

IFEA / Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year Award 2017



Semi-Finalists

The IFEA/Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year Program rewards our member's supporters who give so unselfishly of their time. Although, annually, one individual must ultimately be named Volunteer of the Year, hundreds are recognized by our member organizations and affiliated associations as the backbone of our industry. Whether small or large, special events and festivals throughout the world consistently bring to our attention the talents of their most committed volunteers. To select one is a daunting task; to learn the stories behind their contributions has been an honor. The following outstanding volunteers were selected as Semi-Finalists in the 2017 IFEA/Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year Awards Competition.

Holly Blake

Nominated by Music for All, Indianapolis, IN



In 1999, Holly began volunteering at the Bands of America Grand National Championships. This event brought together the Ben Davis High School Band that Holly had been a part of in her youth, the Lawrence Central High School Band that Holly's daughter had been a part of, and nearly 90 other marching bands from across the country. After volunteering at this pinnacle event for

Music for All, Holly was beyond impressed with the organization and its mission. For nearly 20 years, Holly has continued to volunteer with Music for All through its Bands of America Marching Band Championships, the Music for All National Festival, and the Bands of America Honor Band in the Tournament of Roses Parade®. She has traveled to eight states, for 65 events, logging more than 1,500 hours serving over 450,000 students, their parents, and music teachers across America annually.

Bob Holt

Nominated by the Kentucky Derby Festival, Louisville, KY



Bob first got involved with the Kentucky Derby Festival in 2009 when a friend suggested he and his best friend, also named Bob, become involved with operations with one of their major events, Kroger's Fest-a-Ville, a 9-day "mini-Festival" within the Kentucky Derby Festival. Bob began as an Assistant Operations Chairman with his primary responsibility of

creating professional maps for each of the 9 days of Kroger's Fest-a-Ville. His best friend Bob Smith led the team as the Operations Chair until 2014, when he suddenly passed away. Bob Holt stayed dedicated to Festival and his friends on the KDF team and stepped up as Operations Chair, increasing his responsibilities tremendously. Over the course of the 9 days of Kroger's Fest-a-Ville, the venue implements 25 events and Bob works with each of them. He is always on the venue to act as a conduit for easy load-in and breakdown. Whether it is being an

advisor to these events, running to get tables or chairs for an event, or just acting as an ambassador, Bob is always there for whatever folks need.

Patty Matthews

Nominated by the Greater Columbus Arts Council, Columbus, OH



Patty has been volunteering on the Columbus Arts Festival Steering Committee for more than 20 years. She has always loved the festival and now chairs one of their key committees. She is a strong leader, loves to coach, and ensures her team of volunteers have what they need.

Patty won the first Columbus Arts Festival Gwen Scott Volunteer of the Year Award in 2016, named in honor Gwen Scott, a long-time Festival volunteer who passed away in 2016. This annual award is designed to honor individuals who have contributed at an extraordinary level of dedication to the Arts Festival.

Ray Sellers

Nominated by the Pigeon Forge Office of Special Events, Pigeon Forge, TN



Ray Sellers, at 88 years of age, constantly and consistently outdoes men and women less than half his own age when it comes to volunteering. His passion and love for the Pigeon Forge community are phenomenal, so much so in fact not only does Ray volunteer for all seven of their city-sponsored special events, but he also volunteers for the cities of Gatlinburg and

Sevierville with their special events as well as numerous non-profit organizations such as Friends of the Smokies.

One would think Ray would be stretched thin considering the sheer scale and scope of the groups and events he is involved with; however, nothing could be further from the truth. Without fail, Ray shows up to see where he can be of assistance for each event. Whether it be preplanning or post production, he always tries to provide insight of what worked well and what needs improvement in a constructive manner.

To view information on this year's winner and past Volunteer of the Year winners, [Click Here](#).
For more information about the IFEA/Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year Award, [Click Here](#)