

2001 Joseph G. Rogers Award

For dedication, accomplishment, and excellence in YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving

Jack Ver Helst

Jack Ver Helst began his involvement with the YMCA in the late 1950's as a member of the learn-to-swim program at the Mason City, Iowa YMCA. At that YMCA, Jack was involved in a variety of their programs ranging from the club programs (Jr. Leaders Club and Hi-Y Club), physical education classes, YMCA Camp, and through all areas of the YMCA aquatic programs including scuba.

Jack's competitive swimming started at the Mason City YMCA at the age of 12. The Mason City High School did not have a competitive swim team while Jack was in school, so he turned to teaching and coaching the age group team at the YMCA while still in high school.



In 1965 Jack became program director at the Boone YMCA in Boone, Iowa while completing his B.S. degree in physical education and biology. He was the leading force in a movement which converted a railroad YMCA into a well developed community based YMCA program which included social, physical and aquatic programs. He assisted in the organization of the Mid-Iowa YMCA Swim League, the oldest YMCA swim league in the state of Iowa, and later became president and secretary/treasurer of this league. Jack is currently actively coaching the age group swim program for the Boone County YMCA and is co-coordinator for the YMCA competitive swimming for the state of Iowa.

Jack and his wife Sharon live in Boone, Iowa. They have three sons: Brian, Jeff, and Eric: and one daughter Wendy.

AREAS OF INVOLVEMENT

Positions within the YMCA and the USA Competitive Swimming and Diving Committee

Field Representative, Member-at Large, Administrative Vice President

Was a member of the committee that developed the 1st addition of PRINCIPLES OF YMCA COMPETITIVE SWIMMING AND DIVING published by the YMCA of the USA in 1996.

Helped write the ETHICS FOR YMCA SWIM OFFICIALS.

Assisted in updating the YMCA Swim Officials program

Served on the committee to reorganize the Advisory Committee for YMCA Competitive Swimming and Diving.

Chaired the Conrad Carroll Award selection committee

Taught at many national YMCA program and aquatic schools

Level II and Level III YMCA Meet Official

YMCA Swim Official Trainer and Faculty

NATION SWIM MEET RESPONSIBILITIES

At National Short Course Swimming and Diving Meets, Jack has served as Chief Stroke and Turn Judge, Assistant Meet Referee, member of championship committee, Referee for 1st time trials.

At National Long Course Swimming Meets, Jack has been Chief Meet Marshall (at the 1st meet), Chief Stroke and Turn Judge, Head Meet Referee, and a member of the championship committee.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Conrad Carroll Award 1988, Outstanding YMCA Coach/Staff/ Volunteer Award 1992 (Iowa YMCA Swim Committee Award), E. Sherrill Brown Award (Community Service Award from Boone J.C. Club), Clara Barton Award (American Red Cross), NFIOA Distinguished Service Award 1992, Youth-Service-to-Youth Award 1965 (Mason City YMCA), Recognized for 35 years Active Official for the Iowa High School Athletic Association, and Received the Casey Award for 1994 and 1995 from the United States Water Fitness Association, Top Water Fitness Program for Iowa in 1994 and 1995 from USWFA