

2024 APTA Board



Demian Johnston

Elected in 2024 to **President of the APTA Board**, Demian can discuss the finer points of the game for hours and appreciates all other paddle enthusiasts. With his expertise in IT and software and devout love of numbers and paddle tennis, he is paddle nation's PTI Guy. Demian has played for 22 years and has put his considerable energy into volunteering for the sport in any way needed. He 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).

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. In his second year on the APTA Board, he was elected to be a co-Vice President. Andrew's expertise in fintech has been a great resource as he heads up the APTA Tech Committee and spearheads the ever-improving APTA website. His proudest moment in paddle may be enticing his wife, Gail, to join the game.



Whit Harwood

This is Whit's second time serving on the APTA Board, focusing on Media & Content Strategy across all APTA accounts. He has spent over a decade in the media space, working at ESPN, FOX, and NBC, primarily in strategy roles, working to build and scale new and existing platforms. Whit could easily represent the history of the game—he plays out of Fox Meadow and his family, the Bairds, has been involved in the game for 60+ years. However, Whit is the youngest member of the board; his goal is to push the game forward. He lives in New York City with his wife.

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.



Josh Kritzer

In his second year on the APTA Board, Josh has been instrumental in connecting potential sponsors with the APTA due to his in-depth knowledge of the sports sponsorship world. He comes by it naturally, having spent his entire career in tech, digital media, and data analytics businesses with sports and entertainment clients. He plays in Wilmette, IL, in the prestigious Chicago Legends division and coaches youth baseball. 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, leads the newly created Court Innovations Committee, 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 is the advocate for the APTA's Grants and Loans program. John 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. He is an avid supporter of the urban Cleveland Flats Platform Tennis Center project. Off the court, John 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. He is a co-Vice President and the chair for the Rules Committee, as well as a board rep for the 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 over 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, where he encourages hundreds of young players to compete well. Fun fact: He is also a registered nurse. He resides in Madison with his wife Nora, and two 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 Leagues and Rules committees. 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.



Sarah Padgitt

Sarah is a racquets lover, having played tennis at Colgate, learning squash as a hobby, and growing up watching her parents play paddle in Glencoe, IL. She graduated from Northwestern Law School, worked at a large law firm in Chicago, and was overjoyed to discover the North Shore Working Women's Paddle Tennis League. Despite an intense dislike for cold weather, Sarah realized that once she stepped on a paddle court, she forgot the temperature and her mood instantly improved. She looks forward to helping the wonderful paddle community and the game by serving on the APTA Board.

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 a co-Vice President on the board 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 retiring from investment banking in NYC, she joined the much-praised 2020 Nationals Committee team. She leads the Live Streaming team and can be found at most major tournaments running the broadcasts with efficiency and a wide smile. She is also Secretary of the APTA Board. Anne lives in Darien, CT with her husband and three children.

