

# PROFILE

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## **Mel Elliott** **YNVA President/CEO**

Mel Elliott has a multi-faceted background, ranging from European studies, YMCA work, owning his own sports marketing business, to athletics. The one common thread tying it all together is his desire to serve others.

Mel just recently retired from a twenty-seven year career with the YMCA to become President of the Youth National Volleyball Association. His latest YMCA position was Vice President of Operations for the YMCA of Greater St. Louis. He worked closely with Karen Kocher, the Y's COO to help manage twenty branch operations with an annual budget of fifty-seven million dollars. During his career as a YMCA Executive Mel was known for developing boys' and girls' sport programs that became a model for the YMCA.

As a business owner, Mel founded the World Class Athletes and Doctors Seminar's that were conducted throughout the United States. He was associated with the 1984 Olympics, serving as Chairman for the Track Surface Committee. He managed an eight million-dollar budget project, selecting the Olympic stadium track surface, and the numerous training track surfaces throughout the Los Angeles area. Mel, was also the founder and CEO of the Los Angeles International Marathon. It was the Olympic trial venue for Mexico, Netherlands, England, and other countries. He was the first person to establish equal price money for women athletes.

Mel's life-long passion has been sports. He became a volleyball player while attending Sporthochschule in Cologne, Germany and helped take George Williams College to the National Championships. He was a World Class runner and his track accomplishments include, surpassing the Master indoors 1500-meter record, American and world marks in relays and winning the Pan American and International Championships in 400 and 800 meters. Mel, was ranked top ten in the Masters 800 Meter for ten years. At the age of forty-seven he had the fastest Masters 800 meter time in the world. Mel's 4x800 meter American Master Record still stands in today competitive athletic world.

As President, Mel Elliott brings years of non-profit, youth sports and business experience to help his son, Jerritt Elliott, and his wife Sarah, YNVA Founders, develop the Youth National Volleyball Association into one of the largest non-profit youth volleyball programs in the nation. Mel's greatest aspiration is to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

