

UNITED STATES BOCCE FEDERATION QUARTERLY



FEBRUARY 2021

Fellow USBF Members,

It has been a long time since I had the opportunity to write to everyone. As you all well know, it has been an unprecedented situation in the USA. Covid-19 has taken a large toll in many areas of our normal existence and daily lives. The area most concerning to the USBF and all our Bocce communities has been the shutdown of Clubs and leagues so that Bocce play became non-existent. We were not alone. The entire world of Bocce was affected and just recently the Italian Federation began their high tier league under strict sanctions and no spectators. While we waited and waited, it seems that finally there may be a light at the end of the tunnel.

Recently the Bocce community suffered a huge loss with the permanent closure of [Campo di Bocce](#) in Livermore and Fremont. Their loss is our loss since there is now an absence of Bocce facilities in that area of the country.



It is certainly easy to become depressed and anxious but please do not give up. Again, there are facilities open and more coming. The USBF Board met last month and discussed remedies both short and long term. One of the most important is continued membership by Clubs and Individuals. We need everyone's support through membership renewal and partnership in our Federation goals. I wish I could provide you with better news but unfortunately the current crisis does not allow it. You must follow guidelines of the CDC and stay healthy and safe by staying home as much as possible.

As things begin to open, I will announce any good news that becomes available. On the bright side, we have found a Club in Texas that will be joining soon. This is the very first time we have had a facility in that state. I received many inquiries from individuals from that area but never had a place I could refer them to. We are planning to have the Nationals later this year however there is a bit of a scheduling issue that the Board will resolve shortly. Once that becomes confirmed we will post all the information on our website. Additionally, I need to apologize for the status of the website. It is stagnant and that is again because of the pandemic. There simply were no new items to post!

In closing, I want to thank you in advance for your support and look forward to meeting you once again on a Bocce court! Stay safe!

Danny Passaglia
USBF President

USBF Wall of Honor

At the recent USBF Board meeting, two nominations were presented for election to our Wall of Honor. Both candidates are former Board members and have promoted the sport of bocce their entire life.



Romano Lotti

They both represented the USA in world events and certainly are deserving of their nomination. Regretfully, they both passed away last year and therefore the induction would be posthumously.

Mr. Romano Lotti was nominated by David Candini, a former Board member, and he submitted a very extensive letter acknowledging Mr. Lotti's accomplishments. The letter was submitted to the Board weeks prior to the meeting. After a unanimous vote in favor, his nomination was approved.

Dr. Angel Cordano was nominated by current President Danny Passaglia. A formal letter was sent to the Board prior to the meeting for review. Again, after a unanimous vote in favor, his nomination was approved.

Each nominee will receive a formal presentation of their name added to the Wall of Honor plaque. The ceremony will be decided by their family as to time and place and will be presented by a current Board member from their Sector.



Dr. Angel Cordano, right

If any member believes someone is deserving of this honor do not hesitate to contact your Sector Representative and present a letter of nomination. Following procedures, the Board must receive the letter prior to the meeting for review. Keep in mind this is a very selective and prestigious group of individuals and not intended to be taken lightly.

News from the Western Sector

As the newly elected President of the Western Sector, I want to personally welcome the newly elected officers to our team and to thank the members who remained in their positions as Populous Directors and Officers during this term and to acknowledge outgoing president Ron Jacobs, and secretary, Kelly Moriarty, for their dedication and service to this organization.

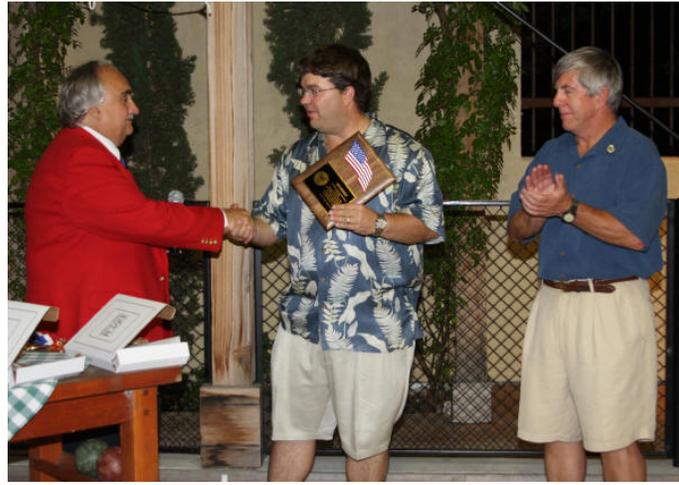
The new officers include Brad Cotton, Vice President, Paesano Bocce Club of Portland, OR; Marianne Schmidt, Recording Secretary, Scotts Valley Bocce Club of Scotts Valley, CA; and Greg Singleton, Sector Representative, Woodland Park Bocce Club of Seattle, WA.

As we take office, we are confronted with the effects of the daunting Covid pandemic that has drastically reduced our social interaction on the Bocce courts and throughout everyday life. Relief is on the way with the release of the vaccines now being offered to control this deadly virus. As we gain control, I firmly believe that we will return to some degree of normality in the near future, when tournaments and leagues can again be held safely. If

we all do our part to contain this virus, we can hasten this outcome.

One of the most devastating losses caused by the pandemic to our Bocce community was realized with the permanent closing of two premier bocce facilities.

[Campo di Bocce](#) Livermore and Campo di Bocce Fremont, after valiantly trying to remain open under strict covid restrictions, they were ultimately forced to close their doors. Livermore was the host of the USBF Nationals in 2007, [2009](#), [2011](#) and [2016](#).



*2009 USBF National Championships
Danny Passaglia USBF, Ben Musolf COO
and Tom Albanese, Owner Campo di Bocce*



Steve Mariucci and John Madden

They also hosted international events, the annual [Madden - Mariucci "Battle of the Bay"](#) Charity fundraiser and Special Olympics tournaments to name a few of the most notable. Of course, the weekly leagues and regional tournaments that were held at these facilities will also be sorely missed.

On the positive side, [Campo di Bocce Los Gatos](#), remains ready and able to once again become the welcoming home to the bocce community.

Campo is the home of many National and International Champions who endeavor to pass on their skills and experience to those seeking their friendly counsel, either with understanding the rules of the various games or suggestions to improve your play. Campo has always been very supportive and generous by helping with the sponsoring of USBF teams that have earned the right to travel to International or National bocce events to represent the Club or the United States in competitive events. With eight state of the art courts Campo is the ideal facility to hone a player's skills for tournament and league play or for those that just want to have fun, socialize and enjoy a great meal.



*2016 USBF National Championships
Opening Ceremonies
Campo di Bocce Livermore*



2011 USBF National Championships at Campo di Bocce Los Gatos

When the State-mandated restrictions are lifted we can expect to see some major improvements as the facility completes its renovations currently under way. Some changes include atmospheric lighting in the indoor and outdoor dining areas, creative and flexible table configurations to accommodate various group sizes more efficiently and a comfortable lounge area near the entrance and now offering a full-service bar. Campo di Bocce has always been viewed as an inviting place for bocce enthusiasts, but is better known as Luigi's Ristorante to everyone who just want to enjoy a delicious lunch or dinner. We look forward with great anticipation for their reopening and the restoration of league play, tournaments and a customer friendly staff.

We welcome any ideas or suggestions as we work our way back to normality. Be sure to visit the USBF on Facebook.

Stay Positive and Safe,

Ken Gorny
Western Sector President



Follow the USBF on [Facebook!](#)