

## 2025 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 23 years and puts his considerable energy into volunteering for the sport in any way needed. He plays—often—at the Roxbury Swim and Tennis Club, in Stamford, CT, where he lives with his wife, Lori (they have two daughters).

### Kristin Davin

Kristin joined the board this year, representing the South. She played in Chicago for many years; when offered a new job in Charlotte in 2017, her first step was to confirm the existence of platform courts before accepting. She hosts "paddle curious" events at the Olde Providence Club and travels to tournaments around the country, where she often lands in the finalists bracket. She is a Professor of Education at UNC Charlotte and an enthusiastic fly-fisherman.



### Andrew Haines

Andrew was a founding member of the Maplewood paddle program (go Munis!), 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 serves as a **co-Vice President**. Andrew's expertise in fintech has been a great resource as he heads up the APTA Tech Committee and spearheads various tech projects for the sport. 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, at ESPN, FOX, and NBC, primarily in strategy roles, working to build and scale new and existing platforms. Whit's family, the Bairds, has been involved in the game for 60+ years. He lives in New York City with his wife.



### Josh Kritzer

In his third year on the APTA Board, Josh has been instrumental in connecting potential sponsors with the APTA. His career in tech, digital media, and data analytics businesses with sports and entertainment clients is a rather nifty fit. Josh 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.

### John McElhenny

John is the **Treasurer** and is in his final year on the board. John brings his sound financial acumen to the APTA Board and is the Chair of the Grants and Loans program. In retirement, he has found 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, his children, and his grandchildren.



### Ben McKnight

Ben is, by far, the highest-ranked player on the APTA Board. He is a **co-Vice President** and 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 for work, Ben joined the CPTC league and has played for over 26 years for the Glen View Club. One highlight: 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 Director of Racquets at Glen Ridge Club in Summit, Greg hosts many large tournaments from Masters, Team Nationals, and Junior Nationals. This is his second term on the board, and he chairs the Juniors Committee. Fun fact: He is also a registered nurse. He resides in Madison with his wife Nora, and two children, Miles and Cornelia.



### Barry Nectow

In his first year on the board, Barry's 25 years of experience in finance and over 15 years in public education administration are very welcome. He fell in love with the game in 2013, to the point that he spearheaded the creation of the Needham Platform Tennis Club in suburban Boston. Barry lives in Needham with his racquet-swinging wife, Deirdre, where they raised two racquet sports-loving children, Abigail and Charles.

### 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 three years ago, adding her expertise as Chair of the Rules Committee. Mandy also plays ice hockey, sails, skis, and drives a cool minivan to bus around her three kids (with her husband John) in Penfield.



### John O'Bryan

John works as a civil engineer in Kansas City and is a first-year board member. He picked up the game in 2013 and soon began organizing tournaments, charity events, and leagues, and spearheaded the use of PTI in KC. John travels prolifically to tournaments, especially ones that award trophies for consolation reprieve and last-chance draws. He and his wife, Beth, and daughters, Sarah and Hallie, live in Westwood Hills, Kansas.

### Sarah Padgitt

Sarah, a second-year board member and chair of the Audit Committee, is a racquets lover—tennis, squash, and paddle. After graduating from Northwestern Law School, Sarah worked at a large Chicago law firm. She was overjoyed to discover the North Shore Working Women's Paddle Tennis League. Despite an intense dislike for cold weather, once she steps on a paddle court, she forgets the temperature and her mood instantly improves.



### Leslie Parsons

Leslie grew up in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and worked as a lawyer before becoming a full-time mother to five children. She moved to the Chicago area about 25 years ago, immediately fell in love, with platform tennis, and volunteered for every position in the women's league (NSWPTL). She is a **co-Vice President** on the board and a 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, physicality, and social aspect. A member of the MAPTA league, she has competed at every level, including 12 years on President's Cup (pre-2021) at Nationals. She loves growing things, both as a landscape designer and as the chair of the 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.