

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

## Honoring Achievements of a Lifetime

As *RSI* enters its 50th year, we celebrate the champions who make this sport shine.

**T**his issue of *Racquet Sports Industry* represents a milestone: It's "Volume 50, Number 1"—our first issue of our 50th year.

Fittingly, this January 2022 magazine also is our Champions of Tennis issue. This is the 21st year we've had the pleasure, and honor, of recognizing dedicated people, organizations and companies who continue to work tirelessly to better this industry and this sport.

Many years ago, I realized that one thing we too often take for granted in this industry is recognizing and honoring our own, those who are doing amazing things for this sport—especially at the grassroots levels. Creating these awards, and watching them grow to the 26 categories in which we're honoring our winners in this issue, has been one of the most satisfying things I've done.

But "amazing" may be a misleading word. Our winners are often simply doing what they love and what they do best—and they're putting their passion and hard work into it.

While we're only able to recognize a few dozen in this issue, we know there are thousands of others throughout the country who also deserve praise for all they do for tennis. I encourage all entities—including local and regional organizations, and USTA Sections—to continue to find ways to honor, recognize and publicly appreciate their own.

For our part, at *RSI* magazine, we're thrilled with the support we receive from those in the tennis community for our Champions of Tennis awards. What's particularly gratifying to me—and this happens at least once every

year—is that after our issue comes out, I'll be contacted by someone who received an individual award, or whose organization was honored. They'll tell me that because of *RSI*'s Champions of Tennis award, they were able to gain more community, section or national support, or were able to get a grant to help them grow the game—or, in one incredible instance, our recognition actually helped to save their youth tennis organization by showing how important it is to the community.

In this issue, we've created a new honor, our "Lifetime Achievement Award," and as you'll see, our inaugural winner is someone who so many people have had the good fortune to cross paths with—John Callen, the longtime executive director of USTA Southern.

John, who is retiring this January, has led the USTA's largest section for 32 years, and in the process has had a hand in changing this game for the better in many ways. I think we can speak for many when we say his knowledge, enthusiasm, experience, kind nature and gentle guidance will be greatly missed in this industry.

So, appropriately, we start our next half-century at *Racquet Sports Industry* honoring a lifetime of accomplishments in this industry.

Not bad for just our *first* 50 years.

**Peter Francesconi**  
Editor

Peter@TennisIndustryMag.com



### RACQUETSPORTSINDUSTRY

**PUBLISHER**  
JEFF WILLIAMS

**EDITOR**  
PETER FRANCESCONI

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
SCOTT GRAMLING

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR**  
IAN KNOWLES

**SENIOR EDITOR**  
ED MCGROGAN

**ART DIRECTOR**  
CRHISTIAN RODRIGUEZ

**SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR**  
BOB PATTERSON

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**  
CYNTHIA CANTRELL, PEG CONNOR,  
DAVID LASOTA, JUDY LEAND, KENT OSWALD,  
CYNTHIA SHERMAN, MARY HELEN SPRECHER

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
BOB KENAS, DAVID KENAS

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
TIM McARTHUR

**EDITORIAL DIRECTION**  
10TEN MEDIA

**RACQUET SPORTS INDUSTRY**  
60 East 42nd St., Suite 740, NY NY 10165  
info@tennisindustrymag.com

**ADVERTISING DIRECTOR**  
JOHN HANNA  
770-650-1102, x125  
hanna@knowatlanta.com

**APPAREL ADVERTISING**  
CYNTHIA SHERMAN  
203-558-5911  
cstennisindustry@gmail.com

Racquet Sports Industry is published 10 times per year: monthly, January through August with combined issues in September/October and November/December, by Tennis Channel, Inc., 60 East 42nd St., Suite 740, New York NY 10165. Periodical postage paid in Duluth, GA and at additional mailing offices (USPS #004-354). January 2022, Volume 50, Number 1 © 2021 by Tennis Channel, Inc. All rights reserved. Racquet Sports Industry, RSI and logo are trademarks of Tennis Channel, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A. Phone advertising: 770-650-1102 x 125. Phone circulation and editorial: 646-381-8735. Yearly subscriptions \$25 in the U.S., \$40+ elsewhere. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Racquet Sports Industry, 60 East 42nd St., Suite 740, New York NY 10165. Racquet Sports Industry is the official magazine of the USRSA, TIA and ASBA.

Looking for back issues of Tennis Industry/Racquet Sports Industry? Visit the archives at our website at [TennisIndustryMag.com](http://TennisIndustryMag.com) for free digital versions.

