

# ***President's Message August, 2024***

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One theme in the *Messages* throughout the years has been, 'some things are priceless.'

Take a friendship that has grown and nurtured for the better part of fifty years. I refer to myself and Luke St. Onge. As past Executive Director of USA Racquetball; and, as Emeritus Secretary General of the International Racquetball Federation, Luke has a wealth of knowledge to share with others who hold a passion for a sporting discipline and a zest for life. Our engagements are now infrequent; yet, we are eager to meet more often in order to share *wisdom*. Our first step came at a neutral location on July 11<sup>th</sup>. He embarked on a 2+ hour jaunt south from Colorado Springs while I embarked on a 3-hour drive north; both of us arriving at Denny's in Raton. Like any relationship, we do not always agree on some things—more importantly, we *listen & respect* the other's opinion. One item we agree on is that the game of racquetball has helped to define the both of us since the late 1960's. Luke and I have traveled together to multiple destinations, always with racquetball as the motivator. Journeys were for coaching, officiating, playing, promoting, and teaching. Furthermore, we have always included time to investigate and to *smell the roses*. Running through streets in Asia, seeking Tiwanaku ruins in Samaipata, breathless while watching a young woman come unglued on her balcony in Barcelona, and putting out *fires* on the tourney floor in San Luis Potosi. An abundance of stories/anecdotes await! Back to Denny's in Raton next month. Denny's has a special place in our heart--it was our first stop on the *Goodwill Racquetball Tour* to Japan in 1986.

## ***UPCOMING***

August 23-31	XXII IRF World Championships; YMCA, San Antonio, TX USA
September 13-15	Mark Bussen Torneo de Raquetbol; Clovis Community College SAC, Clovis, NM
November 6-10	Meadow City International Pro-Am; Montoya Rec Center, Las Vegas, NM

***PASSING*** Lisa Johnson, lovely wife to racquetball advocate, Fred; in Farmington in June.

## ***QUOTE OF THE MONTH***

***'Count your blessings, not your problems' DP***