



## **Digs – Summer 2017**

### **From the President**

*Rebecca Ruiz Johannes, CHRVA President*

Thank you to all members that participated in this year's Board of Directors election. Be sure to read the election article in this newsletter for the results. You'll see we have many new faces in our leadership. I'm excited to hear the new ideas and see the new energy at work. I'm also pleased to continue working with the board as President.

Appointed chair positions will be confirmed at a meeting in July, and the website will be updated by August 15.

I want to congratulate all teams for another successful USA/CHRVA 2017 season! The indoor season is wrapping up but the outdoor season continues through September. Stay tuned for announcements about what's coming up in 2018.

See you on the courts!



## Digs – Summer 2017

### Commissioner's Corner

*Lisa DiGiacinto, CHRVA Commissioner*

It's summer time and exciting times for the Chesapeake region!

Each year our region recommends members to USA Volleyball for the Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Award. This award recognizes members whose countless hours of work in the region make our volleyball experience so wonderful. Our 2017 award winners for the Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Award are:

- Cindy Hillard
- Bree Seeger
- Dixie Collins
- Karen Love

Cindy and Bree have worked together to grow opportunities for the boys' indoor program. Dixie has devoted more than 30 years to the region in many roles – her name is synonymous with scoring. Karen has assisted the region with the Adult program and is currently the Women's B/BB Coordinator. Please join me in congratulating these ladies for receiving this award and thanking them for their endless commitment to the region.

Our outdoor juniors' opportunities have grown tremendously again this summer, especially for beach. I'd like to thank our Outdoor Coordinator, Irv Rodrigues, for working countless hours to grow the game.

During May and June, we hosted two USAV Junior Beach Tour events and one American Beach Tour event at Ocean City, Maryland. CHRVA runs the region's beach High Performance program for players who are seeking to play at the highest level. If you are looking for outdoor playing opportunities for both grass and beach or you'd like to take a clinic to improve your skills, [visit our website](#) for a list of upcoming tournaments and clinics. Outdoor volleyball is a great way to stay in shape and it's relaxing and fun. Come on out and support our tournaments – there are more than a dozen still to be held this summer!

Our indoor teams have finished their season at the USAV National Championships, and everyone had a great time. Our region was well represented at the national events – kudos to everyone!

Have a great volleyball summer!



## Digs – Summer 2017

### Results of the 2017 CHRVA Election

*Dan Youngs, Nominations and Election Chair*

The 2017 CHRVA Board of Directors election concluded in mid-April. Based on your votes, we have two members returning to – and six new people joining – the board.

Please join me in congratulating Rebecca Ruiz Johannes and Chris Cant on being re-elected.

I'd also like to welcome the following new board members:

- Wes Carver
- Denise Eddy
- Chris Gass
- Hoss Hewitt
- Monica Peele
- Alexis Reed

Our board has a lot of new faces, which means we'll have plenty of new energy and ideas on how to improve our region and how we can grow the game we all love.

I want to sincerely thank everyone that voted in this year's election and I hope you'll vote again next year. For those who did not vote, I hope you'll consider voting next time. Voting in the CHRVA Board of Directors election is one of your rights as a CHRVA member. **If you'd like to [share with me](#) confidentially why you didn't vote in this year's election (or a previous election), I welcome the opportunity to hear from you.**

Here is the timeline for next year's election:

- A call for nominations for the 2018 CHRVA Board of Directors election will be made in the December 2017 issue of this newsletter. Any CHRVA member may make nominations.
- Nominations will be due by the end of February 2018.
- The slate of candidates will be announced in the Spring 2018 issue of this newsletter. Voting will be open from the time the Spring 2018 issue of this newsletter is distributed through mid-April 2018.
- Results will be announced at the May 2018 CHRVA Board of Directors meeting, in the Summer 2018 issue of this newsletter, and on the CHRVA Facebook page.



## Digs – Summer 2017

### Dixie Collins Recognized for Service

Please join us in congratulating Dixie Collins for being recognized at Nationals and receiving this award (watch) for 30 years of service as a national official. In addition to Dixie working in the CHRVA region and working as a national official, she has also been a coach and assistant coach for USAV sitting teams. Thank you, Dixie, for all that you've done and continue to do for the volleyball community – locally, nationally, and internationally.



*Dixie Collins*

*30 year Award as a  
National Official*







## Digs – Summer 2017

### VA Juniors 14 Elite Selected Team Travel Source Community Service Award Recipient

*Adapted from a press release by Bill Kauffman, USA Volleyball*



Virginia Juniors 14 Elite from the CHRVA region was presented Team Travel Source's inaugural Community Service Award and a prize of \$1,000 on the opening day of the 38th Annual USA Volleyball Girls' Junior National Championships in Minneapolis.

The Team Travel Source Community Service Award is presented to one junior volleyball team that has made it a mission to improve its community through service and is committed to making the world a better place to live.

Virginia Juniors 14 Elite had come face-to-face with homelessness during its travels for volleyball. Instead of just walking by and ignoring the issue, the team members decided they wanted to do something to help.

The team completed a service project called "Blessing Bags." These Blessing Bags were gallon-sized baggies filled with practical items such as toiletries, snacks, and water as well as gift cards to local restaurants. Each team member took these bags with them to a recent tournament in

Philadelphia and handed them out to the homeless on their walk to the venue. According to its nomination form, the joy and satisfaction the team members experienced while carrying out the service project allowed the athletes to see that they really could make a difference in the lives of others and that there is no greater joy than giving back.

“We put together bags of socks, oatmeal, sandwiches, and everything that someone who is less fortunate would need for a week,” said Virginia Juniors 14 Elite captain Sarah Jordan. “We just wanted to give back and be grateful for what we have.”

[View the full press release on USAV’s website.](#)



## **Digs – Summer 2017**

### **Adult Program Updates**

*Monica Peele, Adult Program Director*

Wow, can you believe the season is over? Looking for results from the regional tournaments? Visit the Adults section of our [website](#) (then click on your division) or check out our [Facebook page](#).

### **CHRVA Summer Team Representative Meeting**

The Adult Program Team met with team representatives on Tuesday, June 6 to discuss the season and highlight possible changes for the 2017-2018 season. We discussed the challenges as well as the successes of this year's Adult Program.

To ensure the upcoming season is successful and that we have a balanced representation of members, we have formed the following committees:

- Marketing
- New Membership
- Tournament Committee
- Program Development and Evaluation Committee

We are looking for two additional members to participate in two of these committee. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact me no later than Friday, July 28.

Stay tuned for a progress report!

### **Hot Topics**

#### **Pilot Program**

- Our Women's A and Men's division pilot program was a success and we are looking forward to next season, with some much-needed modifications. Although the feedback regarding the program was positive there were some concerns noted:
  - To address your concerns regarding uniforms, Women's AA/A and Men's teams will be asked to wear a numbered jersey. You are not required to wear matching uniforms; however, numbers are required. Also, liberos must wear a contrasting jersey.

## Changes for the 2018 Season

- **Involuntary Movement:** staff has identified several concerns related to the process of balancing women's teams between the A, BB, and B divisions. With the assistance of the Eligibility Chair, we have identified items we will address during the off season.
- **NEW Pilot Program (New Playing Format):** the current point system was written in a time where the Adult Program could sustain and run single-level tournaments. For the past several years, the region has sanctioned multi-level tournaments for nearly every adult tournament, making it difficult for lower level teams in a mixed-level tournament to obtain points. The model discussed offers teams in the region more opportunities in mixed-level tournaments to acquire points towards regional competition.
- **Regionals:** the tentative date for regionals is Saturday, April 14, 2017.

There are additional changes on the horizon, which will be shared in the next issue of this newsletter. Stay tuned and have a wonderful summer!

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### Adult Program Staff

Women's AA/A Coordinator	Joan Ryan	<a href="mailto:Joan.ryan@chrva.org">Joan.ryan@chrva.org</a>
Men's Coordinator	Natisha Johnson	<a href="mailto:Natisha.Johnson@chrva.org">Natisha.Johnson@chrva.org</a>
Women's BB/B Coordinator	Karen Love	<a href="mailto:Karen.love@chrva.org">Karen.love@chrva.org</a>
Adult Program Director	Monica Peele	<a href="mailto:Monica.Peele@chrva.org">Monica.Peele@chrva.org</a>





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### Juniors News

*Indoor Update by Cindy Hillard, Boys Program Administrator*

### Girls' Junior National Championships

This year our Chesapeake Region sent 28 teams to compete in the GJNC in Minneapolis. This is by far the best showing by our region to date!

In another regional first, the Metro 18 Travel team was a double Open Level qualifier, having won bids in the Open Bracket in not one, but two national qualifiers!

Congratulations to the teams that represented the Chesapeake region! [Visit the websites and Facebook pages](#) for these teams as well as [USAV's website](#) and [Facebook page](#) to see pictures from nationals.

- 12 National Level - MVSA Vortex
- 12 American Level - Brandywine Backlash
- 13 National Level - Brandywine BAM
- 13 National Level - MD JRS 13 Elite
- 13 American Level - Metro 13 Travel
- 14 Open Level - Metro 14 Travel
- 14 USA Level - Columbia Condors
- 14 USA Level - VA Juniors 14 Elite
- 14 National Level - Brandywine Blitz
- 14 American Level - MVSA 14 Airbenders
- 14 American Level - PVBDE 14 Pink
- 15 Open Level - Metro 15 Travel
- 15 National Level - Brandywine Bobcats
- 15 American Level - MVSA Riot
- 15 American Level - Paramount 15's
- 16 Open Level - Metro 16 Travel
- 16 USA Level - VA Juniors 16's
- 16 National Level - MVSA 16 Fierce
- 16 American Level - Brandywine Blast
- 16 American Level - Arlington Elite 16 Blue
- 17 Open Level - Metro 17 Travel
- 17 National Level - Paramount 17's
- 17 National Level - Brandywine Blackout
- 17 American Level - VA Juniors 17's

- 18 Open Level - Metro 18 Travel
  - 18 National Level - MD JRS 18 Elite
  - 18 National Level - CEVA 18 Black
  - 18 American Level - Delaware United 18 Navy
  - 18 American Level - Virginia Top Team 18 Open
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*Outdoor Update by Irv Rodrigues, Outdoor Volleyball Coordinator*

### **Beach Program Update**

(For event pictures, visit the websites and Facebook pages of CHRVA's [outdoor tournament partners](#) as well as the beach section of [USAV's website](#) and USAV's [Facebook page](#).)

National Beach High Performance Programs have shifted to a new model. Tryouts were held on a zonal basis and players were selected for A4, A3, A2, and A1/National team programs. A record number of CHRVA players were selected to national HP programs, and a record number of players have joined the Regional Beach-HP program.

This year's crop of U12 players displayed skills and proficiency well beyond that of previous years. Many of our U14 players were successful in U16 competitions, and many of our U16 players were successful in U18 events. Our U16 and U18 players have proven themselves by winning Women's A, AA, and Women's OPEN or Co-ed Open division events.

The CHRVA region has added several new beach events and programs for juniors. These include joining the American Beach Tour series and adding new club programs in Maryland and Virginia.

The Beach-HP program will be training participants July 17-19. The U16 and U18 players are encouraged to participate in the AVP NEXT at Baltimore Beach following the camp. Younger players are encouraged to attend the JBT Championship in Florida as prep for the ABT-HP Championship in Florida.

CHRVA will be holding Sunday clinics / tryouts in August and September for the 2018 HP program.

### **Players in the Spotlight**

Chloe Sachs, Camryn Ehlers, Brook Dow, and Joycelyn Nathan have all been stand outs in U12. In U14, the stand outs have been Skyler Johnson, Raychel Ehlers, Julianna Quintero, Marillise Page, Gabriela Axelrod, and Abby Carian.

The U16 stand outs include Maddie Sachs, Isabelle O'Bryan, Peyton Grey, Peyton Yamagata, and Victoria (Tory) Johnson.

In U18, our stand outs are Savannah Siegrist, Jordan McKinney, Melanie Handlich, Kristiana Witte, Emma Lucey, and Piper Conners.

Among the boys, Christian Phung, Dalton Bunde, and Quinn Bailey have risen to a men's open division level.

### **Zonal Championships**

#### **U15**

Skylar Johnson - A2

Raychel Ehlers - A2

Julianna M. Quintero - Regional HP

Marilise Page - Regional HP

#### **U17**

Maddie Sachs - A2

Peyton Grey - A2

Victoria (Tori) Johnson - A2

Amber Oliver - A3 winner

Peyton Yamagata - A2

Christiana Stephenson - A3 winner

#### **U18**

Savannah Siegrist - Regional HP

Jordan McKinney - Regional HP



## Digs – Summer 2017

### From the Ladder

*Rebecca Ruiz Johannes, Referee Chair*

Our cadre of referees is beginning to grow and with growth comes leaders. I'd like to offer a HUGE congratulations to our three successful Junior National Referees: (l to r) Sondra Johnson, Doug Dunkle, and Becky Garcia. They all earned this honor through their hard work, which included refereeing countless matches and peer evaluations throughout the year. The process of becoming a Junior National Referee is grueling.

With a new season comes a new rulebook, and while there will be very few changes, you can always check the CHRVA website for updates as they become available. The certification process will remain the same. Fellowships for next season will be held in November; dates and locations will be posted on the website in the "Officials" section by August 15.

Please remember: to be a certified referee, you must also be a certified scorer. Juniors, keep in mind that you can register for clinics online before you make a team if you wish to begin the certification or renewal process early.





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### **At the Scorer's Table**

*Dixie Collins, Scorer Chair*

Welcome to the 2017-2018 season! If you are reading this article to find out how to become a newly certified scorer or how you can maintain your scoring certification, I am glad you are interested in staying informed. Let your friends know what you read here and encourage them to read this information as well. If you let your certification lapse and you keep score at a sanctioned tournament, you are jeopardizing your eligibility, your team's eligibility, and your referee rating. Everything you need to know should be on [the CHRVA website](#). Read and re-read all the information and if you still have questions, I'll do my best to answer them for you. Previously certified adults will be pre-registered and sent an email to help remind them of their status.

### **Junior Scorers**

You will have a chance to keep score on an actual score sheet during the clinic process. This score sheet will be turned in with the evaluation sheet that you take to tournaments and have the referee sign off on.

### **Clinic Attendance Policy**

All clinics and tests will be accessed through Webpoint in the Volleyball Academy. We anticipate this will be available by October 1, 2017. You must be a registered USAV member to access the clinic material.

### **Notice to CHRVA Referees - All Levels**

It is a requirement in this region that all referees (Player, Provisional, Regional, Jr National, and National) be certified scorekeepers. Please make sure your certification is current and you are completely knowledgeable on the scoring techniques. Being up to date ensures you will be instructing others in the latest and greatest techniques. You must also be a CHRVA-registered member of the current season. The new season starts September 1, 2017.

A new Domestic Competition Regulations book should be available September 1, 2017. Once it's available on [USAV's website](#), you'll be able to access it online. You may wish to download the book to your mobile device so you have all the latest rules at your fingertips.



## **Common Mistakes**

There are a few reminders of scoring practices that you need to be aware of for the upcoming season.

- There should not be a circle in the running score column unless there is a penalty point. Do not circle the final score in the running score column (the column with all the numbers). You should circle the last service round box (the boxes with the tiny numbers) with the final scores for each team, making sure that at least one team has a score of 25 or higher. Fill in the set results and the match results. If the match is only two sets, fill in 2-0, or 1-1.
  - When recording the game captain, their number goes in the circle at the top of each set. The square is only used for roster captains. We do not have rosters at the scorers' table during local region tournaments, so you will need to put an X in the box.
- All sanctions are carried over for the match. That means any time there is a sanction, it should be copied to the sanctions section for all sets. If separate score sheets are used and a sanction occurred in Set 1, the sanction would be copied to the score sheets for Sets 2 and 3. A wrong server is not a sanction and is no longer recorded on the score sheet in the sanctions section or remarks section. The only indication there was a wrong server would be no check on the tiny number in the service round box.
- There is a place on the score sheet for the first referee to sign indicating that the results are correct. After the scorekeeper signs the score sheet acknowledging all the information on the score sheet is correct and complete, the referee verifies and signs the score sheet.

## **Volunteers**

Thank you to the folks who volunteered to help with the scoring program last season: scorer assistants, raters, score sheet reviewers, volunteer scorers at regionals, and all those who kept score and helped someone else keep score. We will need lots of help again this season. Please email me if you are interested in helping.

If you are interested in rating at an adult or junior fellowship in November, December, or January, please let me know.

If everyone volunteers just a little, it makes the job more manageable for all. Thanks in advance.

## **National Scorer Requirements**

Those interested in becoming a National Scorer must not only prove their competence through keeping score during matches but also by their eagerness to participate in the region. The requirements are listed below.

To remain in good standing, National Scorers in the Chesapeake region must assist the program by actively participating.

- Assist Junior scorers at tournaments during January and February
- Assist with the certification process by being a rater
- Assist the Fellowship Committee with scheduling candidates for ratings
- Volunteer to keep score at Regionals

Yes, there is a lot going on and we ask all of you to do your best to help. [Check the CHRVA website](#) for continuous updates. Good luck in the coming season, and may all your score sheets be perfect!

### **Stats from Last Season**

- 56 certified Provisional Scorers
- 164 certified Regional Scorers
- 1,003 certified Junior Scorers
- 10 certified National Scorers
- 283 certified Level 1 Referees
- 17 certified Level 2 Referees
- 19 certified Adult Player Referees
- 63 certified Provisional Referees
- 60 certified Regional Referees



## Digs – Summer 2017

### Former CHRVA Member Joins USAV Team for Pan American Cup, Helps Team Win Gold

*Dado Singer, Director of Junior Programs*

Rhamat Alhassan may no longer be a CHRVA junior player, but since she is a local girl, I thought it worthwhile to share her story. (Rhamat is in the first row, second from the left. Photo courtesy of USAV.)

Rhamat did not start playing volleyball until her sophomore year in high school, where the coaches encouraged the 6' 4"



Glenarden, Maryland native to join the volleyball team. With Rhamat anchoring the middle, the Academy of the Holy Cross won back-to-back WCAC championships and she was named the 2013 WCAC player of the year. In addition, Rhamat made the 2012 and 2013 USAV Girls' Youth National Teams.

Following her three-year tenure with Metro American Volleyball Club, Rhamat was named to the U.S. Women's Junior National Team for the NORCECA U20 Continental Championship in 2014. The team won gold and Rhamat was named MVP, Best Blocker, and a member of the All-Star Team.

In 2016, the Florida Gator standout was named to the U.S. Women's National Team roster for the Pan Am games. She was a leading contributor to the team's bronze medal finish with a total of 64 points (36 kills, 24 blocks, and 5 service aces). In the team's only loss against Puerto Rico, Rhamat was the leading point scorer for USA with six kills, five blocks, and a service ace.

Rhamat was again named to the 12-player roster for the Pan American Cup that was recently played in Peru. I'm pleased to announce the team won the event after beating Dominican Republic 25-16, 19-25, 25-20, 25-23.

For more information about the team and players, visit [the USAV website](http://theUSAVwebsite.com).



**Digs – Summer 2017**

**Find us on Facebook! On the CHRVA page, we share event pictures, juniors news, important reminders, and much more! In the CHRVA group, players and teams are connecting.**

**Don't miss out! Find us on Facebook today.**



**Find us on  
Facebook**

**"Like" our page, which features announcements and photos.**  
[www.facebook.com/CHRVA/](http://www.facebook.com/CHRVA/)

**"Join" our group, which is for players/teams looking for players/teams.**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/CHRVA.Players.Teams.Looking](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CHRVA.Players.Teams.Looking)