

IMPACT



A Strategic Plan for the Future

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2009 National Recreation and Park Association Distinguished Aquatic Service Award



Juliene Hefter, deputy director for WPR, was presented with the 2009 NRPA Distinguished Aquatic Service Award, the nation's highest award given to a professional who has distinguished the aquatic industry through his or her leadership and actions.

Juliene's experience and leadership in the aquatics arena spreads across many components of our profession, such as her services as president for the National Recreation and Park Association's National Aquatic Branch in 2007, General Program chairperson of the National Aquatic Management School and National Aquatic Conference, chairperson for the National Aquatic Conference, member and chairperson of the Aquatic Facility Operators Board of Directors, Aquatic Facility Operator instructor, and as the current National Forum Representative for the National Aquatic Branch.

Her distinguished career includes being recognized as the founder and first chairperson of the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association's Aquatic Membership Section; a recipient of the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association's Professional Award of Merit, the highest award given by the state association to a professional in Wisconsin; the recreation Professional of the Year; Aquatic Professional of the Year; and NRPA's R.O.S.E. Award winner in 2006. She has also been named to Aquatic International's "Power 25" in 2007 and has been the recipient of the Public Policy Innovation Award.

She is highly recruited around the nation to provide expert testimony and witness services, facility and staff audits

and an array of aquatic related training sessions. She is the Founder of Safety First Aquatics, LLC, where she has established herself as a renowned consultant and speaker on a variety of management and administrative topics pertaining to aquatic safety and management.

Juliene Hefter is a much sought-after presenter and has provided a variety of sessions on both a state and national level. She has presented numerous times at the National Recreation and Park Association Annual Congress, Illinois Park and Recreation Association conferences, Iowa Park and Recreation Association, Minnesota Recreation and Park Association, Michigan Park and Recreation Association, South Dakota Park and Recreation Conference and the National Recreation and Park Association's National Aquatic Conference, and she has presented more than 20 times for the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association Conference and Section workshops.

As a Certified Aquatic Facility Operator instructor, she has provided instruction on numerous occasions for our state association, as well as throughout the United States. She does not accept payment for her organizational and presentation time for these courses but donates her stipends back to the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association.

Juliene Hefter embodies what the NRPA Distinguished Aquatic Service Award was designed to do — recognize significant professional accomplishments on a local, state and national level, as well as recognize outstanding commitment to the aquatic industry. She will continue to make an impact on a state and national level, and she will continue to enhance the aquatic profession by her inspiration, strong incentive and demonstrated leadership. ■