



2023 SERVICE AWARDS

BOB WRIGHT

- Over 30 years as a high school coach: (Chico HS 1990; Leland HS, 1991-1992; Newark Memorial HS, 1992-1996; Oak Ridge HS, 1997-2020) with his teams producing several CIF state champions.
- Meet Director, Golden West Invitational (est. 1960), building its historic name by expanding it to all ages.
- Partnered with USATF Pacific, bringing the PA Open T&F Championship to Golden West (2022).
- USATF Certified Official



BOB WRIGHT (more)

Bob was a member of the Chico State Cross Country and Track & Field teams in the late 1980s, and was hooked on coaching when he got his first coaching job in 1988. He has spent over 30 years as a high school coach in Northern California (Chico High School, 1990; Leland High School, 1991-1992; Newark Memorial High School, 1992-1996; Oak Ridge High School, 1997-2020) and his teams have produced several CIF state champions.

In addition to coaching, Bob took over as Meet Director of the Golden West Invitational in 2016 and has continued to build its historic name. Bob has partnered with the Pacific Association to bring the Association Championship to Golden West, which has been held concurrently since 2022. Bob is also a USATF Certified Official, and can be found clerking or umpiring when not coaching or directing meets.



2023 SERVICE AWARDS *(continued)*

MICHELE LASALA



- Career in the running industry since 2004.
- Founder, owner of Blistering Pace Race Management,
- Manages four USATF Pacific-based premiere events: Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Half Marathon, the Kaiser Permanente Napa Valley Marathon, Big Sur International Marathon, and the Monterey Bay Half Marathon.
- West Valley TC President for 4 years, then membership chair
- USATF Pacific Foundation Board (chief financial officer).

MICHELE LASALA *(more)*

I began running in third grade with my Dad, Ben, an active Buffalo Chip club member. I ran in high school and went on to compete in a Division I program in college. It turns out I became just as passionate about working in race production as I was in being a runner and began my career in the running industry in December 2004. I have worked for the Los Angeles Marathon, the New York Road Runners, and the Sacramento Running Association. In 2016 I started my own race management company, Blistering Pace Race Management. We are proud to manage four premiere events within the Pacific Association, the Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Half Marathon, the Kaiser Permanente Napa Valley Marathon, the Big Sur International Marathon, and the Monterey Bay Half Marathon.

I am still running, and compete with West Valley Track Club., was the club president for four years, later the membership chair. I service the USATF Pacific Foundation board as their chief financial officer. I always feel so lucky to live, work and compete within the Pacific Association, because its running community is one of the strongest I have ever seen and heightens the level of participants and performances across the board.



2023 SERVICE AWARDS *(continued)*

AJAY PADGAONKAR



- USATF Pacific official since 2003.
- USATF Pacific Official's Certification Chair since 2020.
- Maintained the Certification process during USATF's complex transition to sport80 USATFConnect.
- Certified at the Master level in Throws and Race Walk and was recently upgraded to a Race Walk World Athletics Silver level referee.
- Served at multiple Championships: USATF senior & U20 Nationals, Youth, Open and Masters, NCAA, regionals and nationals, World Athletics U20.
- Certified Para Athletics Official; served at Para National Championships.
- Recipient: USATF Pacific Outstanding Official, USATF Pacific Horace Crow, the USATF Officials Committee's Outstanding Official and Chair Awards



2023 SERVICE AWARDS *(continued)*

AJAY PADGAONKAR *(more)*

Ajay has been the official's certification chair for the USATF Pacific since Jim Hume passed away in June 2020. Ajay took over during a recertification year when the USATF database changed over to the current sport80 USATFConnect, and is responsible for maintaining certification status and certification level upgrades for all of USATF Pacific's 250+ certified officials. Ajay was helping as a volunteer at youth meets where his kids were competing back in 2000-2002, when Bill Hawkes spotted him and recruited him as an official in 2003. After many years officiating, Ajay is now certified at the Master level in throws and race walk and was recently upgraded to a race walk World Athletics silver level referee. Ajay has served at over 10 USATF senior and U20 national championships, including 2 Olympic Trials, multiple Youth and Masters championships, multiple NCAA conference, regional and national championships, and World Athletics U20, Masters and open championships. He is a certified Para Athletics official and has served at Para National championships as well. Ajay is a recipient of the USATF Pacific Outstanding Official, Pacific Association Horace Crow, the National Officials Committee's Outstanding Official and Chair Awards. Last year, Ajay retired after 41 years in the semiconductor industry as an engineering manager and a technical marketing executive.

