

## **DAWN MUSSELMAN INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER 2008**

The Pacific Northwest Association Local Masters Swimming Committee proudly  
presents the 2008 Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer Award to

**June Van Leynseele.**

June, your NEO teammates nominated you for this award for the inspiration you have brought since joining Masters Swimming and NEO in 2003. From hip replacement surgery a decade ago to your first PNA Champs and then local open water challenges including Puget Sound in 2003, you established your niche as chief organizer and supporter of NEO's participation in Alcatraz swims and the Trans Tahoe Relay. Finally, you added "participant" to your other roles to do the Alcatraz swim in 2005 at age 65 and last year swam the Trans Tahoe Relay on one of NEO's three teams.

Coach (and 1993 Inspirational Swimmer) Robin O'Leary notes how you come to workout with positive intent and a willingness to adapt. As a swimmer in NEO's slowest lane, you frequently share the responsibility with your lane mates for teaching new swimmers lane procedures and etiquette. Your forthrightness, patience and humor have helped innumerable rookies understand various otherwise unintelligible and arcane instructions such as "50's on the 50, fly down and breast drill back."

But perhaps most significantly, you were the moving force behind NEO's contribution to the hospitality room at the 2007 Short Course Nationals. You organized the shifts for staffing the room while taking most of the week off work to be on site to see that all ran smoothly. Despite occasional glitches and difficulties in that capacity, you never lost your perspective or sense of humor.

"As someone who has turned to Masters Swimming later in life, June epitomizes what it is all about. Her embrace of camaraderie, mutual support, and staying fit are an inspiration to all who know her. Best of all, she has a great time in the water! June has fulfilled multiple roles for both her team and for Masters Swimming over the past five years. We look forward to her continuing support and smiling face in the years to come."

June, for your inspiration to the entire membership of the Pacific Northwest Association of Masters Swimmers, and by your example of good sportsmanship, encouragement and commitment, the PNA is proud to recognize you as our 2008 Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer.

For the PNA Board:

---

Steve Peterson, President

For the Nominating Committee:

---

Lee Carlson, 2007 Inspirational Swimmer

