

Jean Olson (Montana)

Jean began her involvement with AAU Wrestling when she signed up her oldest son with the Colstrip Montana AAU Wrestling Club. She believed in sports for the betterment of youth and learned that wrestling was one of the best sports to have her children involved in. As a volunteer mom she was soon very involved in the club, working wherever she was needed, whether it was organizing tournaments, helping coaches at practice, pairing or scoring and timing. She was elected to the local board serving as trustee for two years, treasurer for four years and president for four years. At the state level Jean was treasurer of the Montana Amateur Wrestling Association from 1994 to 2000. She has served as a Montana delegate to the AAU National Convention, attending the National Wrestling Committee meetings for the past 15 years. She was the Montana AAU Association's second vice president for 2 years, vice president for 2 years, and is currently in her 8th year as president, now called governor, of the Montana District. In 2002 Jean was elected secretary of the AAU National Wrestling Committee and currently serves in that position. From 2003 until the present she has also been a co-chairman of the National Wrestling Committee's Hall of Fame Committee. She has worked at the head table at the Scholastic (Disney) Duals for seven years and worked at Grand National Wrestling Tournaments for two years scoring and timing and for two years pairing. She is a life member of both the national AAU and the Montana AAU.

Jean's awards from her years of volunteering for AAU include: Outstanding Service Recognition from the Colstrip Wrestling Club in 2001, Montana AAU Association Outstanding Volunteer in 2000, Montana AAU Outstanding Contributor Award in 2002, AAU National Wrestling Committee's Sustained Superior Performance Award in 2003 and the AAU Presidential Leadership Award in 2004.

Living in smaller towns, with a commitment to being involved in her children's activities, led to volunteering and eventual leadership in many organizations. These ranged from president of the local booster club to chairman of the board of the Schoolhouse History and Art Center in Colstrip with many other volunteer positions in between. However, the AAU, especially wrestling, has kept her the busiest for the longest period of time. Jean feels that the people she has met and the friendships she has made, not only in Montana but also all over the country, have made these years especially rewarding.

Jean currently lives in Laurel, Montana with her husband Tom. They have three grown children, Jenny, Eric and Bryan. They currently also have four grandchildren, one girl and three boys. Perhaps some of them will be future wrestlers.