

DAWN MUSSELMAN INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER 2009

The Pacific Northwest Association Local Masters Swimming Committee proudly presents the 2009 Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer Award to

Steve LaHaie

Steve, you have inspired many swimmers in our community to get involved in our sport. You unconditionally promote Masters swimming, serving as a role model for swimmers of all levels. You volunteer as coach of the boys high school swim team, the girls water polo team and as assistant coach to the girls high school swim team. Your OAC teammate Rich Seibert writes, "Steve's energy and commitment has made a big impact on our local community, with hundreds of athletes benefiting from his willingness to share his passion for swimming and water polo. Steve is a role model for volunteerism."

Steve, you are a great sportsman to your teammates, coaches and fellow competitors. You participate in PNA meets throughout the season. You're the first to congratulate others on their swims and are always respectful of the meet volunteers and officials. Adds Rich, "I have witnessed on many occasions a fellow swimmer having a bad swim or being disqualified. Steve will offer a quick word to help that swimmer accept what has happened, learn from it, and quickly focus on the important next event. As a coach and official himself, he understands the roles and needs of all the players."

You assist fellow swimmers during practice, open water swimming, and during swim meets. Although very busy with other commitments, you recently found time to help develop and deliver a two hour stroke clinic for Masters swimmers and triathletes. As always, you gave 100%, providing one-on-one feedback and swimming tips. Before and during meets, you give new competitors information to help them prepare for that first event, guiding them through race day preparation and helping to ease their race day jitters.

Steve, you are part of a core group that has brought the OAC Masters team from a handful of swimmers in December of 2007 to close to 50 active swimmers today. You have encouraged your friends, neighbors and relatives to join. Swimmers at all levels find an instant supporter in you as you are quick to welcome new members to the team. You have volunteered your time to help design the team's future, reviewing documents and partnering with local recreation representatives and the OAC age-group club to develop a solid business plan. You have helped forge a good working relationship between these two organizations.

Steve, for your inspiration to the entire membership of the Pacific Northwest Association of Masters Swimmers by your example of good sportsmanship, encouragement and commitment, the PNA is proud to recognize you as our 2009 Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer.

For the PNA Board:

Steve Peterson, President

For the Nominating Committee:

Jeanne Ensign, 2006 Inspirational Swimmer

