

THE OFFICIAL WORD

NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stop Complaining

by Crystal Lewis
President

“OK ... that’s enough!” Do you remember your Mom saying that to you growing up? Or “stop your complaining!” Did you complain a lot as a child, even though you may have had everything in the world to be happy about?

Most of you know me and have read the quote written by Wayne Dyer that I include with my e-mail signature: “If you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you’ll rarely disappoint yourself. Stop complaining! Don’t be a duck. Be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd.”

I really love this quote, because it helps me stay positive throughout the day. Yet lately it seems that more and more folks are complaining about everything that is in their path. I think the state of our economy has a lot of us all tied up in knots and very stressed out. Our situations at home and our finances seem to make us very unhappy people. So how do we handle it? Do we just keep complaining about everything in our way to anyone who will listen or do we do something about it?

I’ll be the mom right now and say “Stop complaining,” because I’m tired of hearing it and I will tell you that it’s not all that bad! Complaining is toxic. It gets most of us felling like everything sucks. I hate it when people start talking about someone else and degrading that person. I might not know that person, but do I have to hear it? Also ask yourself, does complaining really get anything accomplished? Are you doing it out of habit? It can’t make you feel any better by complaining, because it sure doesn’t make us feel better to listen. Have you ever caught yourself talking to someone and telling

stories about a colleague, and then the other person tells you a story just a little bit worse? This is not healthy conversation.

I’m NOT saying that we should never point out injustices at work, quite the contrary. If you see a problem in your workplace, talk to whoever can do something about it. This is a constructive way to discuss a solution and brainstorm to find a solution to the problem.

I am a positive person and it doesn’t take much for a negative person to bring somebody down. It really does take a lot more energy for a positive person to bring a negative person up! If people who complain would spend less time grousing, imagine how much more people would come together and how special our daily lives would be! Everyone would enjoy being around you and not run the other way. They would seek you out just to be with you and enjoy your company.

I would hope if you start to complain you realize what you are doing and turn it around with a positive statement. A common example is when officials are given post-season assignments. I’ve heard some

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*President's Message
continued from page 1*

officials say things like "I can't believe so and so got invited to playoffs. I wonder how that happened. I'm just as good. I should be doing playoffs." Or this example that I heard after a recent OTP clinic, "I wish they did more ball handling clips instead of all the scorekeeping stuff."

Paralanguage is the vocal, but nonverbal aspect of communication. Sometimes it is not what we say, but how we say it. You might not think you are complaining and that it's only a comment, but if there is a negative tone to it, you are complaining. Instead of murmuring about somebody who got a plumb assignment, congratulate them, encourage them, and be thankful for the assignments you did get.

So I challenge you to start your season off with a positive step and challenge yourself to be optimistic. Be thankful and appreciative throughout the day.

Thank someone at work and pat them on the back give them a big KUDOS for their hard work. When you do this, don't be sarcastic when you say it; be sincere and positive with your words.

Oh my ... I just realized I've been complaining about others complaining, so I think I'll STOP and say that I am looking forward to a wonderful fall season with many of my friends! I can't wait to officiate and spend quality time with them every weekend. If I have a bad match I'm going to say "It may not have been my finest, and I will learn from this."

I hope you'll have some fun stories to tell at the convention and hope all of you will enjoy your matches this year. Make an effort to stay positive, as it will amaze you at the end of the day how happy and unstressed you and others around you will feel!

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SPECIAL THANKS FOR MAKING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS RUN SMOOTHLY

by Kathy Ferraraccio
Associate Chair, Nat'l Indoor Referees

The USAV National Championships are over and many of us will have a few weeks to relax and enjoy summer before our collegiate seasons begin. But these championships did not occur without the help of many dedicated and hardworking individuals.

At each event, there was work room staff, raters, trainers, head officials, scorer monitors and the officials themselves. Each person played an integral part of the tournaments and many thanks must go to each of you. Unfortunately, not every individual official can be mentioned here, but please know that all of you are appreciated for the hard work and professionalism you showed at the tournaments. I would however, like to thank those who played roles behind the scenes. These tournaments could not run without their assistance and hard work.

For the Open Nationals: Head Referees - Steve Robb, Eric Hoffman, Kathy Ferraraccio; Head Scorers - Nancy Funk, Debbie Reed; Assignors - Corny Galdones, Paula Martin, Roger Ozima, Margie Ray, Craig Smith; Workroom Staff - Rory Arisumi, Earl Capps, Steve Franco, Gary Hesse; Open Courts Head Officials - Doug Wilson, Donna Wigton.

For the GJNC: Head Referees - Glenn Reid, Leisa Jordan, Kathy Ferraraccio; Head Scorers - Barb

Strome, Emi Vishoot; Assignors - Al Herbert, Maria Horos, Roger Ozima; Workroom Staff - Rory Arisumi, Brenda McIntosh, Ronnie Mutter, Tina Stanley; Scorer Monitors - Sherrere Benedict, Kelli Bryant, Gerrett Edwards, Cynthia Ellis, Nancy LeFever, Colleen Madera, Greg Milam, Erin Peters, Charlie Purkiser, Cathy Rivera, Joyce Sanderson, Gwen Sanford, Karen Smith, Peggy White.

For the BJNC: Head Referees - Paul Albright, Donnie Goodwin, Michael O'Connor; Head Scorers - Nancy Funk, Sue Wainio-Oato; Assignors - Margie Ray, Tim Harlow, Isaac Wong; Workroom Staff - Dixie Collins, Debbie McLamb, Alyson Parry, Lynn Updegraff; Scorer Monitors - Sally Anderson, Glo Bailey, Rob Brecheisen, Jane Gisslen, Victoria Hinkle, Margo Juergens, Ryan MacDowell, Jacqueline Martin, Marcie Schaap, Jenita Vogt, Holly Walker, Peg Winters.

And a special thanks to all the officials who gave up time away from work and family to make these events run so smoothly. Please know that it could not have gone so well without each and every one of you. Your hard work, dedication, and professionalism does not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Have a wonderful summer!



DEADLINE APPROACHES FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Nominations sought for Honor, Excellence in Service Awards

by Julie Voeck
President-elect

PAVO is accepting nominations for its Honor Award, the organization's highest accolade. Candidates must be at least 30 years old and have worked to promote officiating through PAVO for at least 10 years.

Candidates should be persons of high moral character and exhibit personal integrity, and by their leadership and efforts, have made an outstanding contribution through officiating. Honor Award recipients are enshrined as members of PAVO's Hall of Fame.

Written nominations must be submitted via e-mail to

president.elect@pavo.org by Aug. 15. For more information call Julie Voeck at 1-414-305-7454.

PAVO also is accepting nominations for its Excellence in Service Award. This honor is given annually to a PAVO member who has demonstrated dedication, commitment and service to PAVO and/or its members, on a local, regional or national level. Written submissions must be submitted to pavo@pavo.org by Aug. 15. For more information call Miki Kennedy at 1-888-791-2074.



THINK PINK

Show your support for breast cancer research by wearing a pink whistle or lanyard

*by Kathy Ferraraccio
Board Delegate*

As we turn our eyes toward the upcoming collegiate season, we are attending an OTP clinic to ensure we are up to speed with rules and techniques; checking in our closets to ensure that our uniform is not faded and still fits; and that we have the equipment needed for that first match of the season!

Along with the requisite uniform and equipment, now is the time to locate a pink whistle or lanyard, or maybe a pink lapel pin or ribbon for the Dig Pink weekends that occur mostly in the month of October.

If a school or conference informs you that they are hosting an event focused on breast cancer

awareness, you may choose to show your support of this effort by using a pink whistle or wearing a pink lapel pin while working a women's collegiate match. This show of support is sanctioned by the PAVO Board of Directors. PAVO guidelines ask that the officials continue to wear the official volleyball uniform for all collegiate matches, even on a Dig Pink weekend.

So as you dust off your flags and make sure your red and yellow cards are ready to go, you can keep that pink whistle or lanyard in your equipment bag handy for the first Dig Pink weekend that you work this season!



NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE POSITION DUE AUGUST 15

The seat is for a three-year term

*by Julie Voeck
President-elect*

Have you been involved in PAVO leadership on a local, regional or national or level? Are you a member of the National Rating Team or an OTP camp staff or clinic clinician? Why not run for a board position on the PAVO Board of Directors? Serving on the PAVO Board of Directors offers a great opportunity to connect with some of the game's outstanding leaders.

This fall PAVO members will be asked to elect a director-at-large. This position is currently held by Verna Klubnikin. The director-at-large position requires that a candidate be a PAVO member in good standing. Holding a local board leadership position is not required to qualify.

The director-at-large will be elected to serve a three

year term, from 2012-2015. The director is required to attend annual board meetings (usually held in March), solicit membership input and provide member perspectives to the board of directors, communicate regularly with local board leadership, coordinate planning for the annual PAVO convention, and provide support to other PAVO programs as needed.

Please consider nominating yourself or a member you know who would serve the organization well. All nominations must be received by Aug. 15.

Address nominations to president.elect@pavo.org. For more information, contact Julie Voeck at 1-414-305-7454.



by Sport Weddel

STARLINGS NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The Starlings program began with a single inner-city San Diego team in 1996. Today, Starlings is the largest junior volleyball club in the nation - serving some 3,000 girls in 50-plus clubs across America. The guiding concept has been to provide an opportunity for girls (ages 10-18) to participate regardless of their socioeconomic background. Club dues, if any, are a fraction of most junior club costs and no girl is turned away because of inability to pay. For more information on the Starlings program, please visit <http://starlings.org/>

It was my privilege, and I do mean privilege, to officiate at this year's Starlings National Tournament in the San Diego area June 16-19. This year's tournament had 122 teams competing in 4 age divisions.

From Thursday evening with a packed house for the opening ceremonies and continuing through Sunday afternoon with the championship matches, athletes, coaches, parents, tournament workers and officials gave their weekend to the enjoyment of the game. Although the teams are competing for a championship, this tournament is about much more than just volleyball. In addition to the volleyball competition, there is also a Literary and Art Contest each year.

I really had no idea the impact that this tournament would have on me as an official. I knew that this was not your typical National Volleyball Tournament. Officials who commit to this tournament are made aware that the match pay is not what you would normally receive; there are no free rooms, no free meals and no travel allowances. Why then would anyone want to work such a tournament?

For me the answer to this question began to be answered during the opening ceremonies when the teams were called to march around the floor of the gym and were cheered on by their peers. It was exciting to see faces light up when the players recognized a friend from past competitions and hugs were exchanged. The officials were also called to march around the floor as a group and the players, coaches and parents cheered and waved as we walked around. We were referees and officials, the men and women with the whistles and they were cheering for us? I found out during the next three days that this was a genuine outpouring of thanks to us.

As expected, the overall skill levels of the players are not the same as at the GJNC or National Qualifiers, but what the kids lack in skill they definitely make up with their enthusiasm and ability to just enjoy the game. It was also refreshing to work with coaches who don't worry so much about what you are calling or not calling but are instead interested in teaching the game to their players. The few parents who were in attendance were also focused on their kids and teams.

Match after match, players, coaches and parents would come and shake my hand and thank me for being there and officiating their match. At first I thought it was protocol but it became apparent that these were genuine "thank you's".

This was my first time to officiate at this tournament although it definitely won't be my last. I experienced a level of respect from the participants that is not the norm among today's young people. I think that for the first time in my officiating career, I really discovered the joy of "facilitating" volleyball matches as opposed to just "officiating."



PASSING THE BATON

Pufahl takes over as rules interpreter

by Marcia Alterman
NCAA Secretary/Rules-editor

As most of you know, my term as the NCAA Rules Interpreter (technically the “Secretary/Rules-editor”) ends Aug. 31, 2011. While many people have asked what I will do with the increase in my discretionary time, I would not be truthful if I didn’t say that this change will be a very difficult one for me. This position is one that I have had for so long; it has grown to be a part of me.

I took the position of NAGWS Rules Interpreter from the very capable hands of Sue Lemaire in 1993. She was a wonderful role model and mentor. The primary lesson she taught me was to never answer too quickly, as it was so easy to say something that you might have to retract later. Not only sage advice for a rules interpreter, but the first of many life lessons I’ve benefitted from through the years.

The NAGWS rules committee had an interesting make-up, with as many officials as voting members as there were coaches – certainly a different philosophy than that held by NCAA. In the next eight years, the NAGWS committee approved many significant changes, including the seemingly endless battle of rally scoring. And now, many of you have never known any other way to play the game!

In 2001, the NCAA decided that women’s volleyball rules should fall under the auspices of their own rules committee, and I was honored to be asked to develop the first *NCAA Women’s Volleyball Rules and Interpretations*. I found that writing a rule book from “scratch” was my biggest challenge to date, although patterning as much as possible from the USAV rules of the time made sense. That started a symbiotic relationship that has benefitted both organizations and officials in general. Similarly, a regular exchange of information with National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) became the norm as well. Each year of the subsequent decade offered its own unique opportunities and challenges – and a few topics that seemed to just continuously come back to haunt us (libero uniforms!).

Through these 18 years, holding the position of rules

interpreter offered me the opportunity to hone my writing skills, learn diplomacy, and improve my public speaking abilities. I learned to write and speak precisely, and was forced to practice the art of compromise. I was privileged to interact with coaches and administrators of all levels, and developed a much greater appreciation for their work and challenges. At the same time, I hopefully was able to humanize the cadre of officials to them, and perhaps destroy a few of the “urban myths” about referees that new members of the rules committee often came in with. Throughout it all, I had two main goals – to help develop a set of rules that enhanced and kept the integrity of the game of women’s collegiate volleyball, and to represent the officiating cadre well to the other members of the volleyball community.

I owe a tremendous amount to innumerable people who assisted in those efforts. USAV Rules Interpreters like Steve Thorpe and Steve Robb provided counsel and debate opportunities that ultimately improved the final product. Tom Blue was a constant source of FIVB-wisdom and my source for what might be coming down the road. The “inner circle” of reviewers who helped me parse through language and strategies and endless “what ifs” as we developed the rules themselves included Kathy Ferraraccio, Joan Powell, Karen Gee and Brian Hemelgarn, among others.

I know that Anne Pufahl will do a great job in this role. I offer her my best wishes and support as this transition is made – there is a changing horizon in NCAA volleyball officiating right now that may create new challenges and a few obstacles for her. But I know she loves the game, and the role of officials in the overall scheme, and from that starting point, she will bring strong leadership and positive representation to the role of Secretary/Rules-editor.

Although I am done with this particular role, I look forward to continuing work with PAVO and the NCAA National Coordinator as the new chapter takes shape. There are many positive new initiatives taking root at this time, and I look forward to continued input on those efforts.



COMPUTERIZED SCOREKEEPING ON THE HORIZON

You may see it at NCAA matches this season

by Marcia Alterman
NCAA Secretary/Rules-editor

Technology continues to impact the game of volleyball and our officiating industry. Some of you may have already been exposed to a computerized scorekeeping protocol. Data Project, one vendor of computerized scorekeeping software, has been testing their product ("e-Scoresheet") on both the USAV and NCAA side for the past two years.

The NCAA rules committee has determined that the current rules do not prevent the use of a computerized scorekeeping process. However, any computerized scorekeeping application that is used must cover all aspects of the written scoresheet and/or libero tracking sheet. It is recommended that scorekeepers receive sufficient training before using a computerized system, and that the computerized scorekeeping first

be used as a parallel system to the written scoresheet until a sufficient level of competence is achieved.

This information is being distributed to schools and conferences, so you may see this product in use as you begin the 2011 season. PAVO will continue to interact with the vendors to introduce their products to the membership. Obviously, the more exposure that referees have to these new products, the greater the comfort level will be when working at schools that are already using them.

For example, PAVO is discussing how to access the Data Project "e-Scoresheet" training materials in order to make them available to PAVO members; stay tuned to the PAVO website for further information!

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KUDOS AND CONGRATULATIONS!

by Brian Hemelgarn,
Director, Nat'l Indoor Ref Eval & Cert

If you can't tell, this article offers "Kudos"! And the Kudos go to our new National and Junior National referees, as well as our National Rating Team. So let's get right to it...

Atlanta, GA, hosted the 2011 USAV Girls' Junior National Championships, as well as our National Rating Tournament for this year's class of Junior National referee candidates and the USAV Premier Training Camp for referees. After three days of ratings, the National Rating Team was excited to present the following 43 referees with **Junior National referee certifications** (an asterisk indicates participation in the Premier Training Camp):

Aiu, Piimauna (Rocky Mountain)	Eaton, Erin (Columbia Empire)	Nelson, Drew (Gulf Coast)
Aldridge, Dennis (Hoosier)	Erickson, Joe (Ohio Valley)	Pangborn, Mike (North Country)
*Atkinson, Mitch (Carolina)	Evans, Ty (Rocky Mountain)	*Pettway, Ruth (Great Lakes)
Barnes, David (Ohio Valley)	Garrett, Ed (Arizona)	Pleskac, Sheila (Great Plains)
Besal, Barb (Old Dominion)	*Gustafson, Joseph (Great Lakes)	*Roberts, Lisa (Sun Country)
Billus, Rob (Ohio Valley)	Halliday, Teresa (Florida)	Swartz, EJ (Hoosier)
Bishop, Vicki (Ohio Valley)	Herrick, Jeffrey (Florida)	Teter, Joya (Florida)
Booker, Mark (Pioneer)	*Huntley, Josh (Iroquois Empire)	Thompson, Scott (Bayou)
*Buck, Robyn (Puget Sound)	Lacson, Ryan (Heart of America)	*Weissenburger, Suzanne (Palmetto)
Bulquerin, Sally (Southern Cal)	Marshall, Anthony (Southern)	*Wiemken, Kevin (Southern)
Chavers, Art (Western Empire)	*Martinez, Luis (Palmetto)	Wiles, DJ (Palmetto)
Craig, Russell (North Texas)	Miceli, Curt (Western Empire)	Wilkerson, Kim (Southern)
*Dalton, John (Florida)	*Montoya, Yancy (Sun Country)	Zatchey, Matt (Ohio Valley)
Droesch, Zach (New England)	*Motondo, Frank (Carolina)	
DuBois, Wade (New England)	Neibauer, Nick (North Country)	

The 2011 USAV Boys' Junior National Championships in Minneapolis, MN, served as the National Rating Tournament for our class of National referee candidates. Minneapolis was an excellent setting for the rating process, and on July 5th, the National Rating Team awarded the following 22 referees with **National referee certifications**:

Bernard, Kris (North Texas)	Goldenshtern, Mikhail (Ohio Valley)	Singer, Jim (North Country)
Black, Mary (Ohio Valley)	Kocour, Kent (Iowa)	Skove, David (Florida)
Brenay, Gigi (Arizona)	Lawrence, Linda (Pioneer)	Sutherland, Perry (Lakeshore)
Calton, George Jr (Oklahoma)	McNeil, Mike (Iroquois Empire)	Vesely, Ed (Great Lakes)
Coltrin, Paul (Arizona)	Momsen, Jim (Badger)	Wagner, Dan (North Country)
Day, Toby (Lone Star)	Pedersen, John (Southern Cal)	Zaldivar, Jack (Lone Star)
Deason, Les (Chesapeake)	Plaisance, David (Lone Star)	
Fiebich, Christina (North Country)	Richardson, Ed (North Country)	

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ROSS ERICKSON APPOINTED AS NEW PAVO CAMP DIRECTOR

Stanek steps down, is retiring from volleyball

by Julie Voeck
President-Elect

PAVO has named Ross Erickson as the new OPT/PAVO Camps Director. Erickson succeeds Bob Stanek, who held the position for one year.

"I am very excited to serve in this capacity for my colleagues and PAVO," said Erickson, of Edina, Minn. "I look forward to the many challenges ahead, and hope to continue the program's excellence Julie Voeck maintained these past years."

Erickson's resume includes officiating, coaching and playing. He is a national USAV and PAVO referee and has served on PAVO camp staff. He also has coordinated training for local referees in Minnesota.

Stanek took over as camp director for 2011, but stepped down after accepting a new position in the military. In his role as Command Sergeant Major for the Army Reserves Engineer Command, Stanek will be the senior enlisted soldier representing more than 12,000 soldiers throughout the United States. With the

increased work load and travel commitments, he did not have the time to dedicate to PAVO.

In his new position, Stanek, of Lino Lakes, Minn., will visit soldiers at their home training station or while training anywhere in the world, including the possibly of trips to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait.

Stanek also said he is retiring from volleyball as a referee and scorekeeper. While Stanek plans to work a couple matches this fall as a fill-in only, he will reserve the bulk of his time traveling and working with soldiers whenever possible.

"This is my true enjoyment," he said.

As much as Stanek enjoys the volleyball community, his new job, "will dramatically reduce the amount of time I have for volleyball officiating. The rest of my free time will be spent with my family and playing volleyball (trying to win that elusive gold medal!)."

*New National Referees
continued from page 8*

I always feel honored and privileged to work with such outstanding crews on the two National Rating Teams. Their knowledge, communication skills and expertise afforded everyone a great learning opportunity, and I can't thank them enough for "giving back" to our cadre of referees: **Denis Bergstedt, Wade Brence, Darin Clark, Wayne Clark, Charles Ezigbo, Michael Hertz, Eric Hoffman, Thomas Hoy*, Steve Kenyon, Kent Kitade, Crystal Lewis, Ken Matz, Terry Miller, Jung Park*, Michelle Prater*, Clark Radcliffe, Carlos Rodriguez, Dave Spencer, Bill Thornburgh* and Michael Yoshikawa** joined us in Atlanta. **Steve Webster** and **Marcia Costley**, and those with an asterisk, served on the training camp staff. In Minneapolis, the rating team was comprised of: **Brad Aaberg, Marcia Alterman, Scott Atkinson, Fred**

Buehler, Mike Carter, Kevin Cull, Mike Hamilton, Tom Joseph, Todd Karolczak, Verna Klubnikin and Steve Owen.

On behalf of the USAV Officials' Commission, please join me with a "Kudos and Congratulations!" to our new Junior National and National referees. We wish them all the best as they move to the next level in their careers. Now the real work begins for them! They will continue to fine-tune their skills and strive to positively enhance each and every match that they officiate. And they'll have opportunities to become the leaders in their respective regions by "giving back" to officials, sharing their experiences, mentoring referees, and being great role models.



MORE THAN 80 OFFICIALS ATTENDED 2011 PAVO CAMPS

by Julie Voeck
President-Elect

More than 84 officials attended PAVO or joint PAVO/USAV referee training camps, continuing a tradition of helping referees improve their skills and gain knowledge.

This year PAVO hosted seven camps throughout the country at a variety of venues that offered opportunities for referees of all levels of experience. The camps included classroom training sessions, on-court performance video-recording, and feedback from staff.

Two advanced camps were held again in 2011. One advanced camp was held in conjunction with a Division I spring tournament at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. The was held jointly with USAV at the National Collegiate Club Volleyball Championships (NCVF) in Houston, Texas.

Three collegiate referee training camps were held in conjunction with Division I spring tournaments at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and the University of San Francisco. Two referee training camps were held in conjunction with club tournaments; one camp was held at a women's college club tournament and the other at a junior girls' tournament at Penn State University.

Each year several scholarships are offered to camp participants. This year the scholarship winners were:

Lewis Development Scholarship: Sue Hoskins

Matt Manligius Memorial Scholarship Award: Dawn Roberson

PAVO Scholarship Award: Zach Droesch, Linda Lawrence, Scott Lowery, Ergys Myselimi, Bo (James) Schmidt, Brian Smith

Congratulations to all scholarship winners!

Participants and staff for the 2011 Spring Camp program were:

College Referee Training Camp, March 11-12, Rutgers University:

Campers: Zach Droesch, Glenn Horton, Freeman Lee, Paula McNeerney, Patrick Mulkern, Ergys Myselimi, Elizabeth Smith, Ben So, Kathleen Sturges

Camp Staff: Mike Carter, Kathy Ferraraccio, Corny Galdones, Jung Park, Glen Reid

Technical Staff: Jerry Moews

Referee Training Camp, March 25-26, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis.

Campers: Josh Bagley, Jen Connell, Dan Conway, Timm Gyoerkoes, Dan Kirchhoff, Greg Liput, Andy Martin, Michael Ochs, Ruthella Pettaway, Philip Rendina, Madison Rolf, Mychajlo Sandulak, James (Bo) Schmidt, Joni Shealy, Ahmad Vossoughi, William Young

Camp Staff: Justin Basovsky, Dan Houser, Mary Malpede, Nancy Nester, Pati Rolf, Julie Voeck

Advanced Collegiate Training Camp, March 27-28, University of Central Florida, Orlando

Campers: Ann Esplin, Sue Hoskins, Chris Haworth, Jim Momsen, Karl Koopman, Kim Renquist, Linda Lawrence, Rick Bolton, Scott Lowery, Lane Lawley

Staff: Marcia Alterman, Mary Blalock, Donna Carter, Wally Hendricks, Crystal Lewis, Michelle Prater

Technical Staff: Jerry Moews

Joint PAVO/USAV Advanced Camp at NCVF Championships, April 6-8, Houston, Texas

Campers: Regan Adams, Jane Belinfante, Fred Chase, Geoff Freeze, April Fricke, Danny Johnson,

Continued on page 11

2011 PAVO Officials' Convention – December 15 - 17 REGISTRATION-SAN ANTONIO

Your Name _____
 PAVO Board Name _____
 Your Address _____
 City _____ St _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____
 E-Mail Address _____

Can we release the above information to other convention attendees &/or sponsors? YES NO

	PAVO Members Before 11/15/11	PAVO Members After 11/15/11	Non-PAVO Members Before 11/15/11	Non-PAVO Members After 11/15/11	Amount You Are Paying
Convention Registration *	\$175	\$225	\$200	\$225	
Includes all PAVO sessions and AVCA Marketplace admittance (dates & times TBD)					//////////
"Mini" Convention Registration *	\$100	\$125	\$100	\$125	
Includes PAVO Social & Semi-final Analysis on Friday evening, and all Saturday sessions					//////////
<hr/>					
Extras and Options:					--
NCAA Championship Match Tickets **	Tickets are not included with convention registration. Matches are on Thursday, Dec. 15 and Saturday, Dec. 17. All tickets sold in sets for both days, and are all in the lower bowl of the Sprint Center. Limited quantity available – maximum 4 per registrant . Non-registrants may not place ticket orders. \$ 62 x _____ (No. of tickets)				
AVCA/Jostens Coaches Honors Banquet	Date and time - TBA. <i>May overlap some PAVO Convention sessions.</i> \$ TBA x _____ (No. of tickets)				
AVCA All-America/ Player-of-the-Year Banquet	Date and time - TBA. <i>May overlap some PAVO Convention sessions.</i> \$ TBA x _____ (No. of tickets)				
Guest attendance	Friday 12/16. PAVO Social and Semi-final Analysis (Guest ticket only required for NON-convention registrants, maximum of TWO per registrant) \$ 30 x _____ (No. of guest tickets)				
TOTAL DUE					
Make checks payable to PAVO; submit to P.O. Box 780, Oxford, KS 67119, or complete credit card information below and mail or fax to 620/455-3800					
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Signature _____					

* Requests for convention registration refunds received before December 1 will be charged a \$25 service fee. Requests for convention registration refunds received after December 1 will be charged a \$40 service fee.

** NOTE: NCAA match tickets are **not** refundable under any circumstances.

FROM: _____

TO: PAVO
P.O. BOX 780
Oxford, KS 67119



NEW USAV NATIONAL SCORERS

by Nancy Funk
Director, Nat'l Indoor Scorer Cert & Eval

We added 16 new National Scorers to the cadre in Minneapolis at the 2011 Boys' Junior National Championships. This was our first year at the Junior Boys' event and as I told each of the candidates they were my 'guinea pigs' for this new rating process with the move from the adult Open Championships. Overall we felt the process went very well and we received a number of positive comments from the candidates and the raters.

When you see any of the group please congratulate them on their new certification.

Gigi Brenay	Arizona	Diana Johnson	So. California
George Calton	Oklahoma	Michael Olsen	Arizona
Michael Chandler	Ohio Valley	Adam Pike	North Country
Gail Dubisar	Columbia Empire	Mark Prater	Southern
Christina Fiebich	North Country	Perry Sutherland	Lakeshore
Terry Fry	North Texas	Al Tarara	North Country
John Havens	Lone Star	Kathie Toth	Lakeshore
Megan Henry	Delta	Jack Zaldivar	Lone Star

I want to thank the raters who worked so hard...**Jeff Hoppen, Kim Williams, Becky Brockney and Amber Fulk.** We could not do this without each of you.

PAVO Camps
continued from page 10

Jackie Johnson, Jim Kirkpatrick, Tom Lands, Ted Lopez, Don Railsback, Hector Rivera, Dawn Roberson, Melissa Robinson, Ralph Warner, Stacia Washington, Kevin Willett

Staff: Wally Hendricks, Verna Klubnikin, Carlos Rodriguez, Bob Stanek, Julie Voeck, Steve Webster
Technical Staff: Felix Madera

Collegiate Referee Training Camp, April 15-16, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Campers: Isaac Chung, Mora Kanim, Larry Klimek, Scott Kurtz, Gary Merrill, Caroline Merritt, Randy Redding, Brian Smith, Rick Turner, Dana White

Staff: Fusako Hines, Ann Hutchins, Jerry Moews, Bob Stanek, Bill Thornburgh
Technical Staff: Deanna Summers

Collegiate Referee Training Camp, April 29-30, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif.

Campers: Terry Bush, Cathy Bradley, Theresa Carey, Deelee Dankenbring, Bernice Dere, David Dingell, John Freddie, Paul Lenae, Lev Zavalkov, Ellen Townsend

Staff: Bill Forrester, Joan Powell, Margie Ray, Larry Schwartz, Julie Voeck

Happy Volley Referee Training Camp, May 27-29, Penn State University, State College, Penn.

Campers: Moti Benami, Artie Blouin, Carole Hancock, Erin Hanelt, Paul Kujawski, Talat Ladson, Artie Nord, John O'Brien, Mark Petrie, Bruce Pharis, Marcie Soltesz, Rodale Thompson

Staff: Wally Hendricks, Leisa Jordan, Don Miller, Peggy Schaefer

Head Referee: Mike Carter

A "BIG THANK YOU" goes out to all of the staff who helped to make the camps a success again this year.

Another thank you goes out to all of you, including local boards and conference coordinators, who support the PAVO camp program. For further information about the camp program, please contact Julie Voeck at 1-414-305-7454 or OTP.camp.director@pavo.org.

GJNC WRAP-UP



by Kathy Ferraraccio
Associate Chair, Nat'l Indoor Referees

We are all heading into the remainder of our summer, and hopefully, some down time before starting the collegiate season. I would like to take a few moments to remind us all about why we continue to work so hard as volleyball officials and why we all strive for professionalism and perfect techniques and mechanics in every match we work throughout the year.

During the GJNC, I personally noted camaraderie among the officials in the midst of many challenges. The tournament lost a total of 8 officials over the 10 days of the event. Two officials ended up in the emergency room, one official received notice his mother had passed away suddenly, another official received notice that her sister had died in an automobile accident, two officials became quite ill during the tournament, and two officials were released to drive home the officials who so suddenly lost family members.

During all of this difficulty, I saw officials step up to the plate and offer their assistance in whatever way possible. Matches were filled quickly as the officials and work room staff teamed together to make it possible for those who needed to leave the tournament to do so. I saw officials buy whistles, ref bags, and other equipment for their fellow referees when bags were stolen from the courts. I witnessed officials stepping up to assist their fellow referees in getting back to their hotel rooms when they felt too ill to do so.

These acts of kindness kept me in good spirits at the tournament, even when dealing with officials who did

not always see eye-to-eye with their partner; or with coaches who felt that the officials had stolen the match from the players; or with the parents who felt their children had been robbed of a win by the officials. These acts of kindness remind me every day why I continue to work with volleyball officials and travel to many different cities and countries to interact with our cadre.

Each of us should take the next few weeks and reflect upon what we have learned this past season. Not only have we learned new rules and techniques; we have learned how to work hard for so many days in a row and still maintain a positive attitude; we have struggled and many times overcome the difficulties of working on little sleep, working with partners we don't always get along with, being away from families and home for many days in a row, and remaining consistent on each match we work. We have learned from our mistakes, and we'll use that learning to grow as a person and an official.

We have met new friends, renewed old friendships, forgiven someone for a perceived injustice, and grown as individuals. It is now time to sit back, think on all we've learned, and come back refreshed for another season of learning. We should walk away from this season with the things that went right, not those that went wrong; we should grow stronger in our positive approach to officiating and the growth of our sport. Only this way will we truly come back stronger, as both a person and an official, in the seasons to come.

We truly are one big family.



Do you have a question on a USAV rule?
Do you want to know a correct USAV technique?
Are you wondering if you handled the situation in your last match correctly?
Do you wonder what USAV tournaments there are to work?

Visit the
Volleyball Referee Blog
http://volleyballreftraining.com/usavreftrainingblog/?page_id=2
We'll do our best to answer your questions and address your concerns.
See you there!!!!



REMEMBER THE ALAMO, AND THE 2011 PAVO CONVENTION

The annual gathering of officials will be held in San Antonio

by Donna Carter
Board Delegate

In case you have not read your last two Official Word issues, or you simply forgot, “Remember the Alamo!” The PAVO Convention will be held Dec. 15-17, in conjunction with the NCAA Division I National Championships, in San Antonio, Texas. The PAVO Convention committee is working diligently to make this the best convention ever, one balanced with sessions for all levels of officials.

Highlights of this year’s convention will include:

- **Joan Powell** – The newly appointed NCAA National Coordinator will speak about the new features on the training website and other NCAA policies which will affect all collegiate officials.

- **Anne Pufahl** – The newly appointed NCAA Rule Interpreter will do a presentation on unusual situations that have crossed her desk this fall, plus other challenging interpretations.

- **Coaches panel** – Listen to observations of volleyball coaches at different levels of the game, and enhance your understanding of the coach-referee relationship.

- **Semifinal analysis** – Watch highlights of the Championship semi-final matches, with video replay and slow motion of officiating volleyball at its highest level.

- **Reception and Awards Banquet** – Network and share in the successes of many of our fellow referees, and find out who the next PAVO Honor Award recipient will be.

- **Network, networking and more networking** – The convention offers a multitude of opportunities for you to network with officials of all levels, members of the PAVO board, assignors, coaches, sports marketing and manufacturing representatives, and other volleyball enthusiasts. There will be plenty of time for interaction, both structured and spontaneous.

We’re working on a golf outing on Wednesday afternoon – if you heard about the Tampa outing in 2009, you can appreciate the friendly but intense competition, yet realize that little golf skill is actually required. A great chance to meet and greet will be at a social hosted by the Lone Star Region on Wednesday night. It will probably be off-site, but we are making sure transportation will be available so everyone who wants to attend may do so. And of course, the Friday night reception and awards banquet is an opportunity to share in the successes of many of our fellow referees as well as the semi-final analysis.

San Antonio is one of the top tourist cities in the country, and the downtown area has a myriad of opportunities for group or individual outings such as:

- **The Alamo** – Set right in downtown San Antonio; go for a visit and re-live history.

- **The King William Historic District** - Less than a mile from the convention center, the District is a 25-block area of 1800s-era homes that was the state’s first historic district. Great examples of European architecture abound.

- **El Mercado** – Approximately 1 mile west of the convention center, this market area offers shops and restaurants, including the famous 24-hour Mi Tierra bakery and restaurant, and La Margarita, which normally wins most surveys for the best (and biggest) margaritas and fajitas in town.

- **The Riverwalk** and river cruises are a very unique setting of restaurants, shops and nightlife right next to the CC and will be adorned with a colorful array of lights for Christmas. It’s worth the visit.

The headquarters hotel is the Grand Hyatt San Antonio, with a convention rate of \$129 a night. It is on the Riverwalk and adjacent to the convention center. The overflow hotel is the Hilton Palacio Del Rio at \$109/night. Watch the PAVO website for details and registration information.



USAV REFEREE CAMPS

Campers Came Away Full, And A Little Bit More

by Thomas Hoy
Director, Nat'l Indoor Ref Camps & Training

The USAV Premier Referee Camp at the GJNC in Atlanta, Georgia, was a popular choice for many of the Junior National Candidates this year. The camp was held July 26-29, 2011, in conjunction with the USAV Girls Junior National Championships, with over 20 registrants. Many thanks go out to the Trainers, including Michelle Prater, Marcia Costley, Jung Park, Steve Webster, Thomas Hoy and Bill Thornburgh. These Trainers spent many hours in the convention center working with the campers.

The success of the camp is largely due to the personal relationships that are bridged during the training. Campers work together, get to know each other and build a trust with each other before ratings begin. The Trainers work closely with the Campers and can give them the insight and adjustments needed to hopefully move forward in their officiating careers. These relationships are not always formed on the court;

many times it is the group debriefings, discussions over special referee and scorer exams, or the talk about rules that goes on with Trainers and Campers at round tables in the workroom.

The evaluations were especially supportive of the GJNC Camp, with over 98% of the items marked with favorable responses by the Campers. Comments such as "it was well worth it" and "this was great" were common, and the Campers were very appreciative of the Trainers who became their colleagues.

USAV camps are now being planned and scheduled for the 2011-2012 season, and we invite those in charge of the regions, tournaments and officials to start thinking about the next steps they want to take to help the upcoming officials in their area (whether using the USAV National Camps Program or just getting information to better run local training programs).

PAVO RefSchool – Better Than Ever!



"It's the best preparation tool I've ever used" – a direct quote from a grateful member who enrolled in *RefSchool* last year and did better than ever on the examination.

Once again, all 2011 examination questions have been included in the bank of *RefSchool* questions.

Select brief study quizzes that cover specific NCAA rules, or take a complete 25-question practice examination. Get immediate feedback and rule references.

Subscription fees: PAVO members - \$10, non-members - \$15.

A subscription allows unlimited access from now until April 1, 2012.

Subscribe now, so you don't forget! Look for the link on the PAVO home page to navigate to *RefSchool*!





PAVO TAPS CASH RESERVES TO BALANCE BUDGET

An increase in dues and program fees may be needed

by Jung Park
Finance Director

As changes continue to take place with the new NCAA initiatives (appointing the new national coordinator, start of the new Volleyball Officiating Program and other initiatives), the PAVO Board of Directors (BOD) continues to work hard to ensure it is spending its money carefully while continuing to increase the quality of services the board provides to the PAVO membership.

The BOD ended fiscal year 2010 (March 1, 2010 to Feb. 28, 2011) with a \$29,000 deficit, down from the projected deficit of \$63,000. The BOD dipped into its cash reserve to close the shortfall and balanced the budget. PAVO program directors (OTP clinics, OTP camps, NRT programs) and our national office staff continued their diligent effort to contain costs and increase revenue.

On the income side, line judge and scorekeeping videos were a big hit despite the fact that the board made them available for our members online. The sales of the videos boosted overall merchandise sales and brought in more than 75 percent more than originally projected. Membership dues brought in 10 percent more than projected as PAVO membership continues grow. Overall, total income was up more than 6.4 percent than projected.

On the expense side, major spending items included membership insurance, membership programs (camps, clinics, rating teams, scholarships, etc.), merchandise, newsletters, the PAVO convention and professional services. It is still a tough challenge to keep costs down while trying to provide more quality services.

PAVO investments turned in a modest return of 5.25 percent. At \$195,000, the board's cash reserves continue to be in good shape. It currently comprises 72.6 percent of the board's financial holdings compared with 79.5 percent last year. While this gives PAVO a decent cushion to continue operations for the immediate future, the board is taking a hard look at programs and their associated costs as expenses continue to rise at much faster pace than it is able to generate income.

At the March BOD meeting, the board approved the adjusted budget, projecting a deficit of \$93,000 for

fiscal 2011. The board spent days and months trying to come up with better numbers, but decided this was necessary if it is to continue providing all current services without making any big increases in our dues or individual program fees.

By using money from current cash reserves, the BOD adopted a balanced budget. Be assured that BOD is doing its best to ensure the financial stability of PAVO. In the future, some increase in dues and fees will be inevitable, but "I'm confident that all of us will see the value in all the services PAVO provides to us," said Jung Park, finance director.

Below are the current numbers for your review. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or PAVO Executive Director Marcia Alterman.

PAVO BUDGET

REVENUE	FY 2010	FY 2011
Convention	47,098	45,063
NCAA Grant	60,000	40,000
Membership Dues	132,214	132,035
NRT	14,742	20,984
OTP Camps	21,020	24,088
OTP Clinics	52,800	40,000
Merchandise Sales	23,586	1,500
Interest and Dividends	3,000	3,000
Other Income	10,338	11,895
Total Income	\$364,798	\$318,565
EXPENSE		
Board of Directors meeting	9,529	11,505
President's expense	7,408	9,645
Convention	36,132	46,760
Examinations	2,100	2,100
Executive Director (salary & expense)	59,361	54,800
Merchandise Expense	22,043	2,000
Newsletter (Officials Word)	8,740	4,125
NRT	18,804	19,855
OTP Camps	33,269	42,648
OTP Clinics	40,412	42,935
Operations	156,206	173,572
Rules Interpretation Newsletter	0	400
Capital Expenditures	397	2,000
Total Expense	\$394,401	\$412,345
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(\$29,603)	(\$93,780)
NET INCOME/(LOSS)		
after cash reserve adjustment	\$0	\$0

INTERFACE COMMITTEE FOSTERS COLLABORATION BETWEEN PAVO AND USAV

Joint ventures include testing, training and techniques



by Kathy Ferraraccio
Board Delegate

Many volleyball officials make the transition from one set of rules and techniques to another at least once over the course of a year. At times it feels like the different organizations grow further apart as referees struggle to give the correct ready signal, or remember which net contact should be whistled.

But there are still a number of items that both PAVO and USAV work closely on for the benefit of volleyball officials across the country.

The exam is still a joint venture. Although some questions on the exam may vary between the two organizations, members of a joint PAVO/USAV exam committee work hard to ensure the exams are developed in a parallel manner with shared questions whenever possible.

PAVO and USAV also work closely on at least one training camp during the course of the year, and the organizations are open to opportunities for any other camps that might possibly be used for joint training during the spring months.

The PAVO Director of the OTP clinic program and the USAV Director of National level Ratings and Evaluation work closely together to maintain consistent techniques and mechanics as much as possible.

The rules interpreters for both USAV and the NCAA

work to maintain identical interpretations whenever the rules are the same. Both NCAA and USAV invite a representative from the other organization to their rules meeting each year. These representatives offer input on rules in an attempt to keep rules consistent whenever possible.

Reciprocity for all levels of officials' ratings is still recognized by both USAV and PAVO.

PAVO and USAV both offer the same insurance for all officials. When officials buy insurance through PAVO, they are covered for the entire year, no matter which organization they work for.

The uniform we wear as officials is approved by both PAVO and USAV.

There are several individuals who are involved in the leadership structures of both PAVO and USAV, helping the organizations work together continuously during the year in collaboration on issues that impact all facets of officiating.

Although there may not be an Interface Committee meeting each year, when either the leadership of USAV or PAVO discuss an item that will impact the other organization, open communication between the organizations help to continue the great relationship that has grown over the years. Rest assured, the Interface Committee is striving to maintain the interaction between USAV and PAVO for the betterment of all volleyball officials.



As you finish up this season, in addition to re-reviewing the USAV regulations, it is time to take the next step and use the USAV Referee Training Site. This is a free site that has information, modules, and a place you can register that provides updates. Please use this training and improve your referee skills.

<http://volleyballreftraining.com/>



PAVO-OTP CLINIC SCHEDULE-2011

by Anne Pufahl
OTP-Clinic Director

The final two weekends for OTP clinics are Aug 13-14 and Aug 20-21. The remaining clinic sites and host contact information are listed below. You may contact the site host directly to get clinic start times. The clinic schedule is posted on the PAVO website as well, and clinic details may be obtained there, www.pavo.org.

online. Online registration is available on the PAVO E-store now. The registration fees for 2011 have not been increased, and are listed below.

Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you at a clinic!

As in previous years, clinic registration will be handled

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>PRE-REGISTERED, PRE-PAID ONLINE</u>	<u>WALK-IN** (Payable at the door)</u>
Current PAVO Member	\$25 + local charges	\$50 + local charges
Non-PAVO member, non-collegiate referee	\$30 + local charges	\$55+ local charges
Non-PAVO member, women's collegiate referee	\$75 + local charges	\$100 + local charges

** Pre-registration is highly recommended. Clinics are not required to accommodate attendees who are not pre-registered, and will do so on a space-available basis only.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>HOST</u>	<u>HOST EMAIL</u>
13-Aug	Chicago, IL	Jen Mahler	jmahler@bigten.org
13-Aug	Rochester, NY	Jeff Mckinney	jeff.mckinney@gmail.com
13-Aug	Atlanta, GA	Bob Hume	bhume@charter.net
14-Aug	Denver, CO	Alan Suzuki	asuzuki@wac.org
14-Aug	Lorain, OH	Diane Plas	jplas@prodigy.net
14-Aug	Boston, MA	Laura Nelson	laura@bssc.com
14-Aug	Dallas, TX	Carlos Rodriquez	losref@aol.com
20-Aug	Baltimore, MD	Arlene Geppi	ageppi@aol.com
20-Aug	Tacoma, WA	Marc Blau	blau marc@qwest.net
20-Aug	Tulsa, OK	Tracey Harrison	harrisonvbref@yahoo.com
20-Aug	Philadelphia, PA	Michael Albright	michaelwalbright54@gmail.com
21-Aug	East Lansing, MI	Ann Hutchins	annhutchins@hotmail.com
21-Aug	Spokane, WA	Dale Goodwin	goodwin@gonzaga.edu
21-Aug	St. Louis, MO	Julie Voeck	jvoeck@attglobal.net
21-Aug	Albany, NY	Mara Wager	mara_97@hotmail.com



Member profile

From Saigon, to Texas to national referee and scorer, a Q and A with Thang Nguyen

by Carlos Rodriguez
Director-at-Large

Q: Were you born in the United States? If not, where were you born and when did you come to the USA?

A: I was born in Vietnam. With the North Vietnamese Army tanks barreling into Saigon, they had already shelled the airport cutting off the main air exit out of the country. Large numbers of fleeing civilians found they had no way out. The American radio station made announcements saying if you heard the song "White Christmas", it was the signal to begin evacuating. Since my dad was a civilian employee/diplomatic liaison for the U.S. Government at the U.S. Embassy, a car was suppose to come and get us, but it never showed and we had to make our way on foot to the embassy compound through all the chaos and unrest as others scrambled to leave as well. We were to be part of Operation Frequent Wind, the largest helicopter evacuation in history. The U.S. Marines who guarded the embassy knew my dad so we were lucky enough to get inside from a secret entrance while others swarmed around the perimeter, clambering the front gates, scaling the walls and razor wire trying to get inside to vie for the limited seats. We made our way inside and up to the embassy roof then walked up the historic staircase that led to helicopter pad and boarded our helicopter. It was then that we became refugees. My family was evacuated from Saigon, South Vietnam on April 29, 1975. Saigon and South Vietnam fell to the communist North Vietnamese regime on April 30, and the Vietnam War ended with the withdrawal of the U.S. military forces.

Q: So where did your journey lead your family after you left Vietnam?

A: After flying off the embassy roof by Chinook helicopter (CH-46 Sea Knight), we had to fly in the midst of gunfire and dodge a barrage of rocket fire.

We arrived on the U.S.S. Hancock aircraft carrier, part of the Seventh Fleet, which was docked in the South China Sea. From there we made our way to Guam then flew to Hawaii, then Fort Chaffee, Arkansas and finally to Texas City, Texas where some former U.S. colleagues and their families "sponsored" the Nguyen family.

Q: Were there any language barriers or were you fluent in English when you arrived?

A: Only knowing Vietnamese and French upon arrival, I did not speak English, but I learned in public school and by watching "Sesame Street" and "The Electric Company" on PBS.

Q: Have you always resided in the Houston area?

A: I have been a resident of Galveston County, Texas for the past 35 years after emigrating from my native country, and now I live in Friendswood, Texas which is about 25 minutes south of Houston.

Q: What an amazing adventure to get to the US. What got you involved with volleyball?

A: My first experience in volleyball officiating was in the fall of 1995 when a local junior college coach from Galveston College asked me to come out and "keep score" for a tournament. I showed up courtside and the coach put the score sheets in front of me. I thought keeping score was just flipping numbers or working the scoreboard. I had no idea as to what a score sheet was or how to use one either. With the help Rich Richardson, of one of the referees assigned to the match, I was given a "crash" course in scorekeeping and had on-the-job training for the remainder of the tournament, and I've been keeping score ever since.

Continued on page 19

Thang Nguyen
continued from page 18

Q: What other involvement have you had with volleyball? Are you a player and an official?

A: I joined the Lone Star Region of USVBA in 1995. I've played on several men's teams from BB and A; most recently finishing ninth in Men's A division at the 2010 Opens in Phoenix. I also have a gold medal from the U-Volley division a few years ago.

Q: What made you become a certified official?

A: I became USAV certified to fulfill a Lone Star Region requirement that every region team have at least one certified referee and one certified scorekeeper. I was keeping score at a junior college around late 1996 when a referee unknown to me at the time came up and said, "So when are you going to come to one of my clinics to get certified?" I replied by saying, "Certify? I already know how to keep score." The referee turned out to be Steve Crane, Lone Star Region Scorekeeper Chairman. This put things in motion as I received my Provisional scorekeeper rating in 1997, Regional Scorekeeper rating in 1998, and Junior National Scorekeeper rating in 1998 in Dallas. In 1999, I was asked to go get my USA National Scorekeeper rating at the Open Championships in San Jose, Calif. I was qualified as an International Indoor Scorekeeper in 2001 at the Open Championships in Milwaukee. Along my scorekeeping, I've also picked up some referee ratings. I was certified as a USA Junior National Referee in 2001 in Denver, USA Certified Beach Referee at the USA Open Beach Championships in 2001 in Virginia Beach, Va, PAVO National Referee in 2002, and USA National Referee in 2004. There are many National referees in the Lone Star region that I owe for their guidance and support: Thomas Hoy, Joe Campbell, Gloria Cox, Fred Buehler, Mary Blalock, Ted Lopez, Gordon Morrison, Ronnie Kaase, Linda Fletcher, Steve Crane, and Will Vick. In addition, I'm very grateful in having such experienced scorekeeper raters, including Dixie Collins, Jeff Hoppen, Dee Yoe, and JoAnn Peters. Also my raters and mentors for my National rating: Dixie Collins, Cathy Hoy, Terry Lawton, Sue Mailhot and Kim Williams.

Q: What other activities have you been involved in with volleyball?

A: I am involved with several boys and girls clubs in the local Houston area. They have included Club Texas Boys, South Shore VBC, GCVA, and currently Absolute Volleyball Academy of Texas.

I have served the Lone Star Region as a mentor, trainer, clinician and rater. I've served as a tournament director, head referee, and official's assignor for many local junior events. I did some local junior college assigning for two years. I currently am the assignor for the Houston SPC private school boys' volleyball league. I've been active in every USA Open Championships since 1999 as a scorekeeper and 2004 as a referee. I've been on event staff for the Volleyball Festival and USAV Boys Championships.

Q: What other interests do you have besides volleyball?

A: Being an avid traveler, I've gone to many places around the globe. I have been to all but 10 of the 50 states along with Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile in South America; Mexico and places throughout the Caribbean: Grand Cayman, Canada, Canary Islands, France, Spain, Greece, Egypt, Australia, Fiji; the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Suez Canal, Jordan, and Dubai. In addition, I given an opportunity to go to Israel for the World Maccabi games as a coach. I am taking a Jewish junior girls volleyball team from the Houston Jewish Community Center to Israel from July 24-August 4 to participate in the World Maccabi Games. I was asked by them and I wasn't going to say no to an all expenses paid trip (trip of a lifetime, bucket list) of volleyball, tours, hikes, and seeing the sights in the Holy Land!"

Having experienced a lot of foreign lands, and narrowly escaping from his homeland, Thang says, "So having a coach yell at me while I'm officiating is nothing compared to what I've experienced."

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www.usavolleyball.org

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