



EMPOWERING ATHLETES SINCE 1956

Adaptive Sports USA is a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization.

Adaptive Sports USA Staff

Executive Director – Part-time based in Littleton, CO

Susan Rossi is a mission driven sport and rehabilitation professional with 20 years of knowledge/education, experience, and established relationships in the Paralympic and adaptive sports industry. Her professional background includes work with the United States Olympic Committee as the Paralympic Sport Outreach and Development Manager, the City of Mesa Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities in collaboration with Arizona Disabled Sports, the Breckenridge Outdoor Education Center, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and various other well-rooted adaptive sports programs. She holds a BS from the University of Kansas in Exercise and Sport Science and a Masters in Nonprofit Leadership Management from Arizona State University. In addition, Susan is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. Susan has been with Adaptive Sports USA in her current role since 2015 and involved with the organization in other capacities since 1999.

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Office Manager – Part-time based in Broomfield, CO

Shelli Fazzini brings a background in office administration, customer support, non-profit, meeting and event planning, fund raising, project management, training and development and computer systems administration to Adaptive Sports USA. She developed her passion for athletes with disabilities while playing one up, one down tennis - where able bodied players are partnered with athletes with a disability. She served on the Board of Directors for the Colorado Wheelchair Tennis Foundation for 3 years.

Shelli is responsible for customer service, the individual and chapter membership network, insurance and the Athlete Development Fund, accounting to include accounts payable and receivable and general office management. Shelli has been with Adaptive Sports USA in her current role since the beginning of 2017.

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Adaptive Sports USA 2019 Board of Directors

Howard Brodwin – Member-At-Large based in Los Angeles, CA (November 2018 – December 2022)

A sports marketing veteran of more than 25 years, Howard is the founder of Sports and Social Change, a sports marketing firm with a focus on Cause Marketing, Corporate Social Responsibility and Social Enterprise development, working to connect brands, media properties, teams, leagues and athletes with nonprofit organizations, foundations and affiliated cause-driven businesses.

His expertise includes brand positioning and activation, grassroots and experiential marketing programs, event management and sponsorship, public relations and social media campaigns, as well as business plans, revenue models and corporate partnership development. Over the past 25 years, Howard has managed marketing, public relations and event programs for a diverse group of sports brands and properties including Rollerblade, Powerbar, K-Swiss, Salomon, Tour Hockey, Bauerfeind, LPGA, Red Star Hockey, and a wide range of nonprofit organizations such as Special Olympics, DisAbility Sports Festival, Angel City Sports, Blind Judo Foundation, Pearl of Africa Series, Ready-Set-Gold!, Disney GOALS, Leukemia Lymphoma Society and LA Watts Summer Games.

A graduate of San Diego State University and former college Lacrosse player, Howard currently lives in Los Angeles, CA and is an active Ice Hockey coach & player, Skier and Disc Golfer.

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Mike Burns – Treasurer based in Charlotte, NC (2016-2020)

Mike Burns is a Certified Public Accountant in the field since 1979. He received his CPA certificate in 1986 and open a practice shortly after to provide accounting, auditing and tax services for various businesses across multiple industries. Mr. Burns has been involved with Adaptive Sports USA in various roles for decades as a local coach and assists with the financial aspects of the organization as well as grant funding received.

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Bill Dunham – Vice Chair based in Tulsa, OK (2018-2022)

Bill Dunham was serving in the United States Army with the 75th Ranger Regiment in 1989, when he was severely wounded while his unit was securing an airfield to assist in apprehending Panamanian Dictator Manuel Noriega. Initial attempts were made to save his leg, but after numerous surgeries to repair his right leg, it had to be amputated above the knee.

Bill went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in History and Master of Science in Defense and Strategic Studies.

Currently, as Hanger Clinic Area Manager and AMPOWER Regional Peer-to-Peer Coordinator, Dunham provides support to people who are facing amputation or have undergone amputation. Bill also works closely with prosthetic designers to test and develop advanced and better

functioning prosthetic devices. Bill leads a very active lifestyle using advanced computerized prosthetic technology. He also serves on the board of Eastern Oklahoma's Case Management Society of America and is an active council member of the Oklahoma Rehabilitation Council.

Mr. Dunham was not exposed to adaptive sports until later in life and wants to ensure people become aware as soon as possible.

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Clayton Frech – Chair based in Los Angeles, CA (November 2018 – December 2022)

Clayton Frech has over 20 years of leadership experience in government, non-profit, and business. In the early and mid-1990's, he was heavily involved in the environmental movement, performing research on energy efficiency, climate change, and bio-diversity. He worked in The White House Office of Policy Development and at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

He has served on many non-profit boards, including the Literacy Network, Northeast Trees, Amigos del Los Rios, UCLA Alumni, and the CAF Advisory Board. He led the UCLA Anderson LA Alumni Chapter for three years, creating over 20 career development events a year, with a team of over 50 volunteers, serving thousands of LA-based UCLA MBA Alumni.

On the business front, most recently he served as the Regional Vice-President of Safelite AutoGlass, managing the \$100 Million California Region, with over 600 employees and 35 retail/warehouse facilities. Prior to that he served as a VP Operations at Classic Party Rentals where he led the M&A integration process for over 20 acquisitions and was de-facto COO of the East Region, a \$150+ Million business.

Within the adaptive sports movement, Clayton founded the Angel City Games and Angel City Sports to serve a need in the Southern California region. He is the CEO and Founder of Team Ezra, Ampla Partners, is on the LA Advisory Board of the Challenged Athletes Foundation and was heavily engaged in the LA2024 Olympic and Paralympic Bid.

Clayton resides in Los Angeles with his wife, three boys, and labradoodle Yazzie. He enjoys cycling, triathlons, surfing, and snowboarding. He has a BA in Economics from UCSB and an MBA from UCLA.

Clayton is responsible for leading the Board and the organization into the future.

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John Kasper – Member-At-Large based in Minneapolis, MN (November 2018 – December 2022)

Olympian and World Champion in 4-Man Bobsled, John is a highly talented executive with more than 15 years in sales, marketing, and strategic business development with a stellar reputation in leading highly profitable regions and territories. He creates effective marketing strategies and plans that increase sales, capitalize on growth opportunities, and maintain profitable business operations. John utilizes out-of-the-box approaches in training and developing employees that foster team unity toward corporate goals and objectives. He has a keen eye for detail with the ability to multitask in globally competitive, fast-paced environment.

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Amanda McGrory – Athlete Representative and Secretary based in Champaign, IL (November 2018 – December 2022)

Amanda McGrory is a three-time Paralympian (2008, 2012, 2016) and a seven-time Paralympic medalist (1 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze) and current member of the U.S. Paralympics Track and Field team, hopeful to qualify for her fourth Paralympic Games in Tokyo 2020.

In recent years, Amanda has become more focused on her career after sport and returned to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2016 to complete a Master of Information Science degree. After graduating in May of 2018, she accepted an internship at the United States Olympic Committee in the Crawford Family Archives as a processing archivist. She plans to return to the Champaign area after completing her work in Colorado, to focus on her athletic goals for the next two years.

In addition to pursuing her personal goals, Amanda remains interested in promoting adapted athletics at all levels. She coaches and volunteers with local sports organizations Dare2Tri and GLASA, as well as at junior-level camps sponsored by the University of Illinois and the new Chicago Marathon mentor program. In addition to grassroots programming, Amanda is also influential at the elite-level, where she serves as the Athletes With Disabilities consultant for Chicago Events Management and the Chicago Marathon, sits on an unofficial athlete representative board for the London Marathon, and maintains close relationships with several marathons to ensure best practices are followed. As a lifelong athlete who began participating in wheelchair sports in 1997, Amanda recognizes the importance of healthy, active lifestyles, and remains committed to helping others discover the benefits of sport, even after her competitive career comes to an end.

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Dan Schwieder – Member-At-Large based in Idaho Falls, ID (November 2018 – December 2022)

Dan Schwieder currently serves as the Head of Business and Marketing for Idaho Sod Inc where he has assisted the company in accomplishing back to back record revenue years and a significant increase in social media following and assets since joining in May of 2017. Dan previously served as Manager of Paralympic Community Partnerships with the U.S. Olympic Committees Division of U.S. Paralympics influencing and impacting numerous Paralympic Sport Clubs and community based adaptive sport programs to develop resources for individuals with a physical disability or visual impairment to begin their path in Paralympic sport. In addition to a management portfolio of over 300 organizations, Dan also led and participated in projects and task groups that helped develop and published resources such as the American Development Model for Paralympic Sport, U.S. Paralympics Find a Club search engine, Paralympic Sport Coaching Guide and integration of student athletes with a physical impairment to participation on state high school championships. Before joining U.S. Paralympics, he worked as the Paralympic Sport Program Director for the City of Colorado Springs Therapeutic Recreation Program developing multiple sport programs within the region developing a menu of sport opportunities.

Dan is a native of Idaho Falls, ID. He received from BYU-Idaho a Bachelor of Science in Recreation Leadership with an emphasis in Recreational Therapy. He is also a graduate of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) Department of Indiana University with a Master of Applied Health and Health Promotion. In addition to these degrees he is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC). His passions and enjoyments are back country skiing and almost any sport that involves a ball. He is married to a supportive wife, Rachele, and has two daughters and three sons.

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Jim Strunk – Member-At-Large based in Pennington, NJ (November 2018 – December 2022)

Jim Strunk is a Senior Remediation Leader for The Dow Chemical Company. He serves as an Inclusion Ambassador in Dow’s North American Region and is active in Dow’s Disability Employee Network. Jim is the parent of an adaptive track and field athlete and has been active in supporting his daughter’s team. A graduate of Drexel University where he swam, Jim currently lives in Pennington, NJ and is an active outdoor enthusiast, STEM Advocate, and adaptive sports/inclusion supporter.

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Joe Walsh – Member-At-Large based in Quincy, MA (November 2018 – December 2022)

Joe Walsh is a native of Braintree, MA, and a graduate of Dartmouth College and UMass Amherst. He is a two-time Paralympian in cross country skiing, and former Managing Director of Paralympics for the United States Olympic Committee. Joe served on Team USA’s delegation staff at six Paralympic Games and as Chef de Mission at two Parapan American Games. He coached youth cross country skiing for 13 seasons, served on the founding staff of the C. Everett Koop Institute at Dartmouth, and was the first Paralympic athlete representative elected to the USOC Athletes’ Advisory Council and Board of Directors. He also served as Vice President of the International Blind Sports Federation from 2013-2017. Joe is currently president of Adaptive Sports New England, a Boston-based non-profit dedicated to increasing participation in sports by youth and young adults who have a visual or mobility impairment.

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Adaptive Sports USA Emeritus Board

Paul DePace – International Liaison based in East Greenwich, RI

Paul DePace is currently the director of the Office of Capital Projects which oversees construction and renovation at the University of Rhode Island. He graduated from UNI with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a M.B.A and is a registered professional engineer.

In his junior year at URI, an injury from an automobile accident opened a new path to community service and sport. Paul became an advocate for persons with disabilities in the state of Rhode Island and in the field of adaptive sport. His volunteerism would eventually take him around the world to places such as Beijing, Moscow, Sydney, Capetown, and Tehran.

Beginning in 1968 and over the years, Paul played the role of wheelchair athlete, coach, team leader, Board member and Board Chair for Adaptive Sports USA. He helped organize the first Rhode Island wheelchair track and basketball team and launch a nonprofit organization to serve a need. In addition, Paul was instrumental in placing the first seven wheelchair racers in the Boston Marathon.

Paul is currently the President Emeritus for the International Wheelchair Amputee Sports Federation, an organization with 80 member nations and the founder of the Paralympic Movement. He is a former member of the United States Olympic Committee Board of Directors, former member of International Paralympic Committee Board of Directors, former President of NEWAA, and former Chairman of for 18 years of Adaptive Sports USA and Chef de Mission for the U.S. Paralympic Team for the 1992 Barcelona Paralympic Games. He has attended 12 summer and winter Paralympic Games dating back to 1976, has been awarded the IPC Paralympic Order and a member of the Rhode Island Scholar Athlete Hall of Fame.

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Phil Galli – Adaptive Track and Field USA liaison based in Cape Code, MA

Phil Galli has been involved with adaptive athletics since 1994. He has trained four U.S. Paralympians in track and field. Over the past 8 years, Mr. Galli has been the Chairman of Adaptive Track and Field USA setting the rules and standards for the Junior and Master athletes in the USA. Phil is currently on the Games committee for the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation, a Tri-State Wheelchair Athletic Association Board member and USA Swimming / IPC Official as well as USA Track and Field National / IPC Official.

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