

My Fellow USPTA Professionals:

My name is Lane Evans, and I am challenging for a Vice-Presidential seat on your USPTA National Board of Directors. I have been a member of the USPTA since 1985. I have served the USPTA at the state, divisional and National levels.

My honors with the USPTA include the USPTA Southern and Missouri Valley Division Professional of the Year, the USPTA Southern Fred Burdick Pride of the South award recipient, USPTA National Industry Excellence award winner and 2021 USPTA Alex Gordon National Professional of the Year.

My service with the USPTA has included being Chairman of the National Fitness and Wellness Committee that engineered the Specialist Degree in Tennis Fitness, which is still being utilized to date. I also brokered the arrangement with the IFP to bring the initial pickleball education and certification framework to the USPTA.

My real-world business experience has included a 45-year tennis teaching career, 22 years as a club general manager, managing large budgets and employee numbers. Presently, I am successfully running 2 businesses.

The USPTA has been a very important part of my life and career development. I could not have reached these goals without the strong guidance and influences of the association.

Big changes are coming to the USPTA. Our COO, Fred Viancos, has taken his dream job in Texas and our CEO, John Embree, will be retiring soon. Filling these shoes will be a monster challenge in itself. The new certification pathway has caused a great deal of confusion among our members and applicants, thus surely having effect on membership numbers and revenue.

I believe, with strong Board leadership, the support of the Executive Committee and the support of you, our members, these issues can not only be addressed but can be solved. It won't be easy and will require solid forward thinking.

Our relationship with the USTA is in desperate need of repair. Whether this can be done remains to be seen. I believe anything is possible with hard work, focus, honest negotiating, and complete transparency by a strong and unified USPTA.

In closing, let me say again that the USPTA, our organization, the best tennis teaching organization there is and one of the best friends my long and successful career has ever had needs us now more than ever. I don't ask much from it but when I call on it, it always answers.

This is a very serious time for the USPTA, and we need strong leaders to address the issues confronting us and to shape the next generation of teaching professionals. I feel that my experience with the USPTA, my real-world business experience and my leadership skills will enable me to help lead this charge for change. I hope you will agree with my assessment and honor me with your vote come October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Thank you for lending me your most valuable asset, your time. I am very appreciative to each and every one of you.

Lane Evans-USPTA National Board of Directors Candidate