

USATT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AT-LARGE DIRECTOR POSITION ELECTION – CANDIDATE STATEMENT

DELL SWEERIS



My reasons for running for this office is so that I can continue to help with the sport that we all love to play. I have no project to support & would just like to offer my years of varied experience to the board of directors' meetings & decision making. I would like to thank the people running for this office & if they are elected, I will offer my support to them.

People ask me how I got started in the sport. My father won the Grand Rapids city championship in 1956. That year for school assignment, I said that I wanted to be city champion & a truck driver like my dad. I also wanted to be the state champion too. My father taught me how to be a champion but also how to enjoy the game. Connie's brother was a city champion of Grand Rapids. Connie's brother & my dad started the Grand Rapids club in 1956.

Little did I know that I would expand my life goals & experiences to the following: three times member of the US team, four times US Open mixed doubles champion with Connie, & three times US Open men's doubles champion (five times runners up). Connie & I were the co local chair of the 2010, 2012, & 2014 US Open Championships in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I have served as President & board member of the USTTA Foundation for the past twenty some years. Another fabulous experience we had was to watch our son Todd compete in two Olympics (1996 & 2000).

I was a member of the US team that traveled throughout the US with the Chinese team in 1972. I am also the husband of the US Team member (Connie) that travelled to China in 1971. As a result of these experiences, I have been able to do things & meet people close up that I otherwise never would. Recently, Connie & I have attended more than a dozen galas around the country. We were able to visit many of the very successful clubs around the country. Places like LA, Houston, San Francisco, Florida, Carolina, New York, Chicago & Washington, DC. I have noticed that there are excellent training facilities & coaches at all these locations.

Currently there are exciting things going on with Major League table tennis, US college programs thanks to NCTTA, auxiliary events around the country that support seniors & special needs. So much momentum yet so much more to do.

I would ask that you would vote for me for this position at large.