



RHODE ISLAND TABLE TENNIS HALL OF FAME *CLASS OF 2018* JOE POLSELLI

Joe Polselli Sr. ran the club for much of the 1970's and 1980's. He was an active member of the club for over 40 years. Joe was the first person to welcome a whole generation of Rhode Island players.

When you met Joe, he was usually the first one who would hit with a new player and was always a positive role model for sportsmanship and fair play. His love for the sport always showed through in his enthusiasm and commitment to the club. He could easily be found by his signature headband. Joe was the President of the club in the 1970's and 1980's, was league operator of both the A and B leagues, and was there on most practice nights and weekends. He also ran tournaments and became a certified USTTA umpire. During the time Joe was President, there was also a time when there was a C League which ran on Wednesday nights. Joe attended many New England tournaments and travelled to the Easterns in New Jersey and to the US Open in 1979 and 1980. He was one half of the Rhode Island State Intermediate Doubles championship team in 1978. Joe dedicated and spent many hours serving the club ensuring the continuance of table tennis in Rhode Island. For Joe, the sport of table tennis was a family affair including his children who also participated in leagues, tournaments and practice sessions.

When the Providence club lost the Westminster Street location, Joe spearheaded the effort to have the club continue and was instrumental in the move to RacquetTime facility in Warwick. Despite the move, Joe's negotiations were able to keep the club fees from increasing and even included the advantage of using the tennis facilities at the new location.

Joe continued to stay active in the club through the move to the current location, and initially took on the responsibility of opening on Saturdays.

In his professional life, Joe retired from the fire protection business where he designed automatic fire protection sprinkler systems for large buildings. Joe currently lives in Warwick, RI and remains active in playing golf.

