

THE SAM VENEZIA VOLUNTEER SPIRIT AWARD

USA Luge is proud to offer the ***Volunteer Spirit Award*** in the memory of ***Sam Venezia***. For those of you who didn't have the pleasure of knowing Sam, he was a friend to everyone; as well as the consummate volunteer - always giving, but never asking for anything in return. It is the hope of USA Luge that this award, in some small way, will keep his legacy of "volunteerism" alive.

This award is meant to honor those people who volunteer their time for the benefit of the United States Luge Association and its athletes. A perpetual trophy resides in the USA Luge headquarters where the recipients' names are listed. The award recipient also receives a suitable personal trophy to be displayed proudly.

What follows is an application to be used to nominate an individual for the award. The deadline for the receipt of nominations is April 25, 2011.

Nominations can come from any USA Luge member, but the name of the person doing the nominating will remain confidential beyond the members of the Screening Committee.

The Committee is made up of Sheila Venezia (Sam's wife), one athlete, and one staff member (currently, the athlete member needs to be determined and the staff member is Ron Rossi). The Screening Committee reduces the nominations down to no more than three. From there, the Executive Board votes on a recipient.

All USA Luge paid staff members are also able and welcome to nominate someone to win this award, but they are ineligible to be nominated themselves.

The Screening Committee, by virtue of these guidelines, has the right to not put any names forward to the Board. It is hoped that by having this option available, everyone will feel that the recipient of this award is highly deserving of the honor that comes with it.

If a recipient is selected, the formal announcement and presentation occurs at the Annual Meeting on June 11, 2011.

The criteria the Screening Committee uses in its deliberations will focus on one of the following:

- A. A significant amount of time spent in aiding USA Luge and its athletes. The nominator is expected to list what the nominee has accomplished.
- B. A significant contribution to USA Luge and its athletes ("contribution", in the context of this award does not mean a financial contribution). The nominator is expected to describe the contribution.
- C. A significant act or gesture that benefits USA Luge and its athletes. The nominator is expected to describe the act or gesture.
- D. A career's worth of contributions to USA Luge and its athletes (this point is meant to recognize long standing volunteers who have always "been there" to give to the program in one form or another, but who may not qualify under point A. above because of "real world" responsibilities, geography, or both). The nominator is expected to list the career activities of the nominee.

Individuals may win this award multiple times; however, within those multiple award opportunities, they may only win it once under point A. and once under point D. (As an example, Volunteer X may win the award in 1999 under point B. and then win it again in 2000 under point D. In 2001 they would still be eligible to win the award again under points A., B., or C. but could no longer win it under point D.) Please use the attached form to nominate an individual for this award.

Previous recipients:	1996 - Gigi Jenkins	2002 - Olympic Officials	2008 - Doug Bateman
	1997 - Bob Germaine	2003 - Mel Poole/Carl Schwarzer	2009 - Frank Masley
	1998 - Dwight Bell	2004 - Ted Minde	2010 - ---
	1999 - John Mowry	2005 - John Jenkins	
	2000 - Paul Otenti/Vicki Hanson	2006 - ---	
	2001 - Dennis Guertin	2007 - Larry Page/Kathryn Terdiman	

