



THE PARADE COMPANY

## **IFEA/Zambelli Fireworks Internationale Volunteer of the Year Award**

### **A. Individual Submitting Nomination Information:**

Renée Gonyeau  
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### **B. Nomination Information:**

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### **C. Nomination Questions**

#### **Explain your volunteer's significant depth of involvement.**

Al Zitny began volunteering with The Parade Company in 1995 after his son who was already a volunteer got him to come down and check things out. Al took his first step into The Parade Company and the rest became history. Since beginning to volunteer Al has volunteered for just about all of The Parade Company events including the Fireworks VIP Rooftop Party and America's Thanksgiving Parade<sup>®</sup>. He is a tremendous help in the art studio. Al comes in just about every day to help the Art Director with float/prop building, painting and construction.

This past year Al volunteered more than any other volunteer with The Parade Company. In 2009 he donated 789 hours of his time. Since he began volunteering in 1995 he has donated thousands of hours of to the organization. Al is an amazing individual who has a true passion for The Parade Company and giving back to the community.

**Show specific examples of your volunteers roles and responsibilities.**

Since beginning to volunteer, Al has had several roles and responsibilities. Some of his roles have included helping to build floats, painting, volunteering for various positions in America's Thanksgiving Parade<sup>®</sup>, Hob Nobble Gobble<sup>®</sup> and pre and post event production. Al always gives 110% of his energy to any task that he takes on.

Al has been very helpful in painting and assembling many of the props that are used in the various Parade Company events. Each time Al takes on a role he is very enthusiastic and ready to help out. He is extremely handy and it has proven to be helpful with the events. There have been many occasions where Al has been called on at an event to help retouch paint that has been chipped or make a small repair on a prop.

**Describe how your volunteer has provided significant enthusiasm, organization assistance and specific expertise.**

Al is an amazing volunteer who puts enthusiasm into everything he does. He approaches each volunteer assignment with a positive attitude that spreads on to others. He is always willing to help out in any way that he can. Al is very dependable and contributes to the organization immensely.

When it comes to expertise, Al is great at painting/building props and helping to build floats. He has been volunteering since 1995 and definitely knows his way around the studio workshop. He is a major player in helping to make deadlines for upcoming parades and events.

**Explain how your volunteer has shown initiative and leadership in his or her efforts.**

Al shows initiative and leadership with every role that he takes on. He often takes the lead and helps train new volunteers in the Art Department by showing them the ropes and where items are located. Al has demonstrated his ability to be a leader and take initiative in organizing and directing other volunteers. He is easy to get along with and emerges as a natural leader when working with others.

Al is an individual who is responsible and dependable making him someone that can be counted on. He has been known to take initiative and help troubleshoot issues that have come up in past events as well as the art studio. Al has a great personality that makes it easy for others to follow his lead.

**Describe your volunteer's positive attitude.**

Al Zitny has a positive attitude and it shows every time he shows up to volunteer at a Parade Company activity. No job is ever too big for him. It's always doable in Al's eyes. No matter what the task, he is always willing to help out with a smile on his face. Al gets along with The Parade Company staff extremely well and works well with fellow volunteers.

He has a love for The Parade Company that is demonstrated through his attitude. Al is a very caring person who enjoys being able to put a smile on someone's face. His positive attitude helps make any task an easy one. Fellow volunteers and Parade Company staff admire Al for his passion and hard work.

**Tell how your volunteer has exemplified his or her dependability.**

Al is an extremely dependable person. When he says he is going to do something he can be counted on. This is exemplified through his ability to take on tasks that require trust and little supervision. Al has been known to take on projects and make them his own. With him taking the lead on a project it is sure to get done quickly and efficiently.

He proved to be extremely dependable a couple of years ago when The Parade Company was given the task of making hundreds of lollipops out of styrofoam for the parade. Al took on the project and owned it. He was at the studio day and night carving out styrofoam and painting. By him taking on this project he helped free up art staff so they could concentrate on other high priority projects. The lollipops were completed under Al's watch and millions of people got to see them in the parade. Al is undeniably a dependable volunteer.

**Describe how your volunteer has made a difference to the festival or event. What impact has your volunteer had on your festival/event? What void would there be without him or her as a volunteer?**

Every time Al volunteers at an event he makes a significant impact on it. For most of the events he can be found working behind the scenes wherever needed. He can be found doing everything from small repairs on an event day to greeting guests as they arrive. He handles each task with expertise and enthusiasm.

Al has made a true difference with volunteering at the Fireworks VIP Rooftop Party. He has allowed Parade Company staff to focus on other important areas at an event because the staff knows he can be counted on. If Al were to ever stop volunteering there would be a large void due to his absence. Al is a one of a kind individual that would be hard to replace. The Parade Company appreciates all of the help Al has provided throughout the years. He is a humble man that deserves recognition for all of his hard work.