



# MINUTES OF THE 2017 DELTA REGION DIRECTORS MEETING

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*Held at BancorpSouth in Jonesboro, Arkansas  
August 26, 2017*

Presiding: Joe Williams, President of the Corporation and Commissioner

Executive Board Members present: Jenny Lingenfelter, Juraj Okolicany, Danis Fuelling, Angela Walls, BJ Golden, and Lee Dewey.

Advisory Board Members present: Joanie Williams (Office Manager) and Robin Everson (at-large). Not present: Megan Henry (Score Chair), Keith Hutchison (Ref Chair), Lanette Stineman (At Large), Mo Gray (Education Chair) and Keith Haney (At Large).

Also present: Eric Everson (Fatchmo Volley); Todd Pedersen and Chris Wilson (Crittenden Club); Anna Stephens (MS Volleyball); Kelly Kelley (Jonesboro Storm); Jenn Douglas and Doug Douglas (Fort Smith Juniors); Sarah Mitchell (Conway Juniors); Tina Seals (Level Elite); Tonya Werner (LRJ); Marissa Hollenbaug (Hollenball Jrs); Tera Upshaw (Memphis Starlings); David Culver (Desoto Legacy); Tiffany Gant (Independent); Pete Weron (Independent); David Henry (Delta Ref); and Michael Sanderson (Delta Ref).

- Meeting was called to order at 9:30AM. A quorum was declared present.
- Minutes from 2016 meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve 2016 minutes by Jenny Lingenfelter; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Juraj Okolicany. Passed unanimous.
- Commissioner, Joe Williams spoke on USA Volleyball's State of the Game which included the new CEO, Jaime Davis. Joe spoke of the new Adidas & USA Volleyball's new multi-year contract.
- Board members elected a Vice-Commissioner for the 2017-2018 Season. Danis Fuelling was elected. Danis is going to try to attend the May USA Volleyball National Meeting. Election of a Vice Commissioner for the region was discussed. With the Bylaws change August 2016, the election of the Vice-Commissioner should be held yearly by the Delta Region Board of Directors.
- Joe Williams went over the Financial Report for the 2017 Season. Net income for the region was down \$2593.08 (-10.6%); 21,815.42 ty vs 24,408.50 ly. Some of the loss was from unpaid sanctioning fees (\$1120); increase in Board meeting expense (\$4513); and the newly paid overtime for Joanie (\$14,284). Motion was made by Jenny Lingenfelter to accept reports; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Juraj Okolicany. Passed unanimously.
- Joanie Williams reviewed 2017-18 membership reports. The Region had an increase of 333 members (+7%), leaving the 2017-18 membership totals to 5672. Delta ended the season with 71 clubs (23 new clubs). Twenty-seven clubs had membership increases over the previous season. Joanie Williams went over the final membership numbers for all clubs. Largest junior club for the season was Arkansas Juniors Storm with 470 members. Joanie also went over the different types of Delta memberships and their comparisons versus last season.

- A lengthy discussion was had regarding tournament sanctioning: 1.) should previous dates be given a priority; 2.) should we continue with the 1hour radius for events; 3.) should colleges be allowed to host events. 1.) In regards to previous dates given a priority, no decision was made. Though, most were in agreement that being able to keep your dates from year to year is good for planning. 2.) On the issue of the 1hour radius, it was noted that there was no real way to increase the 1hour radius and be fair to the central Arkansas clubs (where the majority of the membership lives. Straw poll resulted in no changes being made. 3.) A discussion on whether or not colleges should be able to host events, Lee Dewey stated that allowing them to host would hurt his event-Jenny Lingenfelter stated they have never hurt her events and that her players would love to attend an event on a college campus. After more discussion it was decided to allow member colleges host events on non-dates and to leave to region's discretion.
- Joe Williams's spoke of the need to brand facilities at Delta sanctioned events. It was decided to see about ordering court signs with Delta and USAV logo for events; especially for events where facility management does not allow additional signage to be hung.
- It was noted that some clubs were holding tryouts during July, which overlapped with the school season. Joanie Williams noted that the region office had received several complaints from parents upset that the tryout season had begun so early. It was discussed whether or not the region wanted to set Tryout guidelines and tryout dates and when could you make athletes sign contracts. Danis Fuelling wanted a 24hr waiting period before signing with club—but, other clubs disagreed due to the fact they needed to know who was going to be playing for them so they would know how many teams they would form. Through straw poll it was noted we would not set a policy at this time; Joe noted he would not hold any player to a club in which they signed in July to play for the next season (though, financial commitment would still be between player and club).
- A discussion was held about recruiting players—Joe reminded attendees, once an athlete has signed with a team or club, contacts with the player or parents of the athlete, with respect to recruiting cannot be done during the official junior volleyball season. The junior season runs from September 1 and concludes at the end of the Junior National Championships. If the athlete's team has finished playing for the season, it is acceptable for a recruiter to contact the player or parents of the athlete...this must be confirmed by the Club Director prior to the contact.
- A new way of addressing spectator conduct is being considered by other USA Volleyball regions. Joe Williams spoke of the way these region were handling the submission of the "Purple" card for unruly spectators. It was decided that we did not want to go that way for several reasons. David Henry brought up the fact that our larger events should consider hiring Arbitrators to work events to handle problems that arise.
- A discussion of utilizing Keith Hutchison to help find Officials for events was only used by two clubs this past season. Joe Williams reminded attendees that this is a good service for them, and that they should utilize Keith and our National Officials.
- Joe Williams, along with Robin and Eric Everson, reviewed the Beach programs and their success. It was noted that Beach could be our future for growth. Nine sanctioned Beach events were held this past summer including the first Delta Region Junior Beach Championships (hosted by Fatchmo Volley). We talked about developing a Beach committee to work events in the different areas of the region, but no one jumped on the idea. So, this was tabled to next year. A discussion was had as to whether we want to focus efforts at this time on Beach Officials training as a region and decided, though a good idea, to wait until we have more events.

- Joanie Williams reminded folks that SafeSport is now a 2-year requirement. So, get ready to take SafeSport again. She also stated that coaches that took Impact A last season would need to take Impact B this season.
- Joe spoke on the Uniform Requirements AGAIN this year...and for clubs looking to purchase new uniforms to follow the current guidelines. There is still hope that USA Volleyball will change their philosophy on requirements.
- The Delta Region has 7,569 officials that will have to recertify in the upcoming season, since it is a new rule book year. Joanie reminded club directors to go a little easier on the junior membership and eliminate making everyone certify in every category. New for the upcoming season, Juniors certifications will be listed on the team rosters as LJ, R2, R1, and Scorer.
- Joanie Williams spoke on the National & Advancement Official's Clinic the region held January 7<sup>th</sup>. Forty Officials attended. It was a full day—after classes, Officials worked some Junior matches while they were being critique. Delta Officials are getting better—this clinic has a lot to do with it.
- Joanie Williams went over the 2017 Delta Region High Performance program. The region held five tryouts, with 372 athletes attending. Eighty-six club & college coaches helped at the tryouts. Eighty-seven athletes were chosen to attend the 10th annual Delta HP Camp held in May in Conway AR. Twenty-eight college coaches worked the camp, representing seventeen colleges. HP Camp Directors were Heath Hoke (USAV HP Director) and Jenny Hazlewood (USAV HP & Delta member). Fourteen clubs were represented at the camp.
- It was noted that eighteen Delta Region members were selected to attend National HP Camps this season. A question was brought forth about financially supplementing athletes chosen for the national HP Camps and Programs. It was decided that the region would only do this if an athlete is chosen for the A1 programs and cannot financially afford to participate.
- A question was brought forth by Joanie as to whether or not we want to continue the camp; most felt it was beneficial and better than sending a team to HP Nationals. Joe asked for volunteers to act as the High Performance Chair next season—with no takers.
- Joe Williams told attendees about the new US Center for SafeSport, which includes a 24hour victim hotline and gave each the new telephone numbers that would be posted on the region website.
- Joe Williams spoke of the new Delta website which hopefully will be more users friendly and updated for mobile devices. The region would like to utilize additional media exposure and would be interested in hiring someone to be our Media Director. No one had interest—tabled to next year.
- Joanie Williams talked about the region's presence at the Delta Region Championships. Several 400 members and families visited the booth and played "Spin the Wheel" for prizes. It seemed to be a huge success.
- Joe Williams announce the winners of the Meritorious Service Award for the 2016-2017 season. Winners were: Lori Eschnaur (Suns); Brandie Sanders (Central AR VB); Melissa Guy (Memphis Shock Wave); Kelly Kelley (AR Jonesboro Storm); and Jenny Hazlewood (Infinity VBA).
- Joe Williams reminded folks that a Board of Directors election would be coming up in April. Those up for reelection: Joe Williams (Commissioner); Jenny Lingenfelter; Juraj Okolicany; Angela Walls; and Danis Fuelling. The two Board members not up for reelection, Lee Dewey and BJ Golden would need to help oversee the election with another Delta Region Member.
- Joe Williams asked for motion from the floor to close the meeting. Motion was made by Jenny Lingenfelter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Juraj Okolicany and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:45.