



From the President

Julie A. Briggs

The spring issue of Digs is generally devoted to the annual Board of Directors election. This issue is no different. However, before I get into the election, I would like to reflect upon the passing of a person who was very special to me, but more important, extremely special to the Chesapeake Region. Anne Hughes was a member of, and worked on behalf of CHRVA for approximately 37 years. It is so hard for me to imagine giving such a big part of my life to a sport that I never played, but Anne was an extraordinary and giving person. In fact, I would be hard-pressed to find a member who does not know who Anne is and doesn't have a story to tell.

Despite the lack of playing experience, the Chesapeake Region has benefited from her talents and dedication. She started her USA Volleyball involvement in the 1970s as a volunteer as a team representative; tournament coordinator; adult division coordinator; member of the Board of Directors for 10 years; and most recently before her retirement, she was our Commissioner and liaison to the National Office for 10 years. Most of the members who grew up with Anne playing a part in the Region called her "mom." During her tenure she won several regional awards including the Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award and in 2008, she was awarded the George J. Fisher Leader in Volleyball from USA Volleyball.

I can't think of anyone who was more dedicated to the Chesapeake Region. She will be sorely missed by so many of us, not only for the work she did, but for her friendly nature, willingness to help, and her friendship.

Anne, on behalf of a grateful CHRVA membership, thank you and God be with you!

The Election

The Board is made up of 15 directors who each serve two-year terms. This year we need to elect eight Board members. Some of the incumbents have chosen to run again and there are also other candidates on the ballot. See the Election article to read the bios of all of the candidates and choose the eight whom you feel will best represent your interests. The winners will be announced at the General Membership Meeting, on the website, on our Facebook page, and in the summer issue of Digs.

General Membership Meeting

I would like to extend a personal invitation for you to join the Board and Staff at the annual General Member Meeting on Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Comfort Inn Capital Beltway, 4050 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, Maryland 20705. I have spoken with many of you about various programs, heard your complaints, and discussed your suggestions. It would be great to have you at the next meeting to see what goes on and

to voice your thoughts and opinions. It's always wonderful for us to get fresh ideas, especially this year as we embark on creating a Strategic Plan for the Region.

Juniors

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the outdoor season. There is nothing like doubles and triples to firm up your passing and defense, especially if you don't generally get to play the back row. And for those who don't play the front row as often as they like, you can work on your hitting and dinking skills and placing the ball where your opponents aren't. You can do all of this while getting a great, but safe, tan.

Graduating High School Seniors

CHRVA has an adult program. If you will be staying in this area, your playing days are not over! You can join an existing adult team or get your friends together and start your own. We have a special Collegiate membership for college students. Varsity players cannot play USAV, but club players and teams are welcome. If you are interested but need some help, please contact the Adult Program Director.

Regional Championships

The Regional Championships have started. Good job for those who have played and won trophies or a spot at the National Championships for your age group. For those heading to the any of the National Championships, much luck to you all, but most of all have fun!