



NAGVA

North American Gay Volleyball Association
Special Election Packet

Special Election Townhall 2022

North American Gay Volleyball Association

MAL Special Election Townhall

Sunday July 24, 2022

Digital Forum via Zoom

Room opens at 2:30 pm EST/11:30 am PST
Meeting Begins at 3:00 pm EST/12:00 am PST

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679810459?pwd=SmgrdkNLRm8xemVxZXRpdUxuSHZkZz09>

Meeting ID: 836 7981 0459

Password: Volleyball

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83679810459>

Password: 8097417344

Townhall Rules of Engagement

Please ensure an understanding of ZOOM, link provided below to ZOOM tutorials:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>

When entering the room please put your ID as your first and last name so that we can confirm membership and entry into the meeting.

Please ensure you are on mute at all times, unless you have been recognized by Chair and have the floor.

Please raise hand via ZOOM chat to establish to the Chair that you would like to take the floor.

Robert's Rules of Order will be used to run this meeting. (See Attachment B)

If you are speaking, please state your name prior to beginning as to notify the Assembly.

If you call-in, please confirm your identity or you will be removed from the meeting.

1. Welcome Lew Smith, President

2. NAGVA Special Election Lew Smith, President
 a. Received Nominations:
 - i. Frank Bowman
 - ii. Aaron Keller
 - iii. Roderick Mobley
 - iv. Kerry B Phomtavong (Ohu)
 - v. Jordan Rosenberg
 - vi. Lindsay Scanlan
 - vii. Bronson Young



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Attachment A



NAGVA

North American Gay Volleyball Association

NAGVA Member-at-Large – Letter of Intent

Good afternoon NAGVA family,

Please let this email serve as my letter of intent to be considered for the MAL opportunity. I played my first NAGVA tourney in 1992 and still remember what an impact that first tourney had on me as a college student athlete struggling with being gay. Since 92, I have had the pleasure of enjoying so many tournament across North America and beyond and volleyball has been intertwined with my life ever since.

I took a few years off from playing and hit the NAGVA circuit hard again in 2015 and have enjoyed in tremendously since then. I am grateful for all the volunteers before me that have helped NAGVA continue to evolve and strengthen. I hope that I can give my time to this community that has provided me life ping friendships, triumphs and defeats and so many lessons about life.

I look forward to the next steps of the process.
Thanks again for the oppportunity to be considered.

-Frank Bowman



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North American Gay Volleyball Association

NAGVA Member-at-Large – Letter of Intent

Hi,

I am writing to express interest in the Member-at-Large position on the NAGVA board. I have been a NAGVA member since 2015, and I have served as a team captain every year since 2016.

I have several ideas that I would like to bring to the organization to expand the player base and to improve the playing experience.

First, I would like to add functionality to the “Matchmaker” page on the NAGVA website. Currently, it is only possible to communicate via email, and in my personal experience, I have not been able to get the email hyperlink to work, so even for players who post their interest on that page, I have had to try to find them on Facebook in order to converse with them. Facebook is only declining in its user base appeal, especially among younger people, so an improved experience hosted on the NAGVA page would add value and serve as a more appropriate hub for the organization.

Second, I would like to add the option for players to be assigned to a team – and for teams to indicate interest in being assigned a player for a certain position – if they are interested. This would significantly help in facilitating building teams and allowing players to enter more tournaments. This could be piloted for a specific division – e.g., the A division – and have certain stipulations – e.g., the player would have to already be rated in the division in which they’re trying to play, the player would have to submit a non-refundable portion of the tournament fee, etc. – in order to ensure this option isn’t abused, especially during an initial pilot phase of a rollout, but I believe that this could easily be worked out to the organization’s benefit.

Third, I would like to explore the opportunity to provide financial incentives – e.g., discounted annual dues, reduced team fees at a tournament, etc. – for people to 1) bring new players into NAGVA and, 2) keep playing after being uprated. The A division is essentially on life support at this stage, and COVID has undoubtedly had an effect on the size of the overall membership base. Incentivizing players to bring in new blood and retaining those players after a re-rate – I don’t have data on this, but my guess is that a very significant number of players stop playing within the organization after being uprated, especially those moving from BB to A – would have a positive impact on membership.

Finally, I would like to add transparency and decision-making criteria on where the Championships tournament is held. Hosting the 2023 NAGVA Championships in Fort Lauderdale, FL, a state 1) in which there are no regular season NAGVA tournaments, 2) that is one of the most geographically isolated places in the continental United States, and 3) that is serving as the political springboard for a governor to run for president on one of the most anti-LGBTQ platforms in the United States, doesn’t feel like it’s really in the best interests of this organization right now. I would like for this process to be more transparent to the NAGVA community and have a greater consideration of geographic proximity to regular season tournaments as well as the proposed destination’s treatment of the LGBTQ community.

Thanks for your consideration,

Aaron



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North American Gay Volleyball Association

NAGVA Member-at-Large – Letter of Intent

My name is Roderick Mobley, and I have been a part of the NAGVA family for just over 20 years now. Initially NAGVA was totally about volleyball: I got to play good volleyball again in an environment where I could be just as sassy on the court as I was competitive. As I played more, it became more about the people and the organization. As my career moved me from the east coast to the midwest to my home now in California, I was constantly in search of a place to step into the community, and NAGVA provided that for me in every city I lived. That extensive network of volleyball enthusiasts provided me with some of my fiercest (and I do mean FIERCE) competitors and some of the dearest friends who are like family to me now. And while my body is telling me to reconsider playing that much volleyball over two days, I still want to stay connected to that network through providing any services that I can as a member-at-large on the board.

I ran for member-at-large a few years ago as well and presented some ideas for consideration. One such idea was to see NAGVA become more accessible to new and developing teams. The B division is pretty stacked at the higher end, so it can be quite discouraging for new competitors to find a foot in the organization. It is a learning experience for those teams that go 0-8 (they get to see how other teams move, communicate, and play), but I am not so sure that the experience is enjoyable, as I believe NAGVA weekends should be. (And having played in some of those matchups over the years, I have to admit that those games weren't that much fun to win and not the competition I wanted for the weekend.) We should consider splitting the B division into B1 and B2 divisions or adding more tournaments that have a C division. I have watched the development of the women's division over the years and see how that work has improved the experience of the women in our volleyball community and would love to see young players come in, get some experience, and want to come back. I'm not sure how viable this idea is at the moment, but it is an idea I would like to explore.

-Roderick Mobley



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North American Gay Volleyball Association

NAGVA Member-at-Large – Letter of Intent

Dear Lew Smith & The NAGVA Board Of Directors,

I, Kerry B Phomtavong (Ohu), would like to formally announce that I intend to run for a Member at Large position on the NAGVA Board for this Special Election that is being held in July 2022. I am doing so with the complete understanding of the responsibilities and duties of the Member- At-Large position as identified in the NAGVA Bylaws.

I have been playing NAGVA for about four years and I play volleyball out of San Francisco Bay Area with the Balls of Furry Volleyball Group. I have been a team captain for our local league and have also been a captain for several teams in NAGVA tournaments. I was born and raised on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, so volleyball has always been a part of my life. I'm always looking for ways to give back and grow the sport that I hold so very dearly to my heart.

Ever since I started playing NAGVA, I have helped out with local tournaments here in San Francisco/Bay Area, such as the Red, White, Blue Ball, the NorCal Classic, and this year our first Last Minute Blow-Out. In Maui, I also had the honor to help with the Na Hoa Aloha Volleyball Invitational 2021 and will be helping out again this year as the players experience coordinator and showing the Aloha spirit. I am thrilled that NAGVA has a presence in my home state. Also, I will be helping out with 2 other tournaments this year, Portland for the Fall Ball and Salt Lake for the 1st annual SL,UT Tournament. I'm always willing to help out where help is needed and I don't mind giving up my weekend to help with the sport that I love so very much. If I go to a tournament and help is needed, I always jump in and help out the tournament staff, a fellow NAGVA captain or the players. I strongly feel that we are all in this together and it takes a village to make tournaments run smoothly.

In NAGVA, I have played as a backrow player in the B Division as a Libero or Defensive Specialist and have played in over 10 tournaments. I look forward to playing more! I want to help NAGVA grow and not just for the LGBTQI+ community, but for everyone and have it be a safe space where anyone can be themselves. I also want to learn from the current NAGVA Board Member to gain as much knowledge as possible.

I have had the best time since joining NAGVA and playing in tournaments and making new friends, who have even become family. I look forward to growing my NAGVA network and in possible helping in the work of the Board. Ultimately, I want to help this wonderful organization grow.

Mahalo,
Kerry B Phomtavong (Ohu)



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North American Gay Volleyball Association

NAGVA Member-at-Large – Letter of Intent

Dear Lew Smith and NAGVA Board,

I, Jordan Rosenberg, am writing to announce my intent to run for the special election for the 1 year Member at Large position.

I know of the responsibilities and duties that come with being a board member and look forward to the possibility of working with NAGVA.

I have been involved with volleyball since a very young age and fell in love with the sport through playing it as a youth. I'm lucky enough to be able to do volleyball as my career and chase this passion for the rest of my life. I was fortunate enough to be a college athlete and play volleyball at two different institutions before taking time off school. When my collegiate playing days ended, I was introduced into NAGVA to play competitively again and it has been one of the most positive experiences of my life. As a queer athlete, I craved a way to figure out how to continue to be an athlete while being openly LGBTQ+. This is something I struggled with through a majority of my life and this organization has helped me become comfortable with who I am. I've have experience coaching at the collegiate level, high school level, youth level and running club volleyball organizations. In addition to those experiences, I have worked as a social media manager, recruiting coordinator and webmaster. Educationally, I hold both a Bachelor of Science and Masters (5/7/22) in Sport Management with focuses in business and sport communication.

As a NAGVA member since August 2016, the last almost 6 years have been filled with tournaments, networking and traveling to over 30 tournaments. I believe that I can bring a lot of insight to the Board and NAGVA Organization as a whole while helping the organization to grow. I believe that every board member brings their own special skill set to the table that is important to the organization and I would like to bring my experience in working with volleyball associations at many different levels to NAGVA. I hope that this will help with its continual growth and helping with representation of LGBTQ+ athletics. I previously ran in 2019 for a Member-At-Large position which I did not get, which I am glad about. At that point in my life, I was not ready for a position like this, however, I now spend my career working in athletics, where I serve on many sub-committees and even started a student-organization at my current employer for LGBTQ+ Student-Athletes and allies in rural Iowa.

I look forward to speaking with everyone and assisting in the growth of NAGVA. I can be reached at 847-791-8096 if anyone has any questions.

Best,

Jordan Rosenberg



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North American Gay Volleyball Association

NAGVA Member-at-Large – Letter of Intent

NAGVA Secretary and NAGVA Board of Directors,

In accordance with the Bylaws of the North American Gay Volleyball Association, Article IV, Section 4.02 (A & B), I submit my Letter of Intent for the Member at Large position for the 2022-2023 term.

I have been a member of NAGVA for almost 7 years now and played in multiple tournaments all over the country. Love this community and I have had a few people reach out to me about becoming a member of the Board and what better way then being a direct voice of the members. I believe I can be an advocate for the members not only in the sport of volleyball but also life in general. I have been a part of the Dallas Independent Volleyball Association (DIVA) board in the past and one of our main goals was community outreach and being a voice for those that sometimes are not heard.

I could be an ideal voice for members of particularly the Texas Region that holds 3 tournaments of the year and I believe is one of the largest tournaments as well as has a vast majority of members, as well as concerns from B to Open. While I have not played in B nor Open, I have connections with multiple people in those levels. I also believe I have vast experience and understanding of the sport of volleyball to help in diverse concerns. I don't mind speaking to anyone and everyone about concerns within not only the NAGVA volleyball community but also the LGBTQIA+ community and where opportunities for growth to make our organization the best it can be.

To be an accomplished Member-At-Large board member, my goal is to listen to everyone but not try to solve every issue or compliant that comes forward. People need to understand that there are rules in place for specific reasons and while things can get "out of date" not everything can be changed with a snap of fingers.

In conclusion, I understand the time and effort that all members of the board volunteer for and I am willing, able and excited to be a part of the time and effort in hopes that we continue to move NAGVA forward in the best possible way.

I am open to any questions or further discussions needed, so please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you very much for the opportunity to do more for this organization.

Thanks,
Lindsay Scanlan



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North American Gay Volleyball Association

NAGVA Member-at-Large – Letter of Intent

NAGVA Secretary and Board of Directors,

In accordance with the Bylaws of the North American Gay Volleyball Association, Article IV, Section 4.03 (A), I submit my Letter of Intent for the open Member At-Large Position for the 2022-2023 Special Election Term.

I have been a member of NAGVA since 2009 and have had the privilege of being able to play in a multitude of tournaments across North America since then. I have also had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people from all walks of life, who love the sport of volleyball just as much, if not more than I do. Furthermore, I have been given the honor to volunteer for NAGVA as a Regional Commissioner for over 6 years.

During my tenure as a member and Regional Commissioner of NAGVA, I've had the opportunity to speak with many of the members from various regions throughout our organization. I've heard stories of great joy, triumph, success, and love, however, I've also heard many opinions and suggestions on how our organization can continue to improve and grow to be even more successful. It is with these experiences that I feel that I can more than adequately represent the Membership as one of the four Members At-Large and help to be a voice of the Membership.

Additionally, as an A-rated member, one of my main goals, if elected as a Member At-Large, would be to find ways to increase the opportunities and inclusion for members who are rated A and AA. One of my fondest memories of NAGVA was having the opportunity to watch the AA Finals at my first NAGVA Championships in Chicago '09. It was breathtaking to see other people, who looked and acted like me, playing the sport I love, being so carefree, loud, and open. I want to ensure that future NAGVA members can still have an experience similar to mine watching high-level volleyball, whilst still knowing that it's okay to be their true selves.

I am excited for the opportunity to run for the position of Member At-Large, and know that the responsibility of representing the Membership is truly one of the most important responsibilities within our organization. It is not a responsibility to be taken lightly. I truly do love what this organization has done for me personally, and for so many countless others of our community, and want to be a part of its continuing legacy.

If there are any other questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly. I am always open for conversation. Thank you for your consideration and potential opportunity to serve alongside the rest of the board as a voice of the Membership.

Respectfully,
Bronson Young



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Attachment B

Robert's Rules of Order – the Basics

Parliamentary procedure is a set of rules for conducting orderly meetings that accomplish goals fairly. Benefits of parliamentary procedure include the following:

- Justice and courtesy for all
- Maintenance of order
- Consideration of one item at a time
- All sides get heard
- Ability for each member to provide input
- Majority rule
- Protection of the rights of all members including the minority

Basic Principles

- All members have equal rights, privileges and obligations
- No person can speak until recognized by the chair
- Personal remarks during debate are out of order
- Only one question at a time may be considered, and only one person may have the floor at any one time
- Members have a right to know what the immediately pending question is and to have it restated before a vote is taken
- Full and free discussion of every main motion is a basic right
- A quorum must be present for business to be conducted
- A majority decides a question except when basic rights of members are involved or a rule provides otherwise.
- A 2/3 vote is required for any motion that deprives a member of right in any way (e.g., cutting off debate)
- Silence gives consent. Those who do not vote allow the decision to be made by those who do vote.
- The Chair should always remain impartial

Basic Definitions

Motion – A formal proposal made to bring a subject before an assembly for its consideration and action. Begins with “I move that...”

Second – A statement by a member who agrees that the motion made by another member be considered. Stated as “Second,” or “I second the motion.”

Amendment – Before the vote is taken on a motion, it may be amended by:

- Striking out words
- Inserting or adding words
- Striking out words and inserting others in their place

- Substituting one (1) paragraph or resolution for another

Presiding officer/Chair – The individual who facilitates the meeting, usually the President.

General rules of Debate:

- No member may speak until recognized by the chair
- All discussion must be relevant to the immediately pending question
- No member can speak more than twice to each debatable motion. The second time takes place after everyone wishing to debate the motion has had an opportunity to speak once
- No member can speak more than three minutes or as decided by members.
- All remarks must be addressed to the chair – no cross debate is permitted
- It is not permissible to speak against one's own motion (but one can vote against one's own motion)
- Debate must address issues not personalities – no one is permitted to make personal attacks or question the motives of other speakers
- The presiding officer must relinquish the chair in order to participate in debate and cannot reassume the chair until the pending main question is disposed of
- When possible, the chair should let the floor alternate between those speaking in support and those speaking in opposition to the motion
- Members may not disrupt the assembly
- Rules of debate can be changed by a 2/3 vote or general consent without objection

Helpful terminology:

- Recommendations, bylaws, rules, resolutions, budgets, and audits are **adopted**.
- Reports are **filed**.
- Resignations are **accepted**.
- Bills and minutes are **approved**.
- If corrections were made to the minutes, the minutes are then **approved as corrected**.
- Treasurer's statement is neither approved nor adopted; but after questions are answered regarding any item as reported, it is **placed on file for audit** as stipulated in the bylaws.
- Motions are recorded as "**adopted**" or "**lost**."