***IPRO Director’s Message December, 2021***

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**We are completing our 25th year under the current AmPRO-IPRO administration. It is a good time for reflection! Over the past 40+ years I have had the opportunity and privilege to visit 35 different countries. Being an integral part of the court sport industry; as a player, administrator, club owner & operator, coach, official, promoter, teacher, and more; I am in the fortunate category. On this continent or one far away, hundreds of friendships have been developed. Many stories are ripe to share; whether in Titicaca, Tegucigalpa, or Tucson; whether in Heidelberg, Hanoi , or Hollywood; whether in Barcelona, Bad Tolz, or Buffalo. A phone call or airfare away, through social media, or face to face sharing a cup of coffee or a glass of wine; lasting relationships continue to be priceless.**

**The next time you jump onto a court, ponder how the relationship with the others formed. Has your adventure been repeated often; or, is this the start of a new story? Finally, once on the court, background, beliefs, economic status, gender, and other labels all blend into one---we are all equal and we share a passion for a game.**

**Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season,**

**Gary**

***Quote of the month***

***‘Become grounded and you can navigate the stormiest roads in peace’ Anon***

***Upcoming….***

 ***December 6 Level 3 Officiating Course; Guatemala City, GUA***

 ***Dean Schear***

 ***April 9 Level 1-3 Instructor Course, Site tbd (Costa Rica or Bolivia)***

 ***Gary Mazaroff***