

2018 PNA Coach of the Year Award
Presented at the (first)
Annual Membership Meeting, Social, and Awards Presentation
April 14, 2018

It is an honor to present the 2018 PNA Coach of the Year Award. Three outstanding coaches were nominated: April Cheadle (Bainbridge Aquatic Masters), Pete Colella (North End Otters), and Cal Milbach (Thunderbird Aquatic Club).

After reviewing the nomination materials and weighing various factors, the selection committee has chosen Pete Colella to be this year's recipient of the Coach of the Year Award. In the nomination that was submitted by the NEO Board, Pete was lauded for the impressive impact he has had on the team since September 2016. Under his management, the club has experienced growth, both in daily attendance and overall club membership. Prior to his hiring, the team was languishing, and he clearly has brought a breath of fresh air to the program.

NEO has also experienced increased attendance at local swim meets due to Pete's encouragement and presence. Team morale is soaring, partly due to Pete's infamous one-line zingers, but also for his care and concern for each swimmer, regardless of age or ability. To quote team member Mary Lippold: "His emphasis on improving technique for each of us, both for injury prevention and speed, is so welcome! Through his never-ending research, he is always learning and sharing with us new training ideas, techniques, and drills".

Pete is a wonderful ambassador for Masters Swimming. His passion for the sport and commitment to his NEO swimmers is commendable and PNA is pleased to honor Pete as our 2018 Coach of the Year.

I hope he will continue as a NEO coach for many, many years and join the ranks of other illustrious coaches like April Cheadle and Wendy Neely.

In addition to a physical award, Pete also receives a \$750 scholarship, which is to be used for expenses related to attending a Coaches conference.

Sally Dillon
PNA President