

Dr. Lester M. Snyder, Jr. served the USTA for many years. His credentials start with Vice President and umpire for the Phoenix District from 1978 to 1979, and go on to include Southwest Section President, then Section Delegate from 1980 to 1984.

Les moved up the national ladder by serving on numerous committees and eventually making his way to serve as USTA national Treasurer and Vice President, before finally serving as President from 1995-1996.

He was an instrumental figure in the planning and construction of Arthur Ashe Stadium and the expansion of the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, New York.

Les received his PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Michigan. He then served in the US Army from 1955-1957 and played on the US Army of Europe tennis team.

Formerly a professor of psychology at Arizona State University, Les brought a keen vision and sense of foresight to the presidency of the USTA, advocating for the development of a strong national staff for the association and advancing the notion that professional tennis ought to incorporate an element of entertainment in order to increase its appeal to a wider audience.

While Les was USTA President, television revenues increased, providing valuable resources for the sections to become more firmly structured with people at the national and local levels, working to further the growth of tennis. He earmarked funds to start the first USTA SERV Center - Skills, Education, Resources and Vision, the training and education arm of the USTA. He also took a particular interest in technology and how it can help the association.

Les was a longtime volunteer in the USTA Southwest Section, serving as its president from 1980-1982. In 1997, he was elected to the Southwest Hall of Fame.

Les passed away on April 8, 2009 in Tempe, Arizona.