

Dr. Jiing Wang
USATT Executive Vice President
2006 Campaign Statement

This is not your typical campaign statement. This is a report from Dr. Wang of the dereliction of duty by a number of current board members, whose personal pride and unwillingness to put the sport of table tennis above their own ambitions has lead our organization to the brink of disaster.

Since 1995, I have been on the USA Table Tennis Board. From the beginning of my work as a Board Member, I thought I could have done so much for our members and our sport. Unfortunately, what I have learned from this experience is that I, as an individual, can not really change the way our organization and sport should have headed without Board members who really respect our players and themselves.

Look at the cruel facts: what is the status of our young elite players? Most of our U.S. National Team Players have not attained top 100 world ranking. Every year, we spend hard-earned money from our membership fees and the USOC fund, yet, we still have made absolutely no progress towards our representation in the table tennis international ranks. No wonder USOC decided to cut funding to USATT! This is a public embarrassment to our sport, and I intend to hold the Board members who allowed this to happen to our sport publicly accountable for their bad behavior and misguided leadership.

I have fought very hard to reform our structure of governance on the Board, but these efforts went nowhere because of the false

promises of other board members. However, I feel so strongly about our sport, that I know that I should continue fighting to make a difference.

That is why I am running for Executive Vice President of the USATT.

At this time, in addition to reshaping the governance structure of the board, there are also additional difficult tasks that face us. The reform of the USATT governance structure will be the most important and urgent thing we have to deal with after this election process is over. My past experiences tell me that, without reform of the governance structure, the Board will have the same misdirection, mistakes and poor performance.

The next thing we have to do is to mobilize the entire USATT membership!

We also need to obtain more resources through fundraising, while, at the same time, we have to trim the administrative and operation expenses. We also have to prioritize the USATT programs and expand volunteer services. Of course, in addition, every penny we spend should be under severe scrutiny and audit. All the decisions we make should be transparent so members are confident in their leadership.

Next, we have to address the issues that concern members the most, such as raising prize money, because prizes are lower than tournament entry fees. I do believe the prize money for the semi-finalists should be much greater than the entry fees.

We also, and this is of critical importance, must regain the respect, and full funding, of the U.S. Olympic Committee!

I have learned that the only way the Board members and the membership can work together is that Board Members should be united and share the same visions and consensus as the members.

I am very disappointed that when we started talking about "Fresh Start" on the past Board, USATT "hit the wall." Again, our top players have NOT ADVANCED to better rankings in the world. So far, USATT has NOT had any effective development programs, and the US Olympic Committee so distrusts the current direction of the Board that, after months of the Board's leadership delays and wrangling, they withdrew virtually all of their funding from our sport.

Some of the incumbent Board Members care so much about their official positions that they could care less about the lost funding from the USOC, and they could care less about the performance of our top players in the world ranking.

Please give me the chance to fight these battles so that we can regain USOC funding and make our player development, world rankings, and tournament prizes the very best possible.

VOTE for the slate of Dr. Jiing Wang, Barney Reed, Hank McCoullum, and Ed Hogshead for the Board. With you as our partners, our sport will, once again, be strong.