

## **Introduction**

The United States Volleyball Association (USVBA) is the national governing body of the sport in the United States and is recognized by the Federation International de Volleyball and the United States Olympic Committee. The vision of the USVBA is to be acknowledged as the world leader in volleyball.

The Bayou Region Volleyball Association (BRVA) is a "Regional Volleyball Association" (RVA) of USA Volleyball. It is incorporated as a legal entity and is a "subsidiary" member organization of the National Governing Body (NGB) or USAV.

To aid the USAV in accomplishing the vision of becoming the world leader in volleyball, The Bayou Regional Volleyball Association serves as a grassroots functionary for the USAV and individually and collectively with other USAV member organization serves as a catalyst for USAV functions.

## **History of the BRVA**

### **2001**

The Bayou Regional Volleyball Association took its place among the many existing Regional Volleyball Associations (RVA's) which make up the Regional Operations Division (ROD) of USA Volleyball. The new regional consists of the entire state of Louisiana, an area formally included in the Delta Region, but like the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, a small but significant area of an originally much larger geographic territory.

The birth of the Delta Region, and ultimately the Bayou Regional Volleyball Association took place at the 1978 USAV National Championship Tournament in El Paso, Texas. Arkansas and Louisiana from the Southwest Region was merged with Mississippi, Alabama and West Tennessee from the Southern Region to form the Delta Region. Mr. Bob Morgan was appointed commissioner of the original Delta Region.

At the beginning of the 1982 season Carl Roberts, of Jacksonville, Arkansas, became the 2<sup>nd</sup> commissioner of the Delta Region. With the help of his wife Barbara, and because of their exhaustive efforts, the region grew into the successful region it is today. It is due to their commitment to the region and USA Volleyball that Carl and Barbara's efforts were recognized, resulting in USA Volleyball awarding them individually with the *George J. Fisher Leader in Volleyball Award*, named in honor of the 1<sup>st</sup> President of the USVBA (1928-1952) and a founding member of the organization. Whatever future success members of the Bayou Region Volleyball Association may enjoy, a great deal of gratitude is owed Carl and Barbara Roberts, now of Waycross, Georgia.

And success is what former Delta Region, and now Bayou Regional Volleyball Association, teams and clubs are used to. In addition to winning many of the Delta Region Championships in both adult and junior categories, junior teams from Louisiana have regularly competed well for the National Championship. We've had teams finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1987 (15's), 5<sup>th</sup> in 1996 (18's, 16's & 14's), 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1999 (12's), and won a Girls Junior National Championship in 1998 (Cajunland 14's).

### **2002**

The inaugural 2001-'02 season saw a membership total of 1100. Even though one of the smallest of the USA Regions, teams from the Bayou Regional competed with largest and best, winning one Gold Medal (Volleyball Baton Rouge 15 Black) and 3 Bronze Medals (Cajunland 13's, Cajunland 14's & Cajunland 15's) at the 2002 USA Junior Girls National Championships. In addition, Allie Blanche (VBR 15 Black) was named Most Valuable Player while Michele Ashmore (VBR 15 Black), Lauren Cross (VBR 15 Black), Rachel Poolson (Cajunland 15's) and Mary Claire Tucker (Cajunland 15's) were named to the Girls' 15-under Club All-Tournament Team.

USA Volleyball selected Louis Puissegur, Jr. (Cajunland VBC) as the recipient of the 2002 *Outstanding Program Director Award*.

The Region had two adult teams at the Adult National Championships, Outsiders (Men's A) and Quest IV (Women's AA).

### **2003**

Membership went over the 1200 mark for the first time in the 2003 season, fueled mostly by Junior Girls Programs. The region once again sent numerous representatives to the USA Girls Junior Olympic Championships, with teams competing in the Open Division for the first time and another high finish with Cajunland 15 Club taking the Silver Medal and placing three players on the 15-under Club All-Tournament Team, Emily Clements, Dayna LeBlanc, and Hayley Childress.

2003 saw the formation of a regional High Performance Program for the first time with Mike Barnes as the Director. Made up of all-stars from different clubs in the region, players attended a week long High Performance camp in July before the Bayou Youth team competed at and brought home the Gold Medal from the 2003 Volley Classic High Performance Tournament against other H-P programs from around the country. Bayou came back from a 2-0 deficit to defeat Aloha Region in a thrilling 5 set Championship Final, 19-25, 22-25, 25-19, 25-22, 16-14.

In the Adult Division, Quest IV (9<sup>th</sup>-Women's AA) represented the region at the USAV Adult National Championships.

### **2004**

Membership in the Bayou Regional continued to increase, this season going over the 1350 mark.

This year saw the first Adult Regional Championship with Tulane VBC winning. Instrumental in increasing adult participation was Adult Male Player Representative Bryan Dardar. In addition to motivating players to register with the Regional, Bryan also successfully lobbied to provide funding for adult teams to attend the USAV Adult National Championships. Three adult male teams participated, Court Jesters BB (19<sup>th</sup> overall, 4<sup>th</sup> Silver, Court Jester B (48<sup>th</sup> overall) and Forever Young 50's (25<sup>th</sup> overall).

In the officiating ranks, the region saw the addition of 1 new Junior National Referee, Jeff Brown, a new National Referee candidate, Doug Couvillon, a new National Scorekeeper, John Cline and a new International Scorekeeper, Malcolm Grimes. The region continues to provide opportunities for individuals interested in developing a career in officiating.

Junior participation continues to be the backbone of the Regional. Junior membership continued to increase as new clubs formed. For the second consecutive year a Regional High Performance program was held. In addition numerous teams competed at the annual US Girls Junior National Championships (Houston, TX). Participating clubs/teams included Cajunland 12's (11<sup>th</sup>), Blue Crab 12's (37<sup>th</sup>), Cajunland 13's (27<sup>th</sup>), Southern Spikers 13 Black (45<sup>th</sup>), Cajunland 14 Open Division (24<sup>th</sup>), Volleyball Baton Rouge 14's (26<sup>th</sup>), Cajunland 15 Open Division (17<sup>th</sup> - Flight 1 Champion), VBR 15's (22<sup>nd</sup>), VIA-LA 16's (41<sup>st</sup>-Flight 6 Champion), Cajunland 17's (13<sup>th</sup>), & Crescent City Jrs. 18's (29<sup>th</sup>-Flight 3 Champion).

### **2005**

The season included the great news the 2006 USAV Adult National Championships would be held in New Orleans creating a wonderful catalyst for the increase of adult membership and ended with the city of New Orleans being devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Membership in the BRVA increased to over 1500 and included the inaugural Baton Rouge Blastoff Jr. Tournament.

In the Adult Division, Court Jester's again sent teams (2) to the USAV Open Championships (Denver, CO). Court Jesters B finished 39<sup>th</sup> overall, Court Jesters BB finished 29<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Bronze).

The Junior Division sent teams in all age categories to the 2005 USA Junior Olympic Girls' Volleyball Championships held in Salt Lake City, UT.

**2006**

In spite of the devastation, the loss of at least 3 junior clubs and the uncertainty which engulfed the region, junior clubs and adults still managed to form teams and compete. However membership in the BRVA declined 9.5% to a total of 1363.

Although there was the loss of a couple of small junior tournaments, the regional did see the inaugural Red River Classic held in Shreveport.

In November '05 USA Volleyball recommitted and The 2006 USAV Adult National Championships was held at the end of May'06 in New Orleans.

Fifteen adult teams (the most ever by the BRVA) competed in the championship tournament and two BRVA teams' won National Championships, Women's BB-Starfish & Women's U-Volley BB/B-Lady Court Jesters. Adult men's team who competed included: Men's BB- Court Jesters Hurricanes (5<sup>th</sup>) & Court Jesters Refugees (33<sup>rd</sup>); Men's B- Court Jesters Rescue (5<sup>th</sup>) & Court Jesters Hydra (10<sup>th</sup>); Men's 50- Outsiders (10<sup>th</sup>) & Forever Young 50's (17<sup>th</sup>); Men's 55- Forever Young 55's (13<sup>th</sup>); Men's U-Volley- Court Jester Katrina Rescue (5<sup>th</sup>).

Adult women's teams included: Women's A- Hammond Fossils (17<sup>th</sup>) & Ignatius (44<sup>th</sup>); Women's B- Lady Court Jesters (5<sup>th</sup>); Women's 50- Unknowns (7<sup>th</sup>); Women's 60- Dixie Volley Chicks (4<sup>th</sup>).

In the Junior Division, the region sent teams which competed in all age divisions at the USAV Jr. National Championships.

In the Officials' Division the region gained a new National Scorekeeper- Darlene Taylor, a new Jr. National Referee - Darlene Taylor and welcomed the new Referee Chair for the region - Doug Couvillon.

Competing and winning championships is not all what the Bayou Regional Volleyball Association is about. Because those who choose to play, coach and watch volleyball know it has many positive things to offer those who participate. Whether a gifted athlete or a beginner, volleyball is fun! For those who play and coach, it is not only good exercise but also involves team cooperation and spirit and builds lasting friendships.

**Meritorious Service Awards**

The **Robert L. Lindsay Meritorious Service Award** is designed to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to volleyball at the regional level. Each regional is allowed to recommend up to five individuals each year to USAV. Former recipients are not eligible to receive this award from the same member Organization.

**Annual Award Winners:**

<b>2001 - Andrew Beyer,</b>	<b>Lee Feinswog</b>	
<b>2002 - Lou Puissegur, Jr.</b>	<b>Jimmy Miranda</b>	
<b>2003 - Michael Barnes</b>	<b>Bryan Dardar</b>	<b>Malcolm Grimes</b>
<b>2004 - No awards presented</b>		
<b>2005 - Betsy Becker</b>	<b>Greg Castillo</b>	
<b>2006 - Darlene Taylor</b>	<b>Scott Clause</b>	

**2006 Bayou Regional Champions**

**Juniors:**

**Girls: National Division\***

- 12's Krewe (of John) (29<sup>th</sup>)
- 13's Cajunland Arlinda (5<sup>th</sup>)
- 14's Volleyball Baton Rouge (Brenda) (22<sup>nd</sup>)
- 15's Volleyball Baton Rouge (Regan) (35<sup>th</sup>)
- 16's Volleyball Baton Rouge (John) (35<sup>th</sup>)
- 17's Cajunland (Greg) (31<sup>st</sup>)
- 18's VIALA (Jimmy) (33<sup>rd</sup>)

**Bayou Division**

- Blue Crab 12Red
- Southern Spikers (Kristen)
- Cayenne (Red)
- Volleyball Baton Rouge
- Southern Spikers (Crystal)
- Ascension Aces
- Ascension Aces

(\* - Qualified for USA Volleyball Girls' Junior Olympic National Championship Tournament)

Other BRVA Jr. Girls teams that qualified to attend the 2006 USAV Girls Jr. Olympic Volleyball Championships (Atlanta, GA).

- 12's Cajunland Caroline (49<sup>th</sup>)

**Adults: Male:** Court Jesters Hurricanes **Female:** N/A

**2005 Bayou Regional Champions**

**Juniors:**

**Girls: National Division\***

- 12's Blue Crab 12Blue
- 13's Cajunland JayJay
- 14's Volleyball Baton Rouge Brenda
- 15's Volleyball Baton Rouge Donna
- 16's Krewe of Jodee
- 17's Blue Crab
- 18's VIA Jimmy

**Bayou Division**

- Southern Spikers Kristen
- Southern Spikers Crystal
- Southern Spikers Courtney
- St. Tammany Starz
- Southern Spikers Summer
- Ascension Aces 17-1

(\* - Qualified for USA Volleyball Girls' Junior Olympic National Championship Tournament)

Other Regional Junior Girls teams that qualified to go to the 2005 USAV Girls Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships (Salt Lake City, UT).

- 12's Cajunland Arlinda

**Adults: Male:** Court Jesters **Female:** N/A

## 2004 Bayou Regional Champions

### Juniors:

#### Girls: National Division\*

12's Blue Crab (37<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 13's Southern Spikers 13 Black (45<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 14's Volleyball Baton Rouge Black (26<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 15's Volleyball Baton Rouge Black (22<sup>nd</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 16's VIA 16 Preston (41<sup>st</sup> @USAGJOVC-Flight 6 Champion)  
 17's Cajunland 17's (13<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 18's Crescent City Jrs. (29<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC-Flight 3 Champion)

#### Bayou Division

VIA 12's  
 Southern Spikers 13 Pink  
 VIA Jody  
 VIA Jimmy  
 New Orleans Hurricanes 16Blue  
 N/A  
 River Parish 18's

(\* - Qualified for USA Volleyball Girls' Junior Olympic National Championship Tournament)

Other Regional Junior Girls teams that qualified to go to the USAV Girls Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships.

12's Cajunland Arlinda 12's (11<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 13's Cajunland JayJay (27<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 14's Cajunland 14 Open (24<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC-Open Division)  
 15's Cajunland 15 Open (17<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC-Open Division)

**Adults:** Male: Tulane VBC Female: N/A

The following teams represented the Bayou Regional at the USAV Adult Championships.

**Male:** Court Jesters BB (19/63), Court Jesters B (48/54), Forever Young 50's (25/25)

## 2003 Bayou Regional Champions

### Junior

#### Girls: National Division\*

12's Cajunland Arlinda (5<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 13's Cajunland JayJay (25<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 14's Volleyball Baton Rouge Black (43<sup>rd</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 15's VIA-LA Jimmy (Did not compete @USAGJOVC)  
 16's Volleyball Baton Rouge Black (21<sup>st</sup> @USAGJOVC-Open Div.)  
 17's Cajunland Matt (37<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 18's New Orleans Hurricanes White (45<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)

#### Bayou Division

N/A  
 Southern Spikers 13-1  
 Southern Spikers 14-1  
 Southern Spikers 15-1  
 Southern Spikers 16-1  
 Southern Spikers 17-1  
 VIA-LA Jody

(\* - Qualified for USA Volleyball Girls' Junior Olympic National Championship Tournament)

Other Regional Junior Girls teams that qualified to go to the USAV Girls Junior Olympic Volleyball Championships.

12's Blue Crab 12's (45<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 14's Cajunland 14 Tommy (24<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC-Open Division)  
 15's Cajunland 15 Paul (2<sup>nd</sup>-Silver Medal @USAGJOVC) Krewe 15's (53<sup>rd</sup> @USAGJOVC)  
 16's Krewe 16's (45<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC) Cajunland 16's (25<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC-Open Division)  
 17's Crescent City Juniors 17's (13<sup>th</sup> @USAGJOVC)

**Adults:** No Regional Adult Championship Tournament was held.

The following teams represented the Bayou Regional at the USAV Adult Championships.

**Women's AA** – Quest IV

## 2002 Bayou Regional Champions

### Junior Girls:

#### National Division\*

10's N/A  
 12's Cajunland Arlinda (1<sup>st</sup> Silver Bracket @USAVJO's)  
 13's Cajunland JayJay (Bronze Medal @USAVJO's)  
 14's Cajunland Tommy (Bronze Medal @USAVJO's)  
 15's Krewe VB (27<sup>th</sup> @USAVJO's)  
 16's Volleyball Baton Rouge Black (37<sup>th</sup> @USAVJO's)  
 17's New Orleans Hurricanes White (29<sup>th</sup> @USAVJO's)  
 18's Cajunland Greg (36<sup>th</sup> @USAVJO's)

#### Bayou Division

Blue Crab  
 Southern Spikers  
 N/A  
 Southern Spikers  
 Volleyball Baton Rouge Green  
 Southern Spikers  
 New Orleans Hurricanes Blue  
 Slidell VBC

(\* - Qualified for USA Volleyball Girls' Junior Olympic National Championship Tournament)

Other Regional Junior Girls teams that qualified to go to the 2002 USAV Junior Olympic National Championships.

15's Volleyball Baton Rouge 15's Black (1<sup>st</sup>-Gold Medal @USAVJO's)  
 15's Cajunland 15's Tommy (Bronze Medal @USAVJO's)

**Adults:** No Regional Adult Championship Tournament was held.

The following teams represented the Bayou Regional at the USAV Adult Championships.

**Women's AA** - Quest IV

**Men's A** - Outsiders

