



## **AZSTA Welcomes New Board Members and Officials**

### ***New Board Officials***

The Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority Board of Directors elected officers for a one-year term at its 88<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jerry Walker was elected chairman, Brad Wright as vice chairman, and Verma Pastor as secretary.

Walker replaces Debbie Johnson and is the fifth volunteer to serve as chairman since the Authority was formed in 2000, following the approval of Prop. 302. He was appointed by Gov. Janet Napolitano in August 2005 for a term ending in July 2010. He has served as board secretary from 2006-2008, chairman of the Youth and Amateur Sports Committee 2005-2008, and Interim of the Cactus League Committee in 2006. He is active in youth sports programs throughout Phoenix and is currently on the board of the Arizona Hotel and Lodging Association.

Wright was appointed by Gov. Janet Napolitano in February 2007 to a term ending in July 2009, with a recent extension of 2013 and has represented the Cactus League. Pastor was appointed by Gov. Janet Napolitano in July 2004 to a term ending in July 2009.

### ***New Board Members***

AZSTA has recently welcomed three new board members. William (Bill) Peltier, Judy Bernas, and Jody Harwood have been named to the board of directors of the Authority to replace board members Roc Arnett, Herman Orcutt, and Debbie Johnson.

Peltier served on the board from its inception in 2000-2005, representing youth and amateur sports. He is past chairman and a member of the Board of Directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metropolitan Phoenix, a member of: the board of directors of the Fiesta Bowl Committee, the Board of Governors of the Safeway/Banner Health LPGA Tournament, the board of directors of the University Club, the Naval Order of the United States, the National Investor Relations Institute and the Association of National Advertisers.

Bernas was recognized as a "Top 40 Under Forty" from Inside Tucson Business in 2005 and also from the Phoenix Business Journal in 2006. She is a member of the City of Phoenix Downtown Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, Phoenix Community College President's Advisory Board, Downtown Phoenix Partnership Economic Development Committee, Phoenix Biomedical Campus Steering Committee, Flinn Foundation Biosciences Roadmap Steering Committee and the Flinn Foundation Federal and State Relations Workgroup.

Harwood is a past chairman of the Board of Directors for the Arizona Hotel & Lodging Association; she was recognized as "2000 Hotelier of the Year" and was inducted into the Association's Hall of Fame in 2005. She is currently serving on the Governor's Tourism Advisory Council, is the past Chairperson of the Arizona Tourism Alliance, currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Arizona Hotel & Lodging Association, Arizona Tourism Alliance, and the Valley Hotel & Resort Association. She is also an Advisory Board Member for ASU West and NAU School for Hotel & Restaurant Management, as well as a member of the Arizona Centennial Commission.

The AZSTA Board of Directors is comprised of nine citizens who volunteer their time and accept no compensation or per diem. The Board members are appointed to terms by the Governor (5), the President of the Senate (2) and the Speaker of the House (2) to five-year terms and are eligible to serve two terms. Board appointees are appointed to achieve a balanced representation of the Valley's regions as well as the tourism industry, Cactus League and youth sports.

The board guides AZSTA through its responsibilities as owner and operator of the University of Phoenix Stadium and as a major provider of funding for Cactus League stadium construction and renovation, tourism promotion, and youth and amateur sports projects throughout Maricopa County.

