

2023 APTA Board



Tiernan Cavanna

Elected in 2018 to President of the APTA Board, Tiernan provides consensus-building leadership with an eye toward using each board member's skills to the best advantage. She also sits on the boards of the Fairfield County's Women's Platform Tennis League, the Darien Foundation, the Darien Athletic Foundation, and Wee Burn Country Club. She grew up in the platform tennis desert of Texas but is now volunteering and playing in an ocean of paddle in Darien, where she and her husband, Kieran, are raising three teenage boys.

Andrew Haines

Andrew was a founding member of the Maplewood paddle program, part of the New Jersey Men's Platform Tennis Association, and sits on the NJMPTA board. New to the APTA Board this year, Andrew's expertise in fintech is a great resource as he heads up the APTA Tech Committee and has been instrumental in spearheading the new APTA website. His proudest moment in paddle may be enticing his wife, Gail, to join the game.



Mark Holtschneider

Mark has twice sat on the board and is wrapping up his last year of this second term. He is a savvy advisor to every member and committee, as Vice President of the board and as a CPA and attorney. He grew up with a ground-level paddle tennis court at his home in Baltimore. Mark has three Masters National titles (with Rusty Wright), President's Cup team wins, and close seconds with his wife Debbie at Husband/Wife 50+ Nationals.

Laura James

Representing the West, Laura's home court is Meadow Creek Club in Denver, after living and playing in Darien for two decades. She has held leadership positions from tournament director to paddle chair to marketing rep to social media coordinator for the CPTA in Colorado and worked on a paddle destination venture in Glenwood Springs. Laura raised two sons with her husband, Ethan, and now wrangles two rescue dogs.



Demian Johnston

Demian came on to the APTA Board in 2020 like a house afire. With his expertise in IT and software and devout love of numbers and paddle tennis, he is paddle nation's PTI Guy. In 20 years on the court, he has put his considerable energy into volunteering for the sport in any way needed. Demian plays as often as he can at the Roxbury Swim and Tennis Club, in Stamford, CT, where he lives with his wife, Lori (they have two daughters).

Josh Kritzler

In his first year on the APTA Board, Josh has shown an in-depth knowledge of the sports sponsorship world. He comes by it naturally, having spent his entire career in the tech, digital media, and data analytics businesses with sports and entertainment clients. He plays in Wilmette, IL, and has been known to compete with Brian Compton. Most importantly, Josh is the dad of Miles, Lila, and Hudson and husband to Natalie.



Peter Lauer

Mr. Peachtree Paddle, Peter is a Pittsburgh native and Atlanta resident (with his family) in the second term of his second term on the APTA Board. He has been heavily involved in the Growth Committee, is a leader in growing the sport in Atlanta, and is a seeker of donors for the APTA. Claim to Fame: Peter has played in the Men’s Open National Championships in five decades.

John McElhenny

John is the Treasurer of the APTA Board and is in his second term. He brings his sound financial and business acumen to the APTA Board, finding in retirement a great new energy for the game in Scituate near Boston after playing for a decade in Ohio. John is an avid supporter of the urban Cleveland Flats Platform Tennis Center project. Off the court, he loves spending time with his wife, Caren, and his children and grandchildren.



Ben McKnight

Ben’s quiet confidence and business intelligence were sought after by the APTA Board and is a great addition to the Rules Committee and Players Committee. He learned the game in Sewickley, PA; after a stint as a professional soccer player and moving to Chicago, Ben joined the CPTC league and has played for 25 years for the Glen View Club. One highlight was winning the 2019 APTA Masters 45+ Nationals. He lives in Wilmette with his wife, Adriane, and two children.

Greg Morgan

Greg got his start in the racquet sports industry in New Jersey, where he learned the ins and outs of the game from the Broderick brothers and Patty Hogan. Now the Director of Racquets at Glen Ridge Club in Summit, Greg has raised his hand to host many fun and large tournaments from Masters, PTI Nationals, and in particular, Junior Nationals. Fun fact: He is also a registered nurse. He resides in Madison with his wife Nora, and two young children, Miles and Cornelia.





Mandy Newell

As an Odenbach, Mandy grew up around the paddle courts in Rochester, New York. She worked in the printing business before taking over the paddle programs at her family's Shadow Lake Golf and Racquet Club. She joined the APTA Board two years ago, adding her expertise to the League Committee. Mandy also plays ice hockey, sails, skis, and drives a really cool minivan to bus around her three kids (with her husband John) in Penfield.

Leslie Parsons

Leslie grew up in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and worked as a lawyer before becoming a full-time mother to five children. After moving to the Chicago area about 25 years ago, she was introduced to the sport of paddle tennis, immediately fell in love, and volunteered for every position in the women's league (NSWPTL). She is the APTA Board Secretary and recently stepped up to become an additional Midwest Tour Director. Off the court, she can often be found contemplating her garden.



Sue Pijawka

A lifelong athlete in Pennsylvania, Sue started playing platform tennis more than 20 years ago, drawn to the competition, vigorous exercise, and social aspects of the game. A member of the MAPTA league, she has competed at every level, including 12 years on the Region III President's Cup (pre-2021) at Nationals. She loves growing things, both as a landscape designer and as the chair of the new Leagues Committee. She lives in Berwyn with her husband Pete, a fellow paddle enthusiast, and her black lab puppy.

Anne Waldron

Anne became obsessed with the sport of platform tennis when she and her family joined The Stanwich Club in 2014. After she retired from investment banking in NYC, she joined the 2020 Nationals Committee and took over fundraising, much to the relief of Tiernan Cavanna. She joined forces with Gerri Viant on the Live Streaming Team and can be found at most major tournaments running the broadcast with efficiency and a wide smile on her face. Anne lives in Darien, CT with her husband and three children.

