Price recommended he apply for a grant to do just what he proposed.

Ms. Diane Hood shared that with the success of the Christmas toy drive at last year's Boys Holiday tournament, Mr. Ron Wyzynski will be donating a 9 foot Christmas tree that the club teams can decorate with ornaments that they create.

Officials Program Director

Mr. Brian Hemelgarn provided the Board with the following dates for upcoming officials clinics: November 25th in Toledo, December 1st & 2nd in Westerville, January 5th in Western Pennsylvania, January 6th in Cuyahoga Falls, and December 8th & 9th in Dayton.

Mr. Brian Hemelgarn shared that the OVR will be hosting our 3rd NCAA National Clinic for volleyball officials on Sunday, August 12th, at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel located close to the Cleveland Airport. Ms. Marcia Alterman will be the clinician, and we should see a large turnout for our officials because most of our referees are collegiate referees as well.

Mr. Brian Hemelgarn stated that there was nothing to report on rules changes for the upcoming season.

Mr. Brian Hemelgarn shared that the USAV CEO Jamie Davis has eliminated commission positions (director of clinics, director of camps, etc.) and instead, they will be hiring independent contractors to run the events.

Mr. Brian Hemelgarn stated that we need to encourage club directors to get parent chaperones to study the junior referees and scorekeepers guides so that they too can be utilized during matches. The parent chaperone's registration fee is not expensive, and having them on the team roster allows them to be courtside, to sit at the scorer's table. It was reiterated that parent chaperones couldn't sit on the team bench during the match.

Mr. Brian Hemelgarn shared that an email regarding concussion protocol was sent out March 2nd to referees and was forwarded to the Board. Mr. Brian Hemelgarn reminded everyone present that safety of our athletes is the top priority. The concussion protocol states that if an athlete experiences a head injury, the athlete will be temporarily removed by a coach, official, or an event administrator for an evaluation. If after being temporarily removed and the athlete does not have symptoms exhibiting a concussion, the player will be permitted to return. Mr. Brian Hemelgarn stated that officials have the authority to call a medical time out if they witness the athlete exhibiting symptoms of a concussion on the court and remove the player from the game. Once an athlete has been temporarily removed and they do exhibit symptoms indicating a possible concussion, the athlete will not be permitted to participate for the remainder of the day. An athlete that has been permanently removed must be assessed by a medical professional and receive a written clearance in order to be permitted to participate again. Discussion ensued regarding how much time would be consistent with the word choice "temporarily".

Mr. Brian Hemelgarn motioned to raise officiating fees for all OVR sanctioned events \$2.50 per match for all certification levels beginning with the 2018-2019 season, with an increase of just \$15 per day. This would make each match fee \$35, \$32.50, and \$30 for the 3 different officiating levels. Discussion ensued on ways for tournament directors and the region to cover the additional cost, as implementing a tournament fee increase or charging for admission to our events may help. This raise would help make OVR events more appealing, as we compete with tournaments hosted outside of the region and MEQs. Mr. Brian Hemelgarn reported that the last raise increase was given to officials in 2015. Mr. Stephen Donahue asked if Mr. Brian Hemelgarn had researched how much JVA officials are paid. Mr. Matt Mihelic asked how much more we would need to increase tournament fees to cover this additional cost. Mr. Stephen Donahue brought up a concern about the pay raises – what are other regions doing (are they providing hotel rooms for officials, as well as parking, travel per diem, etc?). Discussion ensued.

Ms. Michelle Hills seconded the motion. Commissioner Bob Price requested that certified USA officials to recuse themselves from this vote due to conflict of interest. The vote was 4 yes and 4 no. So the motion failed.

Discussion regarding allowing optional admission fees that could help offset the cost occurred. Ms. Sandra Borer reported that she had brought up the possibility of OVR events charging admission fees on our social media platforms, and the membership overwhelmingly begged us not to do this. The consistent message that the Board receives is that having an admissions fee is just too great for parents. Mr. Brian Hemelgarn asked the other 39 regions if they charge admission to their events, and 10 of the 13 who responded reported charging admission. Discussion ensued at length.

Beach Officials Program Director

Ms. Patty Salvatore was introduced to the Board as the new Beach Officials Program Director. She reported that at the May 11th officials clinic, they had 25 people attend. The clinic scheduled for June 8th has 10 more individuals signed up. The clinics cost \$10 per person for clinic, and it is \$50 to be rated. Ms. Patty Salvatore and Mr. Dave Chapman reported that we have 100 beach tournaments scheduled for the year, and there are always lots of variables that make scheduling officials somewhat difficult. Mr. Dave Chapman shared that there are always walk-up team registrations the day of the tournament, and the weather doesn't always cooperate, which just makes it difficult to predict how many officials will be necessary to work the tournaments. Ms. Patty Salvatore and Mr. Chris Bielby met with Commissioner Bob Price on Friday evening and discussed how they will be utilizing the indoor officials handbook as a guide to develop an OVR Beach Officials handbook. Mr. Dave Chapman and Ms. Sandra Borer have been tasked with developing a Beach tournament directors handbook. Mr. Dave Chapman shared that the OVR does in fact have a beach ranking system in place, and that the USA system is up and running. It was reported that the OVR qualifier beach tournaments will be submitted and tallied in the USA ranking system.

Beach Program Director

Mr. Dave Chapman shared that we will have 4 National bids on June 9th and 10th. We will also have 2-3 regional bids to be offered to the finishers below 4th place, as long as they are OVR registered players. Mr. Dave Chapman stated that as of right now, we have 81 teams have registered for the June 9th-10th tournament. He also shared that will be hosting a boys qualifier in Cleveland on June 23rd-24th. The OVR is witnessing an influx of boys teams, and there was a discussion as to how to host more boys events. Labor Day weekend was suggested as a good 3 day opportunity, but Mr. Matt Mihelic reminded the board that August is a no contact period for boys high school coaches at that time.

Commissioner Bob Price stated that we as a region need to develop a Beach Athletes Bill of Rights, with information on how we would be applying policies.

Mr. Dave Chapman shared that the beach season is defined from May 1st to July 31st for girls, but the boys are allowed to play up until August 12th. The National beach season doesn't necessarily have a start and stop date and there are year round opportunities to play because of California, Florida, and Texas, as they can run sanctioned tournament all through the year because of their weather. Discussion ensued regarding the OVR holding beach tournaments year round, such as once a month and not host tournaments during the high school season. Mr. Dave Chapman requested that at our indoor championships we have two sand courts set aside in order to promote the sport. The board declined the request and discussion ensued regarding ways to promote beach volleyball in the OVR.

Coaches Education

Mr. Don Burroughs reported that currently there are two individuals – Shelly Small (manager) and Joel Wyman – who are running the USAV coaches programs. Currently, they do not have a director of the department. Discussion on the possibility of IMPACT training being free in the future was discussed. Mr. Don Burroughs stated that there is only 1 CAP clinic that is available on the calendar for the remainder of 2018. Once they had set up an online version for CAP I, they realized that they can create an online system to generate some revenue as opposed to face-to-face trainings. The RVAA wanted to offer CAP certification to coaches at a very reduced cost because if we want better coaches for our athletes, then we need to eliminate or significantly reduce the cost in order to get more coaches certified. Currently, the region is provided with 50 free IMPACT certifications a year, and this year we used less than 10. Mr. Don Burroughs reported that we offered 8 live IMPACT trainings and that according to our database, we have 766 IMPACT indoor only certifications in our region. The majority of members appear to prefer the online version of the IMPACT trainings, as we had just 130 members attend in person trainings.

Mr. Don Burroughs stated that in the past, SafeSport was married with the IMPACT webinar. This is no longer the case, as this was the first year they took SafeSport out of the IMPACT (live or online clinics). In order to reach our coaches, Mr. Don Burroughs has reached out and has received interested from 3 different clubs in the region who would like a local coaching clinic for us to host.

Sports Information/Media Relations

Commissioner Bob Price complimented and congratulated Ms. Sandra Borer on her efforts with securing a partnership with National Children's Hospital Sports Medicine to provide sports medicine services and health and wellness education to our parents, coaches, and athletes. Ms. Sandra Borer reported that jerseys from our High Performance teams have been put on display at Nationwide Children's Hospital. She also reported that the Nationwide logo is on the beach

shirts for this summer. Ms. Sandra Borer informed the Board that she has been and will continue to have monthly meetings with Nationwide in order to identify what our needs are for the upcoming season. Nationwide will be providing the region with articles centered on nutrition, training, and mental health that we will be able to post on our website and social media platforms for our members.

Ms. Sandra Borer shared that the “Teammate Tuesdays” trend on twitter and Facebook has been a huge success, and she receives over 60 emails a week from our juniors players. She will be starting up the “Dynamic Duo” trend for the beach season shortly. She reported that although the OVR Night with the Blue Jackets didn’t produce a huge turnout, they still want to continue promoting the event since a lot of times it coincides with our qualifier tournament. We have 7 confirmed OVR Nights with colleges (ex. OSU, West Virginia, Akron) for this fall.

Discussion was held regarding the OVR official logo, as it was felt that we need to make very specific guidelines and specifications for teams to have the logo on their uniforms. For teams to be reimbursed for participating at Nationals, Ms. Sandra Borer will need to provide Mr. Ron Wyzynski with the names and the addresses of the teams to be reimbursed. Ms. Sandra Borer needs to receive a photo of the team with the logo on their jerseys at the event, as of right now, the only 2 clubs who wore the OVR logo on their jerseys were TVC and the Cleveland Volleyball Company. Discussion was held regarding how we would reimburse athletes competing at the Beach National tournament. Mr. Dave Chapman stated that when a team wins a bid, they are given a t-shirt with the logo on it that they can wear, and they have temporary tattoos that they can wear. Discussion was also held on amount of money that we can reimburse the individual players at the Beach National tournament, and it was reported that the amount we reimburse them individually must not exceed their expenses, according to NCAA rules.

Mr. Brian Hemelgarn agreed our region needs its own identity, as Ms. Sandra Borer brought examples of what other regions do to promote their organization. Items from the Badger Region were shared, as they make stickers, sticky notes, band aid holders with their region logo, and Chapstick. Ms. Sandra Borer requested that we investigate doing this for the OVR, as this is an opportunity to promote our organization. Ms. Sandra Borer will be submitting a budget to be evaluated at the October Board meeting. Discussion ensued at length regarding the logo and the colors of the region. The decision was made that our colors be the red, white, and blue color combination for our logo, with our official logo being the volleyball with region outline for the 2018-2019 season.

Ms. Sandra Borer asked if the window of opportunity for the early signing period contracts has been updated and posted on the website. Ms. Gretchen Niebling stated that it has and the dates are June 1st - July 31st.

Ms. Sandra Borer brought forth questions that have been posed by our members. A question regarding officials being rated at the bid tournament was discussed, as officials are not rated during finals or semi finals, but they are rated during pool play. The concern stemmed from the quality of the officials being rated during those determining matches, as they may be nervous or make unnecessary calls. Mr. Brian Hemelgarn shared that we provide opportunities for officials to receive feedback under high pressure situations, and that is not the same as being rated. Another member made the statement that the JVA allows clubs to come in and set up for a discounted or full entry fee, and they were curious if we would be willing to do the same. Commissioner Bob Price stated that we will not consider this because we will not depend on that type of labor to set up and take down our equipment.

Verifications

Mr. Stephen Donahue reported on background screen data, coaches and officials certifications, and club directors ASEP. 99.72% of members who applied were accepted or passed the background screens, and 8 of our members were disqualified during the 2017-2018 season because they did not pass the background check. 58 of our coaches and 16 officials currently lack concussion certification. 19 coaches and 7 officials currently lack SafeSport certification. At this time, 10 club directors lack ASEP certification.

Mr. Stephen Donahue reported that Esix (our insurance carrier) is now Integro Entertainment and Sport. He also stated that the quickest way to receive an insurance certificate for a facility is for the tournament director to email Mr. Stephen Donahue at donahue@ovr.org with the complete name and address of the facility. If the facility that wants to apply for an insurance certificate either is located on the border of the region or is outside of the OVR geographic boundary, Commissioner Bob Price has to grant permission after working with the regional commissioner in which the facility is located.

Mr. Stephen Donahue reported on the following recipients of the Robert. L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Awards: Chuck Braden, Paul Claridades, Bart Gensburg, Jr., Amy Shriver, and Matthew Snyder.

The OVR is currently accepting nominations for the Glenn Purdy Award, the Commissioners Award, and our OVR Awards of Excellence.

High Performance

Ms. Michelle Hills shared the dates of the High Performance developmental camps for both the girls and boys. For girls ages 10-14, Bowling Green University will be hosting the developmental camp on July 11th – 13th. Kyle Marsh will be leading the new developmental camp for boys ages 10-16 on July 16th – 18th at Hiram College. Ms. Michelle Hills reported that the OVR High Performance clinic for boys was held during the OVR Boys' Championships and they had 46 boys participate.

Ms. Michelle Hills reported that 61 boys tried out for the High Performance team in February, and that 20 of those players have been chosen. The make-up tryout is scheduled for June 12th at Hiram College, where 4 additional players may be chosen. For the girls tryout that was held in April and May, 159 girls attended the tryout and 24 were selected for 2 teams.

Ms. Michelle Hills stated that this year's High Performance tournament is being held in Tulsa, Oklahoma on July 24th – 28th. The teams will have a team camp at Bowling Green University on July 20th – 22nd, where they will leave for Tulsa by bus, with a layover in St. Louis, Missouri on July 23rd. The girls head coaches are Maggie Couture (Ohio University) and Jordan Armstrong (University of Akron). The boys head coaches are Kyle Mars (Hiram) and Ryan Thompson (Wittenberg).

Officer Positions

Bob Price moved to nominate Tom Kohl as the Junior Tournament Director. Mr. Stephen Donahue seconded. The motion carried.

Mr. Bill Zehler moved to nominate Terry Miller to be Scorer's Chair. Mr. Brian Hemelgarn seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Michelle Hills will be taking over as chair of elections.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

It was established that the next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Sunday, October 14th, 2018 at 9:00 a.m at the Homewood Suites in Columbus, Ohio. On Saturday, October 13th, there can be an informal working meeting at 7:00 p.m., as at least 3 of the Board members will be working an event at the Ohio State University on Sunday and will not be able to attend the regular meeting..

Commissioner Bob Price established a committee consisting of Ms. Michelle Hills, Ms. Gretchen Niebling, and Mr. Tom Kohl. They will serve on a Document Review Committee to review all governing documents. The committee will be charged with putting together a formal proposal for the changes we need to establish with our elections.

Mr. Stephen Donahue asked if it was a conflict of interest for him to verify petitions for individuals to run for a seat on the Board when he himself was up for re-election. It was decided that when Mr. Stephen Donahue is running for re-election, Mr. Brian Hemelgarn will verify the candidate petitions.

Commissioner Bob Price distributed New NCAA Division I policies and procedures for contact with high school athletes. Under the new guidelines, student athletes have to be in their junior

year of high school for an official visit, and with unofficial visits, the student athlete must not have any contact or communication with the athletic department. Commissioner Bob Price shared that the NCAA recruiting calendar has also changed:

Quiet period (i.e. no off campus recruiting)

August 1st-31st

December 1st through the Thursday before President's Day in February

May 1st through the Thursday before 1st weekend in June

Dead period (i.e. no recruiting on or off campus)

Monday through Thursday of Letter of Intent signing week in November

NCAA DI National Championship with the exception for one local event

Contact period (i.e. both off on and off campus recruiting permitted)

DI coaches get 80 days a year for the entire volleyball staff

Noninstitutional camps/clinics count against the 80 days

Ms. Michelle Hills requested for each committee/department to prepare a budget to adopt at the October meeting. These reports need to be completed and sent via email by September 15th so that the Board members can prepare for the meeting.

Ms. Sandra Borer voiced concerns regarding charging admission fees at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The issue of how to monitor people moving in and out, who will be in charge of collecting the money, and how doors would be monitored were just some of her concerns. Mr. Ron Wyzynski felt that us charging at the door would not be a good move at this time, as long as our registration numbers remain relatively constant and our contract with the Greater Columbus Convention Center stays the same. Ms. Michelle Hills requested that we establish a group to evaluate and look at an admissions proposal for the upcoming season. Mr. Bill Zehler would like to establish an area on the concourse of the Greater Columbus Convention Center where people can park their wagons due to the amount of space those vehicles take up in the aisle ways between the courts. Spectators also try to haul in their coolers inside with the wagons, so setting a place outside on the concourse might alleviate that problem. Mr. Bill Zehler also stated that the Greater Columbus Convention Center would be very difficult to monitor the flow of people, and it would cost a lot to employ people to man the doors alone. Discussion ensued at length.

VII. RESULTS OF ACTIONS

Director Al Herbert made a Motion:

Motion that the OVR allow non-USAV sanctioned event results to be entered into the OVR seeding system for the upcoming season. A friendly amendment was made by Ms. Michelle

Hills to include only National teams in accepting tournament results from non-USAV sanctioned events. Motion was seconded by Ms. Michelle Hills.

All in favor – 9

All of those opposed – 3

Abstentions - 1

Motion carried.

Director Brian Hemelgarn made a Motion:

Motion to raise officiating fees for all OVR sanctioned events \$2.50 per match for all certification levels beginning with the 2018-2019 season. (\$35, \$32.50, and \$30 for the 3 different levels.)

Motion was seconded by Ms. Michelle Hills.

All in favor – 4

All of those opposed – 4

Motion failed.

Commissioner Bob Price made a Motion:

Motion to nominate Tom Kohl as the Junior Tournament Director.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Stephen Donahue.

All in favor – 13

All of those opposed – 0

Motion carried.

Director Bill Zehler made a Motion:

Motion to nominate Terry Miller to be the Scorer's Chair.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Brian Hemelgarn.

All in favor – 13

All of those opposed – 0

Motion carried.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Sunday, October 14th, 2018 at 9:00 a.m at the Homewood Suites in Columbus, Ohio.

There being no further business, the meeting was duly adjourned at 4:36 p.m. Motion by Director Brian Hemelgarn and seconded by Director Michelle Hills. All Directors in favor.

These Minutes are certified by Jessica P. Timmons.

Jessica P. Timmons