

United States Twirling Association



Make a Difference! Run, Vote for Board of Directors!

Do you love the sport of baton twirling? Do you have a desire to see USTA do more for athletes, coaches, judges and other twirling supporters? Then put your ideas into action and RUN and VOTE for USTA's Board of Directors!

Background

In February 2000, at the National General Assembly of the USTA, the voting delegates overwhelmingly passed a change in the Constitution of the association, which called for the Executive Board to be elected by a mail vote of the Professional members, who were 18 years of age or older . This process began in 2002.

In this new process, the positions are now 4-year positions and the election process is staggered by Sectors, to ensure smooth transitions and continuity over time. To get the staggered system started Sectors 1, 3 and 5 and the second at-large member slots stood for election again in 2004 and 2006. In 2004, an online electronic voting system was developed.

The positions that are up for election in 2010 are as follows:

- Sector 2 – Central Region
- Sector 4 - Southeast Region
- 1st At-Large Position

What does the Board do?

- Governs the financial and organizational aspects of USTA
- Manages and directs the paid employees of USTA
- Provides strategic vision for the growth of the association and the sport of baton twirling
- Works on long range planning in programming and schedules of events
- Conducts the fiscal planning and budgeting of USTA's resources
- Approves staff and department heads
- Approves salaries or stipends for employees and department heads

When does the Board meet?

Two to four times a year as follows:

- During the week of Nationals when Board members are not involved in running the competition, coaching or judging.
- For two to three days during the fall, on the Monday and Tuesday following a National Convention when one is held or during a fall weekend on non-convention years.
- The Board also holds monthly conference calls.

Are Board members paid?

- Board members are not paid, but their travel and lodging expenses, and some meal expenses during Board meetings, are covered.

Who can run for the Board?

- Any USTA member who is 18 years of age or older.
- The Board consists of five sector representatives who must live in the sector they represent, and two at-large board members who may live in any sector.

Board Member Job Description

- Regularly attend Board meetings and important related meetings
- Make a serious commitment to participate actively in committee work
- Volunteer for and willingly accept assignments and complete them thoroughly and on time
- Stay informed about committee matters, prepare well for meetings, and review and comment on minutes and reports
- Get to know other committee members and build a collegial working relationship that contributes to consensus
- Participate actively in the Board's annual evaluation and planning efforts
- Participate in fund raising for the organization (nonprofit only)

How are Board members elected?

1. The Executive Board Members not running for re-election will form the slating committee for the election year.
2. The USTA Communications Department will distribute the 'Intent to Run' form to all professional members of the USTA by Nov. 1. The form will also be available on the USTA website.
3. All 'Intent to Run' forms are to be returned via email to the USTA President Diana Loomis at president@ustwirling.com and must be received by Dec. 1. Members will receive a confirmation notice via email. Candidates must submit a brief resume to president@ustwirling.com by January 1st to be sent to Professional members and posted on the website.
4. When a sector has no declared candidates, the slating committee will contact professionals in that sector to encourage them to run.
5. Each sector may have an unlimited number of candidates.
6. Voting is done online at www.ustwirling.com. The voting process is totally anonymous. The votes are processed and counted electronically and stored in a web server database.
7. The electronic voting ballot will be up online and available for professional members to cast their vote Feb. 15, 2010.
8. All Professional members 18 years and older are eligible to vote.
9. If a sector has no candidates, an additional at large representative will be elected.
10. There will be 2 rounds of voting.
 - a. Round # 1: Beginning February 15th, all professional members will vote for one candidate from each sector in the 1st round voting. Round #1 voting concludes at 11:59 pm PST on February 28th. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes in each sector will become the sector representative.
 - b. Round # 2: On March 1st, a second round of voting will take place to select the candidate(s) at large. All remaining candidates not elected for a sector seat from the first round plus any additional candidates vying for an at-large seat, regardless of the sector, will be placed on the candidate at large ballot. The candidate(s) receiving the highest number of votes will become the at-large representative(s).
11. Voting is completed by 11:59 pm PST on March 15th. At the end of the voting process the database will display the results on the Web site and official notification to new USTA Executive Board will be by April 1st.
12. New Executive Board of Directors will be introduced at the 2010 National Championships and they will take office September 1st. The new Board will elect officers at the first meeting of the year.

Consider Before You Run

Being a Board Member is both challenging and rewarding and does require a commitment of time away from work and family. The Board does not have the option of working around every member's schedule or other commitments.

The upcoming election is without a doubt extremely important to the health and welfare of USTA and the sport of baton twirling. There are positions to fill and USTA hopes to have a record number candidates and a record number of Professional members voting for those candidates. Professional members must pay their dues by December 1st to be eligible to run. All votes are anonymous. USTA has always been proud of the fact that this is a democratic organization, and now, through this online election process, we are making it easier and more secure for you to participate in this democratic election process.

Make your voice heard! RUN and VOTE for the Board of Directors!!

For More Information

For more information about the Board of Director elections, contact USTA President Diana Loomis at president@ustwirling.com or 785-587-7807.