



President's Report - Sept 2023

Nolan Ahn, PAK President

Okay, here goes. I am trying something new. That's a big deal for a crusty 74 year old. I am in Los Angeles visiting grandchildren. Away from my PC and my Word files. Trying to write on an ipad with a "magic keyboard" on a foreign program called Pages. The program is full of icons I don't understand and it feels weird not having Word's grammar and spelling auto-correct. Deadlines are deadlines, and I must pound this out. Please bear with me.

The first thing I must share with you are the results from our first PAK survey. I know many just want to see if they won the drawing for the new Engage Paddle we gave away as an incentive. Unless you are Darlene Shimatsu, you did not! Please see Darlene featured on this month's Kauai player profile. She is a great pickleball player, as well as lucky! What a great response, though. Typically, surveys get a very poor response, but more than a hundred members gave us valuable insights on how we as an organization can serve our growing membership base. Here are the results without comment or analysis, and a picture of Darlene.

Survey Results:





The next announcement follows up on an earlier notification of a FUN Pickleball Tournament PAK will run for the Rice Street Business Association and Kalena Park in October. We truly regret that we can only accommodate 48 players and that there are only two age brackets. This is because there are only three courts at Kalena Park, and we only have one day to run the event. For details, please visit "tournaments" under the Let's Play tab on our website. Hurry, because registration has been heavy and it is first paid first served. Lucia Bartels, our PAK VP will be tournament chair, as Rumi Masumura will be on the mainland playing tournaments at the time.



Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/UJuiAEhwDTNN9Aqj8>

One of the things we were surprised to learn from the survey was there is a significant number of people who state they will not pay anything to play pickleball at a quality facility. If this is true, we may have to re-think our plans



and meeting rooms, has the largest covered pickleball courts in the nation with 12 courts. Within two years, the sport grew so much an additional 12 courts were built and are constantly in use with professional staff. Modest fees are charged, and the Opelika Sports Complex is a source of pride for the community and the nation.

2. The Sequim Model. We have been modeling our association after the Sequim Picklers from our inception. Years ago, the non-profit donated a substantial amount of money to the County in exchange for it to build eight court facility at a County park. Programming control of the facility was given to the Sequim Picklers, and hundreds of events have been run successfully since.

3. The Lincoln Model. Recently, visitors from Lincoln, Nebraska visited with PAK and shared how their relationship with their Parks Department developed. They had previously donated \$300,000 to the City in exchange for a limited use of the resultant courts being placed under the control of the Lincoln Picklers. Currently, renegotiations are pending for additional donations and how that partnership will move forward.

We shall see if Kauai County can recognize the tremendous need for more and better courts, and that court management is the best way to provide a positive experience for our residents and visitors. Stay tuned, folks. It appears neither one of us alone can do it, but together, we hope to move mountains!

Until next month,
Nolan

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