



Zambelli
FIREWORKS

Lisa Collins
2005 IFEA/Zambelli Fireworks International
Volunteer of the Year Award
Nominated by Memphis in May International Festival
Memphis, Tennessee



Lisa Collins, like the many volunteers she represents in spirit, has been extremely dedicated and enthusiastic in her support for the Memphis in May International Festival in Memphis, Tennessee. She is completing her final term as chairman of their Hospitality Committee, a leadership role that follows more than ten years of faithful service as a Memphis in May volunteer.

Lisa is one of Memphis in May's Best Ambassadors. Her organizational skills and extensive pre-planning ensure that things run smoothly in an environment that is often hectic and always high energy.

As chair of the Hospitality Committee, Lisa is responsible for running over 20 backstage catering tents spread out between four separate stages. And that is just for one of four events! Since taking over as Chair, Lisa has been instrumental in the revitalization of her committee and personally trains each of her volunteers, making sure they understand their roles and what is expected of them.

Lisa also is able to see beyond the boundaries of her own committee and looks for ways in which she and her volunteers can help serve other committees and the Festival overall. In past years, Lisa's committee only participated in one of four festivals. As Lisa took on a larger leadership role, she began to see the bigger picture and recognized an important need for expanding the Hospitality Committee to support all events.

Creating an environment that balances hard work with ample fun is also something Lisa does with expertise. Her committee operates from daybreak to well after midnight on event days. Add in multiple days of set-up and load-out and you have one very busy schedule for people who are not getting paid. Only someone that lives it and leads by example, like Lisa, can inspire this kind of loyalty and dedication.

Lisa continually shows her support to Memphis in May by being conscientious of the bottom line and staying under budget. She oversees a spending budget of more than \$20,000, and even through two years of extensive budget cuts, has shown ingenuity and worked miracles in seeking out numerous donations and discounts from vendors.

Working Memphis in May is also a family project for Lisa, whose husband and grown daughter both put in endless hours in support of Lisa and the Festival. In fact, she met her husband while working as a volunteer for the Festival. Lisa is even grooming the next

generation of volunteers. Too young to be an official Memphis in May volunteer, Lisa's grandson eagerly worked by his grandmother's side in preparation for the events. Lisa's commitment and dedication extends well beyond the time and effort she gives to the Festival. Upon their own initiative, Lisa and her husband take personal, un-paid vacation time from work in order to volunteer. This type of personal sacrifice shows just how big a heart she has for the festival and her community.