



2012 Pacific Association of USA Track & Field Association Service Award Recipients

The following individuals have been selected by our peers for contributing countless hours and expertise to the benefit of our membership and sports. Thank you all!

Maria Costello:



Maria joined the track and field world in 1995 where she started working the finish line at a 3M's Club track meet. In 2005 Maria joined the USATF team as an official and later became the youth official chair, a position which Maria held for two years. In 2007 Maria became the youth vice chair of the Pacific Association teaming up with Chair Joanne Camargo. As vice chair Maria worked tirelessly on many youth champion meets as co-meet director, and in 2010 she facilitated the award ceremony at the Junior Olympic National Championships held in Sacramento. Maria is retiring from an official role in the Youth Committee this year

Dan Davidson:



I have been officiating since 1962, became active in the Association in the early '90's. As Awards Chair I brought organization and was adamant about involving as many members as possible in the nomination/selection process.

I have officiated in many different assignments and in many local and national championships, including the National JO's on four different occasions; , the NCAA Championships; the World Masters' Championships, one in Oregon and one in Sacramento; two Olympic Trials; and of course many Special Olympic meets, Age Group, High School, Community College, and Collegiate league championships, state meets, and Invitation meets.

I worked at all aspects of officiating, starting with the Javelin, in the early '60's, and officiated at all the field events; I clerked at many national championship meets, headed the finish line many times, and currently am running the Lynx Timing for many local and Nor-Cal schools. I have also been fortunate enough to have been selected into two Halls of Fame: Eppie's Great Race; and the C.K. McClatchy Hall of Fame, for the two consecutive Section/undefeated cross-country teams in '58 and '59. I also held the County Record in the 880, and held a school record in one event or another in every school where I participated.

I started my coaching career while still in college, and continued doing so until 2001 – forty (40) years. Every team/school where I coached eventually won league championships. I was fortunate enough to have athletes buy in to my method of individual and team performance. I coached little league baseball, basketball (both girls and boys), cross-country and track and field. All this while teaching English and Journalism, mostly, and also doing 'my own thing' and running many road races of varying distances.

I started the girl's track and field and cross-country programs at Foothill High School of Sacramento in the mid-70's, eventually winning many league and subsection championships and one Section Championship in 1980. Other accomplishments for which I am proud: establishing a five city continuation school basketball league; creating and developing an At Risk Jr. Hi Program that became one of the best in the school district.

I have been active for many years in the Pacific Association and do not regret any of them. It's been a wonderful career.

Ken Grace :



Ken Grace is being acknowledged for his continued service to our sports by assisting in providing facilities for meets, clinics and coaching education schools at Chabot for over a decade. Grace has coached track and field and cross country both community college and high school for 30 years. USATF certified level 1 & level 2 in both jumps and endurance, Coach Grace has six community college state T&F champions, one high school state champion in cross country, and one national JC champion to his credit. Grace has authored several articles on training and endurance. Coach Grace has served in both the head XC-T&F coach and dean and athletic director at Chabot, and was awarded the California Community College Coach of the Year Award in 1991. Grace has earned his BS in Kinesiology from Cal-State Hayward, and MA in Education from Stanford University.

Dick Iwamiya:



I don't remember what year it was now that I first got into high school track starting. One of the Nor-Cal Officials Assoc. group leaders said they need track starters. So, I went down the hall & became a CIF Track Starter. It sounded simple enough...two hours of training and equipment list of things to buy. I became a track starter. About 10 days later, I was doing my first solo track starter assignment. I guess I haven't gotten too far in +25 years. Still doing a few track meets for American River College and various high schools in the Sacramento area.

Becoming a USATF Official has opened many doors for me, and I really enjoyed the friendships that I made, the people that I came in contact with a few I still keep in contact with.

I'm currently involved in a track & cross country timing. This has grown from a few meets per season to a full slate of cross, road and track meets. When the time comes to say enough is enough and it is time to say good bye, I know I will miss the friends that I have made along the way.

Joe Keever



Soon after moving to Los Altos, I was driving by Stanford and noticed all the athletes, wonder what was going on. It happened to be the 1998 PAC-10 T&F championships. I thought I've got to get involved in this somehow. I spoke to one of the officials who introduced me to Rich Zulica, the certification chairman at that time. Rich sent me the study material and helped me to get certified in 1999. I've been involve in volunteering and athletics most of my life, but this is one of the most gratifying things I've done.

My T&F experience is mostly colleges---Stanford, Cal and CSM although I've done some high schools. I do enjoy the local meets, but have done the Olympic Trials, in Sacramento in 2000 and 2004.

I've made many friends, through officiating, and enjoy working with the coaches and other officials and look forward to many more T&F seasons.

Art Klein



I was first exposed to PA/USATF officiating at the 1995 Bruce Jenner Meet in San Jose. I was impressed with how effortlessly the officials managed the event and decided that I wanted to be a part of the organization. Lori Maynard mentored me during my first assignment in the javelin. She also directed my apprenticeship as I chose to specialize in the throws after working the discus at the National JO's. While learning race walking while recovering from a serious running injury, I met Ron Daniel, RW Chair and set out on the adventures of an athlete, race director, and race walk judge. Yes, at times I was all three and with the support of my wife, Becky flourished in the role of RW Chair upon Ron's departure. Together we traveled to Open, Masters or Youth meets giving clinics or judging. It has been a fun journey!

Becky Klein



I returned to running and triathlons in the late 1990's to get back into some shape. I started competing in races to bring me some challenges. I met a group of individuals who taught me the sport of racewalking and I have been a convert every since 1997. I had a short, competitive career until 1999 when a diagnosis of advanced arthritis forced me to give up serious competition. However, I traveled with husband Art to his races and found myself not just spectating, but being a volunteer for the events. This prompted me to becoming a certified official in 2001. During these past twelve years, I have become the face of racewalking for the Pacific Association. I am a Level 1 coach and have taught youth walkers for the past 6 years and these athletes have many Junior Olympic medals to show for it. My athletes have also been

recognized on the Racewalk Honor Roll by National Racewalk Committee for their outstanding performances in the sport. As a Master Level Official as a Racewalk Judge, Level 2 RW Referee and Level 1 Track Referee, I have been active as an official. I have had the opportunity to be involved in local races up to world competitions as an event coordinator, chief judge or racewalk official. I have also spent lots of time working events as an umpire, referee and finish line coordinator. I have been a member of the executive PA RW committee and appointed by that committee as the chair of the RW certification committee. I have been the lead in mentoring and certifying new and existing RW officials in the sport. When asked, I participating in local officials training offering events in RW officiating, lap scoring and taking on the testing of all new and returning officials. Art and I also were the active members of the PA Board of Athletics and served 3 years as Co-Chairs for the Delegates to the Convention. In addition, I have served on the PA Youth Board as the Youth Racewalk Chair for the past 6 years.

I have enjoyed these past 12 years getting to know everyone and I wish the PA best of luck as they pursue their endeavors!!

Gary Wang



Gary Wang has been the Pacific Association Ultra LDR scorer for over ten years working tirelessly to provide accurate results and scoring to our Ultra community. Gary's primary responsibility is to score ultra events utilizing data collected from each race and comparing it to the huge association database of competitors. An ultra competitor himself, Gary lives in Corta Madera in at the base of Mt. Tamalpais. Gary also has created and manages the popular Ultra website www.realendurance.com which provides resources for ultra competitors around the globe.

Phil Watkins



Phil started officiating in 1964 when I timed races at the Cal Aggie Picnic Day meet and timed a runner who broke a record for the 880 which I held for ten years. Dan Davidson and I met at Sacramento City College in 1960 where we were both running the 880. I was an old man by then as I had served 5 years in the Air Force prior to that. Dan and I worked many meets over the years mostly hand timing. He started doing Accutrack while at Sac State and by then I was working mostly field events and still hand timing. I soon noticed that Dan got to see all the running races while I seldom saw any of the races while busy with field events. I then asked Dan if I could work with him and the Accutrack and started a long history of the two of use doing FAT timing. We both continued to work other events and Dan did a lot of clerking and I was doing lots of weights and measures.

Besides track we were also doing cross country. We were part of the group doing the score keeping for the San Joaquin Sub Section and Section T&F Champs. for a number of years and along with Dick Iwamiya decided it was really taking too long and too much work. We then went to the Section meeting and offered to do the meets by computer. They took us up on the idea and we then went to Bob Rush and learned how it could be done. That started our group, 'About Timing Assoc.' and started us on our way to the Lynx timing and left Accutrack behind. There were four of us to start, the fourth being Bill Edgers who died several years ago.

We have been doing meet for small schools and leagues meets from Orland to the north and Patterson to the south, along with the Bay Area and Marin and up to Frog Town and many places in between.

For more information on the Pacific Association awards and past recipients, refer to:

<http://www.pausatf.org/data/awards.html>, or contact Awards Chair Leroy Milam at: Leroy1888@aol.com

2012 Officials Committee Awards Recipients:

Dick Barbour Meritorious Service Award: Bob Podkaminer and Dr. Leon Glover

Horace Crow Special Recognition Award-Field: Charles Murphy

George Newlon Special Recognition Award-Track: Elisabeth and Jonathan Price

USATF National Award Certificate: Jay Abbott (Vertical Jumps, Throws), David Ahn (LDR Referee), Deanna Bower (Throws), Charles Buettner (Starter), John Collins (Throws, High Jump), Robert Dietrich (Track Referee, Field Referee), James Hart (Throws), Ajay Padgaonkar (Race Walk Judge, Throws), James Starmer (Starter), Lloyd Stephenson (LDR Referee)

2012 Legacy Coach Award Recipients:

The Coaches Committee Legacy Coach Award was created to acknowledge legacy coaches from our Association of any level that have contributed to the association beyond the traditional role of coaching exemplified by contributions in teaching, event directing, in addition to mentoring young coaches into the coaching profession.

Last year's recipients were (*pictured right*):

Margaret Dixon, Oakland PAL

Walt Lange, Jesuit HS, Carmichael

