

Why I Believe I'm the Best Candidate for USFS President

For approximately 50 years I've been a member of the USFSA; initially as a skater and subsequently as a volunteer. My judging and refereeing record is well known. I've risen to the highest possible levels nationally and internationally as a judge and referee in both figure skating and ice dancing. I am also a National judge and referee for synchronized skating, and a Sectional accountant. As a former board member and president of a member club I know grass roots needs; as a repeat Board Member of US Figure Skating, beginning in 1976, I have the working knowledge of our Association, and as a committee chair for numerous committees, including Competitions, Judges, Rules and Nominating I understand the skills required to hone an effective working team. Lastly, I've been privileged to serve on the Executive Committee as Eastern Vice President while demonstrating my leadership skills.

The goals of US Figure Skating are clear. We cannot wait to begin the process of putting our house in order. US Figure Skating needs a Leader now. Should your choice for President be me, you are not selecting a new CEO or COO for US Figure Skating but more a Chairman of the Board persona to lead the sport through any crisis.

The next president of US Figure Skating together with the Executive Committee and Board of Directors face many difficult challenges, including: a) pressure from the USOC to downsize our governance structure, b) meeting the needs of all our athletes, from learn-to-skate participants to our elite skaters, and c) securing financial funding to pay for our programs. I know I can collectively mold an intelligent consensus, based on the views of all concerned, to resolve each of these issues. My administration would be team oriented and inclusive in approach.

But perhaps our greatest challenge is to restore credibility to our sport. Few individuals, if any, are as well equipped to address this issue as I am. I know all the players, especially in the international arena. The corruption uncovered during the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City has changed the sport forever. We must work within the ISU environment to clean up figure skating; not only in its judging ranks but also in its administration. Although I certainly have taken actions that caused the ISU concern and discomfort, I continue to be the most respected American official within the ISU family. Some don't necessarily agree with my previous actions, but they know I follow the rules, speak the truth and am a credible voice.

Unfortunately, in recent years, the USFSA has not demonstrated the leadership required to get the ISU to pay attention to us. As your Leader, I will work to build relationships to advance our sport and Association.

I am honored to be considered as US Figure Skating President, and pledge to you that I will always work on behalf of our Association and will never recommend any action that could in any way jeopardize our athletes. My down-to-earth approach, willingness to have all parties heard, with a working team approach, can be the positive image our Association requires.