

HENRY Hank McCoullum Campaign Statement 2006  
USATT Vice President at Large

Last week, I signed up 54 new USATT members, and they proceeded to play in their first USATT tournament in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania. Growing the sport of Table Tennis is more than a goal or empty promise from this candidate. It is my passion. It is one of the reasons that I ask you to VOTE FOR ME FOR VICE PRESIDENT AT LARGE OF USATT.

USATT membership development, especially at the youth and collegiate level, is an activity that I have been engaged in for many years. Working with local clubs and tournament directors, and as a volunteer with community groups and clubs nationwide, I have been able to recruit hundreds of new members each year into our sport. New members are important to any organization: however, for an Olympic sport in the United States, that has the ambition of winning medals, new members are absolutely essential. I am optimistic that the sport of table tennis can grow in the United States to rival the traditional countries which are the “best in class in the world” such as China and Sweden. This aspiration requires that we partner the USATT with businesses and organizations that have similar interest and goals. Also, maintaining these relationships cannot be taken for granted. A plan which identifies who these stakeholders are and the development of a strategy that addresses their strategic interest is how I would engage the United States Olympic Committee.

The current crisis, where USOC has taken virtually every dime of their funding away from the USA table tennis community, has put our organization in a very desperate situation. When I served on the Board, I was able to work very effectively with members of the U.S. Olympic Committee. Direct funding from the USOC at that time, was in the hundred of thousands of dollars. Now, because of the apparent failure of some current Board members, hundreds of thousands of USOC funding dollars have been lost! I think that we all can agree that the loss of these funds signals the need for a complete review and assessment of the direction the USATT is heading. My recommendation would be to appoint a steward to manage this situation with the USOC. This individual would be delegated the authority to act in the best interest of the sport. This observation on my part represents a radical departure from the current way of interacting with the USOC. We owe it to the athletes who are preparing to represent the United States at the Olympic Games to reach a compromise that is in the best interest of all the stakeholders in the Table Tennis Community.

As a lifetime member of USA Table Tennis, I am very committed to and passionate about our sport. During all my years as a player, coach, instructor and as an officer who has served in a number of leadership positions in service to USA Table Tennis, I have worked to advance the interests of our membership, clubs, umpires, elite, and regular players whose contributions and personal sacrifices more often than not go unnoticed. My knowledge and experience, in service to all of you, is why I want to be elected to serve as your Vice President at Large.

Again, I want to share with you a list of the qualifications that I believe have uniquely prepared to be a serious candidate to serve in the position of USA Table Tennis Vice President at Large.

- \* Vice President, USA Table Tennis (2001-2003)
- \* Elite Athlete Committee Chairman, USATT National Team (2003-2004)

- \* National Director, Association of College Unions International Table Tennis Office (2001-2003)
- \* Sponsor, USA Table Tennis Olympic Trials (2004)
- \* Instructor, Collegiate Table Tennis Program (1999 - Present)
- \* Advisor/Coach, Penn State Table Tennis Club (1972 - Present)
- \* U.S. Open Champion, Esquire Doubles (2004)
- \* USATT Life Member (1972 - Present)
- \* Senior Committee Regional Representative (Ongoing)

I believe that I can use my experience and passion to ably represent your interest on the USATT Board of Directors. Indeed, I think that it is time that we as an Association can reach consensus on such important issues as support for clubs, tournaments, ratings, umpiring, equipment, rules, and events, and use the full power of our combined leverage to focus squarely on nurturing the health of, the USTTA. I also believe that I can work collaboratively with all of you, and all other elected members of the USATT Board of Directors, to cultivate the kind of Table Tennis program that can truly sustain our community. We are a truly diverse community of table tennis enthusiasts, and the strength of our Association is derived, in large measure, by the very nature of the vibrant diversity we represent. My commitment to you is to ensure that the USATT organization will respect you, and the issues of concern to you, in a manner that can be measured through annual progress reports on the implementation of your priorities. I also believe, if elected your Vice President at Large, that I can help effectively rebuild the partnerships that can raise the sport of Table Tennis to the international prominence we once enjoyed. Also, I encourage you to vote for Dr. Jiing Wang, Barney Reed, and Ed Hogshead, who are similarly committed to these ideals and who will be accessible and respectful of you and your ideas. We would be honored to receive your vote!