

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am humbled, honored and privileged to assume the role of President of the Mississippi Tennis Association. It was a mentor and now a good friend who introduced me to tennis at a local public park in Jackson (Dorothy Vest Tennis Center) where I found my love for the game. I have been involved in all levels of the game either as a junior player, high school player, college player and adult league. The one thing that I learned from each was to give back what I learned to help someone else obtain their goals, which made the team stronger overall. It has led me to continue to volunteer and teach our young players not just tennis but also to provide the discipline and tools to succeed.

The year 2021 will be a time for all of us to come together as a whole to inspire our players from all levels, proving that tennis is not only safe to play but also one of the best sports to help maintain your health. Please continue to participate and share our website as well as the programs and grants offered through MTA.

- Ready to Rally
- Tennis Apprentice
- Tennis on Campus Grant
- Facility Grants
- Diversity Grants
- Wheelchair Tennis Grants
- Tennis Foundation of Mississippi Player Grant
- Junior Team Tennis
- NJTL (National Junior Tennis & Learning) Southern Grant

I can't commend my predecessor, Jeffrey Farris, enough for his leadership and guidance as President of MTA over the past two years. Jeffrey has always been there to represent and support the players within the MTA as well as advocate for recruiting passionate volunteers to serve on various committees throughout the state. I would also like to thank Geoff Norton, Executive Director, and the MTA staff for their extraordinary work during the 2020 pandemic as they worked remotely and didn't miss a beat throughout the year.

We have weathered the storm and will continue but we cannot do it without volunteers, who many of them are our players. Volunteering keeps the MTA strong and continues to grow our game. I found volunteering as a way to give back allowing me to teach the game at our public parks and schools which led to several athletic and educational scholarships to those young players. Please consider volunteering, you can make a difference.

This year we honor Rod Hartzog and William Clark who were inducted into the Tennis Foundation of Mississippi Hall of Fame. Both have long been associated with the game and have paved the way for many others in Mississippi tennis.

This is your association, and the purpose is to promote and grow the game of tennis for you, whether you are an adult player, junior player, parent, tennis professional, member tennis organization, or just a follower of the game. For players, your age or level of play does not matter.

I invite you to visit MSTennis.com for updated information. Purchase a Mississippi Tennis license plate to show your pride in Mississippi Tennis. All proceeds from our car tag program helps fund our Community Grant Program to improve tennis facilities across the state. Follow us on our social media platforms Facebook (USTA Mississippi), Twitter (@USTAMississippi), and Instagram (USTAMississippi)! Share your positive Mississippi Tennis photos or stories on social media by using the hashtag #PlayTennisMS.

In closing, please feel free to call on me anytime. I am here to serve you. Thank you for your involvement in tennis!

Jimmie Coins

President – Mississippi Tennis Association

#PlayTennisMS