

The past year started just after ISA Brazil, when a long golf cart parade through Lakeside, Ohio, went by the courts with horns honking and sirens wailing; to welcome back and congratulate the new ISA World Singles Men's Champion, Michael Hirsh.

Last September, we were able to make our first visit to the Nationals in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Some hurricane winds and pounding rains just preceded us. The courts are under roof, yet open on three sides. We are amazed how shufflers all over the world handle very difficult situations and come out with "a job well done."

Started by friends, Ashley and Jonathan, the Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club in Brooklyn, NY opened over four years ago and now their second location is open in Chicago. Some other shuffleboard-based for-profit clubs are open and/or being planned in the USA. As this movement grows, many younger folks will finally experience our great game, which bodes well for the future.

This year, as has been our pleasure for some years, we were able to play tournaments with both "eastern" and "western" speeds. Each speed has similar and unique challenges, but both have wonderful players and friends.

At our USANSA Annual Meeting, in late January, I was elected President. When we see the continuing efforts and results of our President Emeritus, Rob Robinson, with the Senior Games and wonderful special military events, we understand and appreciate why he chose to serve only one two-year term as our President. Keep it up, boss!

Sheila Monday, our past-Secretary was generously helpful in the transition. Each of our current USANSA "brass" have carried us and me well, with fine work so far. We are blessed by such volunteerism.

The team selection process for ISA 2018 High River, dominated the first 45 days of my term. With thoughtful advice we did a, not easy, job. We expect that our players will represent USANSA with enthusiasm and dignity. We wish players, guests, volunteers and staff a marvelous experience @ the 37<sup>th</sup> ISA World Team Championship.

Aloha (yes, I can say that, as the Hawaiian SA recently became a USANSA member)

Rich Phifer

President, USANSA

