

2013 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What a fantastic year for us to celebrate our [5 year anniversary!!](#)

John D. Rockefeller said it best - "**If you want to succeed, you should strike out on new paths, rather than travel the worn paths of accepted success.**" This is exactly what Netball America has been doing so I want to congratulate all sponsors, partners, members, volunteers and fans for helping us to continue to break new ground.

Our global presence grows stronger each year and with the recent announcement ([live from Belgium](#)) that we were awarded the bid to host the **2016 World University Netball Championship** - this will certainly catapult us further into the global spotlight. The World Netball Festival was also a huge success with over 60 Netball teams participating and it was great to have the opening ceremonies at Sea World. It was very cool to be up doing the welcome on the Shamu stage (and not get splashed by Shamu).

We are expecting 1000 youth from all over the world to attend our first [Disney Youth International Tournament](#) being held at Disney World Orlando, Florida in October 2014. Then on November 7th the **U.S. Open will head to Miami, Florida**. This year's event was sold out - you can check out the [intro video](#) and read about it [here](#). It was also a highlight to have our event as an official speaking event for the **President's Council of Fitness, Sports & Nutrition**. Our graduates from the President's Challenge Program received a Presidential Lifestyle Award Patch and **Certificate signed by the President**.

We received numerous awards during the year, including recognition from **Nickelodeon Kid's TV**, the **NFL Atlanta Falcons**, **Women's Sports Foundation**, and **Hersheys**. This is well deserved for everyone who is running our youth programs across the country. As Netball America's unique programs provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to participate in physical activity while being educated on nutrition - we have been asked to participate in **Opportunity League USA** in which we'll be setting up a Netball program to allow able-bodied and disabled persons to play Netball together. The Opportunity League promotes inclusion, nutrition, physical fitness, and recreation, as well as prevention of obesity for people with disabilities.

2014 will also see the launch of the 1st ever **USA online Coaching and Umpiring Curriculum** provided by CallidusCloud. So stay tuned as we invite you to participate. I know our members received great umpiring and coaching courses with international presenters during the year, with more to come in 2014.

Our Netball America team has expanded to 50 volunteers across the nation, 3 paid part-time coaches, Netball playing teams in 28 States, and in January 2013 we launched our global elite [Advisory Panel](#).

As you can imagine we'll have more exciting news to share with you in 2014. The way you can help spread the news is encourage all members, family and friends to follow us on [facebook](#) and [twitter](#).

See you all in 2014,



Sonya Ottaway
President, Netball America