

EDWARD (ED) MILLER, III



Ed Miller is being recognized as the **2012 recipient of the Joseph G. Rogers Award** for his long and exceptional leadership and accomplishments in Y competitive swimming. For over 30 years, Ed has tirelessly given back to the YMCA and competitive swimming many-fold, with dedicated service to swimmers, officials and coaches in the sport. A staunch advocate for athletes, Ed constantly searches for appropriate accommodations in guidelines and rules that satisfy swimmers' right to compete, and he determinedly strives for a fair and level playing field for all. Amongst the swim coaches' community, Ed is recognized not only for his expertise as an official and his in-depth knowledge of the rules, but for his respectful treatment of all parties, particularly in confrontational, emotionally charged competitive situations.

Ed and his wife Carol reside in New Milford, New Jersey. Their two children, Kristine and Stephen, grew up swimming for the Ridgewood YMCA Breakers Swim Team, opening the door to Ed's lengthy tenure with YMCA competitive swimming. After they aged out of their YMCA swimming careers, Ed's children continued to swim through college at Franklin & Marshall College. Both Kristine and Steve experienced success at the college level, with Steve attaining honorable mention All-American status twice. Kristine established herself as an elementary school teacher, while Steve continued his academic studies into Medical School and is now a general surgeon. Ed attributes the discipline and values of YMCA competitive swimming as major factors in his children's successes.

Throughout the years, Ed has contributed invaluable knowledge, time and expertise to the YMCA swimming community. Ed has worked in many capacities including 28 years as a YMCA and USA-S swimming official and various leadership positions such as Officials Coordinator for the Ridgewood YMCA, NJ YMCA Officials' Chair, NJ YMCA State Meet referee and USA Swimming Officials' Registration Chair. Ed has also donned the trainer's hat, serving as a YMCA officials' trainer for 21 years in addition to stints as a USA swimming officials' trainer. Utilizing his accounting skills developed in a career as a Partner for Price Waterhouse Coopers, Ed filled a position on the Competitive Swimming Advisory Committee in 2004 and helped the committee better understand its financial position.

Ed's most profound impact on YMCA competitive swimming has been felt in his contributions as the leader of YMCA officials. Ed was appointed Officials Chair in 2006, at the time that the YMCA adopted USA Swimming technical rules. He immediately created a formal national officials' committee with active participation of designated regional leaders. One of the primary agenda items of the committee was the seemingly insurmountable task of re-structuring then re-writing all officials training designs. Ed worked patiently and diligently with YMCA of the USA staff to update all certification records, to redesign the certification program including developing professional standards and tests, to distribute the training material and then retrain all national officials. Ed initiated national conference calls with the Swim Officials' Trainers, originally as a means of communicating implementation of the redesigned officials training. Ed facilitated the rules conversion as the officials chair and an advisory committee member. To this day, Ed represents the face and voice of YMCA swimming officials, and as the YMCA spokesperson on the USA Swimming Rules Committees.

Although an accountant by training, Ed is a skilled educator by nature. Upon assuming the position of National Officials Chair, Ed reformatted officials' meetings at national meets to be a training event. With so many YMCA officials together in one setting, Ed seized this opportunity for collective knowledge sharing. Because of Ed's influence, the officials' meetings at nationals now have an easy flow allowing for fellowship along with interactive sharing in expertise for all concerned.

Ed is known for his analytical countenance, and his calm yet authoritative stance on choosing the fairest course of action when dealing with complex issues in his many leadership roles. Besides facilitating the massive administrative accomplishments associated with rules conversion and the new training designs, Ed has been masterful in defusing sidebar political storms resulting as USA Swimming and YMCA officials' groups work collaboratively to support "Our Kids" in the sport of swimming.