

# 2022 PPPA Year End Report

## Summary

The Pikes Peak Pickleball Association is 12 years old and in the year 2022 made important decisions to move the organization forward: opening Board meetings for members to attend and speak, establishing a process to appoint new Board members, and updating the bylaws and policies. Important work was accomplished working with the city to influence the design of the new Coleman Community Park planned for the east side of Colorado Springs. PPPA's community outreach this year was to two specific groups, Wounded Warriors and an underserved elementary school. PPPA continued to mentor and assist nascent pickleball associations across the country. Education and Training programs blossomed and were improved with a new app for Ladder Play and a new Round Robin 4.0 level to meet the demand. PPPA reinstated the membership ice cream social that had elapsed since COVID and introduced a new Fall Ya'll social. After this year, the Association is in a good position to focus even more on its mission of promoting the sport of pickleball in 2023.

## City and County Government Relations

**Inclusion of Pickleball Courts in Coleman Community Park.** Given that the current demand for pickleball courts far exceeds the Colorado Springs capacity, throughout 2023, PPPA worked closely with El Paso County Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services to help develop and design concepts that included pickleball courts in the future Coleman Community Park, a 70-acre mostly undeveloped park asset, located in eastern Colorado Springs near the intersection of Tutt Avenue and Barnes Road. For those not familiar with the area, the future park will be close to UCHHealth Park (home of the Rocky Mountain Vibes baseball team) and Ragain Field (former Switchbacks soccer stadium), and it is envisioned to function similarly to MVP or JVCP with sports fields and a universally accessible playground.

It was not easy, but thanks to excellent collaboration between Mick Tingstrom, Jeff Norton, and the Parks & Recreation planning team, as well as significant participation in multiple community engagement events and post-event surveys by PPPA members and residents interested in the sport of pickleball, **18-20 pickleball courts** were included in all three design concepts for the future park.

Additionally, PPPA provided the Parks & Recreation planning team an extensive requirements document that captures the minimum requirements and considerations for a 20-court public pickleball venue at the future Coleman Community Park. The document was informed by PPPA's lessons learned when helping to build and operate public pickleball courts here in Colorado Springs (MVP, BCRP, and JVCP), and contains best practices gleaned from two 20+ court pickleball venues in Saint George, Utah and in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

PPPA's work is not finished. Continued collaboration early in 2023 with the Parks & Recreation planning team will be critical to ensure the recommendation for 18-20 pickleball courts (and associated parking and restroom facility) are incorporated into the final Master Plan. After the Master Plan is finalized, PPPA will continue its engagement and help inform the final design and construction drawings that is expected to run from years 2023 to 2025. Construction of the park, pending available funding, is scheduled to occur in 2025-2026. This is a marathon, not a sprint, but a race well worth running!

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## Communications and Public Relations

**Community Outreach.** Community outreach beyond Colorado Springs has become another element in our PPPA Mission of promoting the sport of pickleball. During this last year PPPA has continued to mentor other start-up pickleball organizations. Based on our PPPA website and word-of-mouth, the Board of Directors routinely gets requests from those trying to form their own pickleball clubs asking the same basic question: “How were you able to make this happen?” Over the last several years, we have mentored 31 start-ups from across Colorado and the US, including Alaska, sharing with them our 12-year history and lessons learned. This includes specific examples of how our great volunteers, organizational structure, communications, education and training programs, fundraising, and outstanding local government relations have helped us succeed in building one of the largest pickleball associations in the country.

**Wounded Warrior Beginner Lessons.** Our PPPA outreach was vibrant in 2022. We had the awesome opportunity to introduce some of your valiant “Wounded Warriors” to the great sport of pickleball. Each of these ladies participated in our initial clinic that was coordinated by Dan Lovelace, the Education and Training Director. Joe Johnson followed up with these four who showed enthusiastic interest in continuing to play. Joe offered each of them a new paddle if they stayed together as a foursome and continued to play. All four of them expressed the sheer joy they get from playing and the new bond of friendship they formed with each other. In 2023 PPPA will continue to offer these types of opportunities to organizations seeking to use pickleball as a means to enhance the services they offer to their participants. These warriors have become a permanent group playing at Monument Valley Park. If you see them, please offer a “thank you” for their service!



**Oak Creek Elementary School.** PPPA was presented with a unique opportunity to provide support to Oak Creek Elementary School in Harrison School District 2. The gym teacher, Ms. Emily Rikli, contacted PPPA via our website requesting assistance with the pickleball program she had started for her 4th and 5th graders. In her email Ms. Rikli told us that she has been searching for an activity that would get all her students engaged and interested in participating in gym class. She tried basketball, but that resulted in some students just standing around the walls of the gym watching. She decided to give pickleball a try.

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This turned out to be the one sport where she could get maximum interest and participation from all her students. She told me that all of the students are really enjoying pickleball. They come up with really fun team names and play very competitively. She holds mini tournaments for them on their three courts. Her pickleball program has positively impacted the entire school.

Ms. Rikli needed funding for her program and, fortunately, she came to the right place. We contacted a couple of our sponsors and were able to not only procure funding for her program, but also provide her and her students with some paddles to play with immediately.

A big thank you and shout out to Mr. Bradley Harvey of [Harvey Investments](#). When PPPA's president reached out, he was more than happy to assist. He wrote a check to fund Ms. Rikli's program and provided a couple paddles that he had laying around the house. [Scheels Sporting Goods](#) also provided a couple sets of paddles. PPPA was even able to secure four more new Selkirk Paddles as a part of their initiative to provide 8,000 paddles to programs just like Ms. Rikli's around the country.

Being able to assist schools and programs with this type of genuine need is very rewarding. Ms. Rikli will be setting up an after school pickleball club in the fall for her students.

**Pickleball Lesson with KOAA weatherman Alan Rose.** In June, PPPA members gave KOAA weatherman Alan Rose a lesson on how to play pickleball at MVP as part of the "Adventure with Alan" series. The video can be viewed [here](#).

**Outreach with Kingdom Builders Family Life Center.** PPPA with the help of some of our valued sponsors was able to conduct a junior clinic for [the Kingdom Builders Family Life Center](#). We were assisted by some of our valued sponsors: Scheels Sporting Goods, El Paso County Parks & Recreation, BJ's Velvet Freez, and our awesome volunteer instructors: Kim Davis, Robin Stieber, her son Andy, Sandeep Maity, Wendy Venturella, Zina Johnson and Sharon Kumpf. Mr. Todd Marts from El Paso County Parks & Recreation stopped by to offer support.

**PPPA Promotes PB to AFA Falcon Fans.** PPPA was pleased to be asked to participate in the pre-game fan zone at the AFA military appreciation game on Sat Nov 12 against New Mexico. In Falcon Alley near gate 2 of Falcon Stadium, PPPA set up a tent, banners, and a mini court with portable net and paddles to demonstrate and invite attendees to play. For two hours before kickoff, PPPA members interacted with fans while playing, explaining, and talking PB. The PPPA tent was so popular, that the AFA asked PPPA to participate again next year.



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## Education and Training Activities

**Round Robins:** There are 840 PPPA members in various groups (levels 2.0 to 4.0). There are Round Robins set up to handle 220 players per week or 880 a month. These games are played at both MVP and BCRP courts when available. We are lucky to have 15-20 great coordinators and volunteers to help us with the Round Robin program. Thanks to all of them!

**Beginning Lessons:** Beginning Lessons are held at Wasson Academy tennis courts which are dual striped for tennis and pickleball; there are six pickleball courts to use for training. Beginning Instructor Training is scheduled for April 29 at Wasson Academy. We have been approved to use the courts at Wasson Academy for the 2023 season. In 2022, PPPA provided instruction in pickleball basics to 430+ new players, including eight from the Wounded Warrior Project (WWP). Dan Lovelace would like to work with the WWP to get other soldiers involved and provide specific WWP Beginning Lessons, possibly after the regular Beginning Lessons at Wasson.

**Thank you:** PPPA would like to thank Sherry Fairchild for her work with the Beginning Lessons for so many years. Sherry will not be managing this year, but will continue to volunteer as an instructor. PPPA would also like to thank Nancy Steffy for working so long and tirelessly to develop the training that is given at Beginning Lessons and PPPA hopes to have Nancy back as a volunteer in 2023 along with a strong and dedicated group of valuable instructors.

**Guided Play:** Guided Play will resume a week or so after the first Beginning Lessons start and will have a great group of instructors led by George Gorman.

**Ladder Play for Doubles and Singles:** PPPA is getting more players involved with the ladder programs, thanks to Meg Duncan and Tom Ferguson. We were able to develop and implement an app that allows us to schedule and enter scores for these programs.

**DUPR:** The Dynamic Universal Pickleball Rating (DUPR) is a free nationwide rating system for pickleball players. In 2023, PPPA will look into how the DUPR system can help our membership with ratings, tournaments, scheduling and scoring.

**Skills and Drills:** PPPA held no Skills and Drills last year but hopes to renew this program in 2023.

## Finances

The annual internal audit with volunteer members found the Association in a good position financially with all the books in order. Below is the PPPA budget for 2023.

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Pikes Peak Pickleball Association  
Proposed 2023 Budget

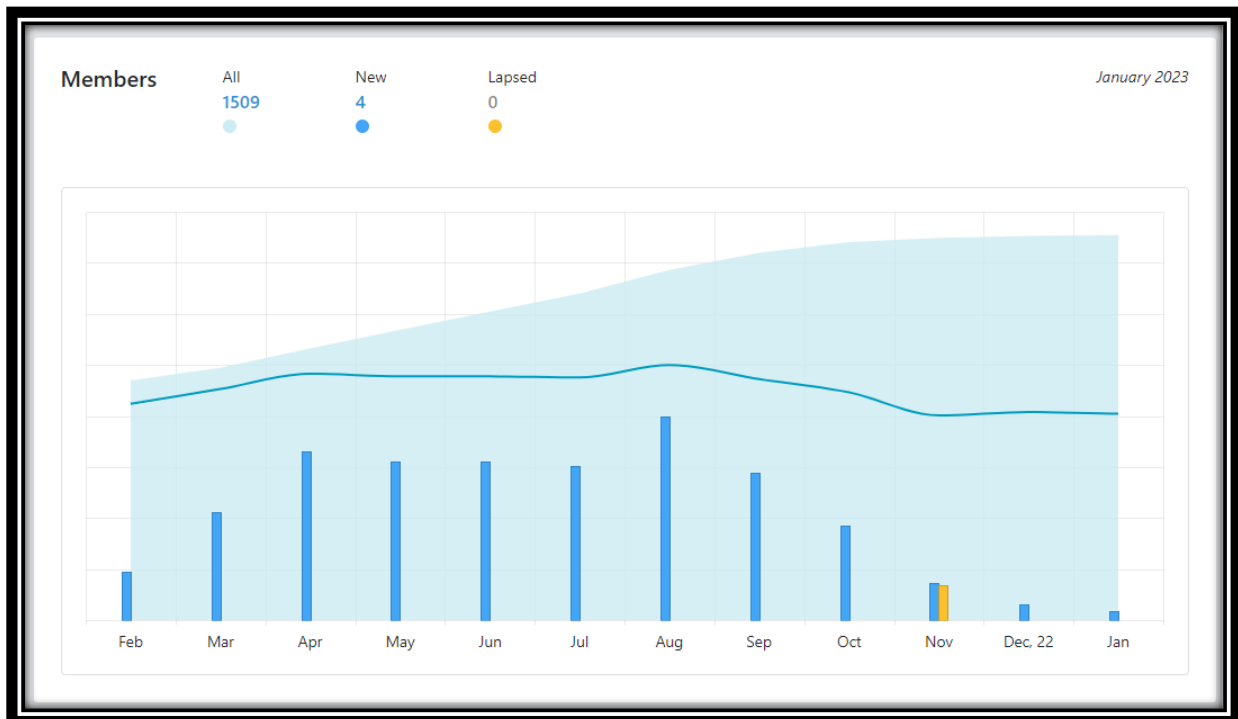
	2022	2023 Targets	Delta	Notes - for Discussion at next Board Meeting
<b>INCOME TARGETS:</b>				
Membership Dues	\$ 28,924.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 3,076.00	Anticipating growth due to increase in 1 year membership
Fundraising	\$ 11,610.91	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (1,610.91)	
Tournament(s)	\$ 22,740.33	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 7,259.67	Increase with no competition from other tournaments
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS:</b>	<b>\$ 63,275.24</b>	<b>\$ 72,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,724.76</b>	
<b>EXPENSE TARGETS:</b>				
Membership	\$ 5,281.05	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (281.05)	Lower to reflect lower income target (add budget for socials?)
Fundraising	\$ 4,619.87	\$ 4,000.00	\$ (619.87)	Higher to reflect need to purchase more store inventory
Board Administration	\$ 8,997.91	\$ 29,500.00	\$ 20,502.09	2023 included Bear Creek Court improvements and PPOB court commitment
Education	\$ 1,831.90	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 668.10	Similar Expenses from 2022 (do we need more tshirts?)
Tournament(s)	\$ 10,667.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (667.00)	Do we need to adjust for RR tourney & USA Senior Pickleball partnership?
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:</b>	<b>\$ 31,397.73</b>	<b>\$ 51,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,602.27</b>	
<b>TOTAL NET 2021:</b>	<b>\$ 31,877.51</b>	<b>\$ 21,000.00</b>	<b>\$ (10,877.51)</b>	

## Membership

PPPA saw a healthy growth in membership in 2022 with the addition of close to 600 new members.

### Current Stats (as of 1-6-23)

Total Members	1,509
Active Members	1,440
Renewal Overdue	28
Lapsed	16
Renewal Pending	59



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Four New Member Orientations were held at MVP during the summer months, where prospective and new members were provided with the history of PPPA and given the opportunity to ask questions, meet others, and learn about volunteer opportunities within the Association.

We feel very fortunate to have attracted several new Board and committee members to our team during 2022. Their expertise, teamwork, positivity, and labor allowed us to continue to deliver vital programs to our members, grow sponsorships, and expand our presence in the community. *(see Board/Committee Info, Weekly Blasts, and Calendar sections of our website for more info)*

Special appreciation should also go to the number of unsung heroes who volunteered their time and efforts to organize Round Robins during the end of year holiday break. While not officially sponsored through PPPA, these pro-active and dedicated members used PlaytimeScheduler.com to coordinate what turned out to be very well attended Round Robins for players not wanting to miss a moment on the courts! *(see playtimescheduler.com)*

### **Social Committee**

***PPPA Dinks and Dips Ice Cream Social*** was our first 2022 social event since before the pandemic. Cost was free to PPPA members. Over 100 members and guests attended on Fri Aug 19 at MVP to eat ice cream sundaes, catch up with friends, and play pickleball. Corey Houger, owner of BJ's Velvet Freez and PPPA sponsor provided all the ice cream, toppings, and paper products. Ron Graham-Baker from Digital Skyes Photography LLC, and Stephen Trolander, returning senior pickleball player and PPPA tournament photographer, attended and shared candid photos of the event that are available to view on the PPPA website. Roberta Loughman from RE/MAX was on hand to provide pickleballs and other fun items for members.

***It's Fall, Ya'll Social*** event occurred on Sun Oct 2 at the new Springs Pickleball facility on Vondelpark Park Drive. The event was free to PPPA members. Over 120 members and guests attended, toured, played on the courts, or caught up with friends. Scott Evans, owner of Springs Pickleball, allowed PPPA to hold this event at his new facility to introduce it to the PPPA membership. Sandwiches were purchased from new PPPA sponsor Colonel Mustard's Sandwich Emporium and Roberta Loughman from RE/MAX provided clever fall items to PPPA members. Jeff Norton and Ron Graham-Baker from Digital Skyes Photography LLC took photos at the event, which are available through Weekly Blast links on our website.





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Looking forward to 2023, we hope to:

- Continue to foster ways for members to meet one another, get involved, and build a supportive community
- Poll PPPA membership early in the year to ask for their input on activities they would like to attend throughout the year
- Meet with the PPPA Board to discuss and prioritize 2023 social activities and available funding
- Encourage the PPPA Board to provide information to membership regarding their annual volunteer time and efforts to the organization

## Sponsor and Donor Relations

This has been another good year for PPPA Sponsorships with a number of both new and returning supporters. Harvey Investments, RE/MAX Properties, Scheels, and most recently, Springs Pickleball, were our top Premier Level donors followed by Pickle Prosthodontics, Blue Star Group Restaurants, VisitCOS, and Selkirk Sport at the Platinum Level. One of our newest sponsors is Colonel Mustard's Sandwich Emporium. They offer great food and a great location just down 21st Street from the Bear Creek Regional Park pickleball venue. The combined donations of sponsors in cash, goods, and services in support of PPPA for 2022 came to over \$16,500.

These funds, along with membership dues, tournament net proceeds, and grant awards to PPPA, are used to help fund new local pickleball court development—including the 20-court pickleball opportunity at Coleman Park in 2025 (described earlier).

We are grateful for their generous support of PPPA and encourage all our members to give them your customer patronage in return. For all our members who own a business or know someone who does, our sponsorship program results in tax-deductible donations and will be put to good use in furtherance of our PPPA Mission.



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## Tournaments

### **Colorado Pickleball Open—Pikes Peak or Bust Tournament September 9-11, 2022**

PPPA's 2022 tournament event was conducted in partnership with our new tournament organizer, US Senior Pickleball (USSP). The Colorado Pickleball Open—Pikes Peak or Bust Tournament was a 3-day event at Monument Valley Park (MVP). PPPA hosted 207 registered players, 97 female and 110 male, ages 24-84 with a Round Robin format to maximize the number of games played. Players and their friends and families attended from 41 different Colorado cities and 8 other states (AZ, CA, FL, IL, NC, OK, TX and WA). They were welcomed to this tournament event by our City Council President, Mr. Tom Strand.

Thirty-three dedicated PPPA volunteers managed forty different pre-planning and day-of ops tasks which generated over \$12,000 in net proceeds which are ear-marked to help fund six additional pickleball courts at Bear Creek Regional Park. Your PPPA Secretary, Vicky Mediate, presented these results to the COS Parks & Rec Advisory Board which included a well-deserved "Thank You!" to the Parks & Rec staff for their great support. Our second annual 2023 Colorado Pickleball Open—Pikes Peak or Bust Tournament is scheduled Aug 10-13 at MVP.

