

Southwest Ohio District Swimming and Diving Classic Special Awards

The Southwest Ohio Swimming Officials Association has established awards to be given annually to honor people making major contributions to high school swimming.

Stan Kaplan Award – Women's 200 Yard Freestyle

Stan Kaplan brought the idea of an invitational like the Classic when he moved from Cleveland to Cincinnati. Stan became seriously ill in 1984 and was confined to bed. He passed away in 1996 having never seen the Classic. It is appropriate the first individual event be in his honor.

George Frentsos Award – Men's 400 Yard Individual Medley

George was a very familiar sight standing in the starters platform. George was not only a long time official but also the father of five swimming sons. All five swam the individual medley.

Jim Dillon Award – Women's 100 Yard Backstroke

Jim was instrumental in starting the aquatic program in the Middletown area. He coached the Middletown High School swim team for many years as well as the area summer age group program. After retiring from coach Jim became a swim official. Jim's daughter swam the backstroke.

Larry Lyons Award – Men's 500 Yard Freestyle

Larry Lyons was one of the more active coaches in the Cincinnati area. Larry coached the Sycamore High School swim team for a number of years, then moved to the Anderson High School team. He also coached high school water polo and the Sycamore Flying Fish age group program, and the M.E. Lyons YMCA swim team. Larry was a leader in the Swim Coaches Association and served as meet manager for high school sectional and district competition. Many of Larry's swimmers had great success in the distance freestyle events. Larry passed suddenly in 2000.

Dave McLennan – Women's 200 Yard Breaststroke

Dave was instrumental in using the computer to seed, score, and print swim meet results. He used his knowledge of computer programming to simplify the task of handling the data need to run a swim meet. He was also a swim official and past President of the officials Association. Dave watched his daughter swim many breaststroke events during her swimming career.

Pete Barney – Women's 1650 Yard Freestyle

Pete started the McAuley High School swimming program and was coach there for many years. He was a long time secretary of the Southwest Ohio Swimming Official Association.

George Schaefer Award – Men's 200 Yard Individual Medley

George officiated for thirty five years in AAU, USA swimming, and High School swimming. George had a great deal to do with growing swimming into the sport it is today. The officials/hospitality room at Keating Natatorium is dedicated in George's memory.

Don Holmes Award – Women's 100 Yard Breaststroke

Don was past President of the Southwest Ohio Swimming Officials Association, and was very involved in the sport. He watched his daughter swim breaststroke many times.

Southwest Ohio District Swimming and Diving Classic Special Awards (Continued)

Tim Myers Award – Men's Diving

Tim was a long time official who was instrumental in moving diving forward in Southwest Ohio. His dedication to the sport of diving elevated the dive judging abilities of all officials who worked with him. Tim got his start working with his two sons who were divers. Tim's insight is missed.

Mike Nocheck Award – Women's 100 Yard Individual Medley

Mike was the long time coach at Oak Hills High School. Mike worked just as hard with his JV swimmers as with his elite Varsity swimmers. His attention to detail whether stroke mechanics, training, or rules kept his swimmers competitive and officials alert. Mike's strong voice will be missed.

Francis Parrish – Men's 100 Yard Freestyle

Francis love for competitive swimming started early. As a youth he swam for Hamilton YMCA, and became a coach, official and league administrator. He served as vice president on the board of the Southwest Ohio YMCA Swim League, as well as many other roles. Francis was an official for high school swimming and diving, YMCA swimming, and was often invited to officiate the Ohio State High School Swimming and Diving Championships. He also officiated at the YMCA Masters National meet for many year. In those roles he was a mentor to hundreds of officials who continue on deck today.

Andy Acus – Women's 100 Yard Freestyle

Andy was a teacher at Cincinnati Public Schools, but his passion was high school swimming and diving. Andy was the long time secretary for the Southwest Ohio Swimming Officials Association. He officiated for many years at all levels of high school swimming and diving, with multiple invitations to the Ohio State High School Swimming and Diving Championship Meet. Andy's sharp wit and presence on the deck will be missed.

Ray Noble – Women's Diving

Ray Noble devoted his life to the sport of diving—as a competitor, coach, official, and mentor to hundreds. Over more than 25 years of high school coaching, his athletes earned multiple state championships, runner-up titles, and consistent top-ten finishes. Ray took particular pride in those who advanced to the U.S. Olympic Trials or gained admission to U.S. Service Academies, reflecting both athletic excellence and character. For nearly three decades, Ray served as the diving coach at Indian Hill, balancing his coaching duties with his role in the school's maintenance department. His commitment extended beyond the school year, as he gave back through summer league coaching, private lessons, and club programs. Ray was a respected and familiar presence on pool decks throughout Greater Cincinnati and beyond. His insights, encouragement, and quiet leadership left a lasting impression. Though his presence will be deeply missed, his legacy will continue to inspire generations of divers and coaches to come.

Val Lyons – Women's 200 Yard Individual Medley

Val's involvement with competitive swimming goes back more than 50 years. Most people knew Val as a meet manager and problem solver, most often at Sycamore High School, but also at league meets, Sectionals and Districts. When coaches asked an official a meet question, their response was often “See Val”. Val was a co-founder of the Classic. Not only did Val officiate high school swimming, she also officiated USA swimming. Red Cross water safety training was another of Val's long time interests.