

# Champion leadership: Danny Brown

By Pamela Kleibrink Thompson

The United States Association of Roller Sports, the governing body of competitive roller skating which covers artistic and speed skating, has a new board and a new president—Danny Brown. As co-owner, with his wife Kim, of Roll-haven’s three rinks in Flint, Flushing and Owosso, Mich., Brown is keen to help USARS. Roller skating brought Danny and Kim together. They met at Skateland and skated competition (free dance) from 1974 to 1989. Kim notes that “Danny skated pairs with another girl,” but Danny married his free dance partner in 1976 and things have been on a roll ever since.

The USA Roller Sports board of directors meets semiannually, in spring and fall. USARS streamed the board meetings online for the first time in Spring 2014. Peggy Young of USARS notes that “Any member in good standing can attend the meeting in person.” She adds that the board will decide whether future meetings will be streamed.

At the USA Roller Sports Annual Board of Directors meeting on Halloween weekend in Albuquerque, N.M., Danny Brown was named the new president of the board succeeding George Kolibaba.

USA Roller Sports is recognized by the Federation Internationale de Roller

Sports and United States Olympic Committee as the national governing body for competitive roller sports in the United States. USARS covers numerous areas of roller skating including roller derby, artistic, speed, inline hockey (puck), and rink hockey (ball) and they are currently organizing slalom.

Young shared the mission of the USARS, “As the recognized National Governing Body (NGB) by the United States Olympic Committee, the Mission of the USA Roller Sports (USARS) shall be to develop, promote, educate and grow Roller Sports at all levels and to enable athletes to achieve sustained competitive excellence in domestic and international competitions.”

The USARS vision statement adds an additional goal: “To inspire and enable our members to achieve excellence in Roller Sports and in life by building the base, promoting the sport and achieving competitive success.”

Brown embraces and promotes that vision. Before he became president, Brown participated in a planning meeting called Focus on the Future. A list of strategic plan objectives was formed with Brown’s support for autonomy for the Sport Committee. Other goals are to improve communication, enhance market-ing, encourage USARS/RSA cooperation,

increase revenue, reduce expenses, and grow membership. Brown stated that the amended guidelines for Sport Committees are intended to give more authority to each sport and will be sent to each Sport Committee Chair

At the last Board Meeting, the Board approved adopting slalom skating as a sport discipline of USARS. Richard Hawkins presented a new USA Roller Sports beginner skills program—the Great Skate Sticker Program, designed to bring classes into rinks. Another idea for grass-roots level development in speed and figure skating is called Rising Star, a mentorship/coaching program.

Brown himself is a rising star in the leadership of USARS and he and Kim were nominated as RSA Life Members. They purchased their first rink in 1990 and two additional rinks in 2005. They were named Rinkside Operators of the Year in 1998 and RSA Rink Operators of the Year a decade later, in 2008. Danny was a competitive artistic skater for more than 20 years, which qualified him to be a World Class Competitive Judge (42 cumulative years of judging) and National and International Figure Judge. He created the RSA Educational Field Trip program in 2007 and has helped to rebuild the relationship between USA Roller Sports and the RSA. He has broad experience



Danny Brown

with the RSA, serving on numerous committees including RSA Marketing Committee, RSA Convention Planning Committee, RSA Chapter Affairs Committee, RSA Risk Management Committee, RSA President’s Committee, RSA Executive Committee, RSA Committee on Committees, RSA Education Committee, RSA Honors Committee, RSA Membership Committee, RSA Promotions Committee (In Rink), RSA Site Selection Committee and CIPA Committee.

Brown’s leadership experience includes serving as the RSA Education Committee Chair,

As the new president of the board of directors for the USARS, Brown will lead his team to inspire skaters to achieve excellence on and off the skate floor.

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