

PRESS RELEASE

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Sunriver Music Festival Awards Volunteers of the Year

Each year, Sunriver Music Festival recognizes outstanding volunteers that have put extra time, effort and passion toward the Festival's success. This year, two exceptional volunteers were honored at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Event.

The Sunriver Music Festival Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Barbara Coman and the Executive Director's Volunteer of the Year went to George Blankenship.

Volunteer of the Year, Barbara Coman, serves as Secretary on the Board of Trustees and organizes the Festival's concert ushers. In addition to these time consuming jobs, Barbara bravely took on the Festival's largest annual fundraiser, Festival Faire, and moved the traditional event to a new location at a different time of year and gave it a facelift. She created a strong committee of long-time Festival patrons and added new energetic Festival supporters to take a fresh look at the Festival's important fundraiser. The Festival hired a new Auction Coordinator that worked diligently to bring in attractive donations for the big event and to work with the committee to make the event a success.

"We decided that in this era of tired auction dinners combined with the poor economy, we really needed to have a different approach to this event," explains Barbara Coman. "We moved the event to the Mary McCallum Park in Sunriver. The setting is lovely along the river. We had a delicious buffet dinner, great music provided by our Young Artists, a bar with sponsored martinis, micro-brews and wines, and a fast paced live auction. To our surprise, we attracted more guests to this event than we anticipated and over thirty of the guests were brand new to the Festival. That was a real bonus."

The Festival Faire committee's dedication to every detail resulted in a fundraiser that exceeded its financial expectations and continued the tradition of offering a fun, community event.

In addition to the Volunteer of the Year award, another award was given to George Blankenship for Executive Director's Volunteer of the Year. George serves on the Festival's Board of Trustees. The Executive Director's award is given to volunteers that have assisted in positively impacting the Festival's bottom line. George took on the task of working with the Sunriver Chamber of Commerce to organize a new golf tournament at Crosswater.

"Swings for Strings" was held on May 31st and proved to be an exceptionally successful fundraiser for both the Chamber and the Festival. George was instrumental in working with the Crosswater staff to secure a weekend date for the tournament, select a golf format and assist with a number of tournament details. 117 players participated in the Stableford format tournament. For the \$125 entry fee the players were treated to 18 holes of golf on one of Oregon's finest courses, Crosswater. In addition, the players were treated to lunch, a post event catered reception, musical performances by the Festival's Young Artist Scholarship winners, first place net and gross trophies, and many other prizes.

Net proceeds after all expenses were more than \$14,000 that Festival and the Chamber split. The generous support provided by the Sunriver Resort and Crosswater guaranteed the success of the tournament.

The Sunriver Music Festival has over 200 volunteers that assist with everything from office work to housing musicians to organizing fundraisers. The Festival would not be able to provide the quantity and quality of concerts and music education programs without the dedication of these valued volunteers.

To find out more about volunteer opportunities at the Sunriver Music Festival, call the office at 541-593-1084 or email at tickets@sunrivermusic.org.