



The International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association is a not-for-profit trade association open to investor-owned and member-owned fitness, racquet, and athletic facilities. Associate memberships are available to manufacturers or suppliers of products and services of use to IHRSA members.

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Showing Our Gratitude

IHRSA's 32nd Annual International Convention and Trade Show is fast approaching—it will be held March 19–22 at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. As I begin to prepare for the event, I'm reminded of all that IHRSA has done for me and so many others.



Bill McBride
IHRSA Chairperson

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the people who founded this association, a group of forward-thinking individuals who envisioned an organization that would work for the betterment of all. They recognized the value of networking, of sharing best practices, of promoting and protecting one another's businesses, and of growing the industry together.

Over the years, the industry's "umbrella" has spread much wider, but IHRSA remains the cornerstone of our community—and, I suspect, it always will.

I became a member in the 1980s, early in my career. IHRSA members and programs helped to shape my thinking and my skill set, and offered a clear roadmap to the opportunities that I've since enjoyed.

IHRSA also gave me the chance to meet some amazing colleagues, mentors, and influencers—many of whom became close friends. A short list, in no particular order, would include Mitch Wald, Rick Caro, John McCarthy, Joe Moore, Norm Cates, Tim and Liz Rhode, Roger Ralph, Jay Kell, Dave Pickering, Michael Levy, Art Curtis, Ed Williams, Jill Kinney, Tony de Leede, David Patchell-Evans, Jerry Faust, Butch Stewart, Brenda Abdilla, Bud Rockhill, Kevin Compton, Maigread Eichten, Steve Tharrett, Jim Peterson, Robin Klaus, Carey White, Scott Thomas, Nancy Terry, and Jim Mizes.

I've also had the opportunity to work with the IHRSA board, participants at industry roundtables, members of international delegations, and many other eminent individuals, both inside and outside of the industry.

I'm certain that membership in IHRSA has benefitted thousands of others in much the same way.

We all have our list of individuals that we're indebted to—people who've helped us, taught us, challenged us, and given us a chance. Therefore, I'd like to suggest that you, too, reach out to and thank those individuals—those who have made a difference in your life. I'd also like to challenge you to be equally generous with those who could use your help today. We need to inspire, motivate, and mentor the industry's next generation of leaders—our bridge to the future. —

— Bill McBride, Bill.McBride@ClubOne.com