



Chad Sylte, Male Player Category

Chad has been playing USSSA for over 20 years. He has played at many different levels of play and has spent much of his career at the very top of the competition. He has pitched with Major/A teams from Texas, Minnesota, Louisiana, California and Washington to name a few. While pitching has been his main position, he has also filled in at catcher, 3rd base, 2nd base, 1st base and shortstop. He has consistently hit for a high average, with the ability to go long if needed, but his role has been mostly that of a place hitter over the years.



Todd Cooley, Male Player Category

Todd has played USSSA softball for over 20 years. He was part of the Slow Pitch News team that took 5th place in the 1992 Men's Major World Series held in Daytona Beach, Florida. He was a member of the People's Church team that won the Church "A" World Championships twice. He has received an All Star award in numerous State, National and World tournaments and has been MVP of many tournaments in the Men's, Church and Mixed programs. Todd was mainly an outfielder, but played anywhere he was needed. He could hit for power at will and consistently hit for an average of .650-.700 year in and year out. Todd was an inspirational and motivational type of player. He always motivated his team to strive for and to achieve bigger and better goals.



Sue Swanson, Female Player Category

Sue began her softball career in slow pitch, playing for Mt. Si High School, where her team took 3rd in the State Championships during her senior year. She went from high school to Western University where she continued her playing career at shortstop playing fast pitch and slow-pitch and managed a .531 batting average while playing fast-pitch. After graduation she began her USSSA slow pitch career with The Lady Coasters, where she was a stand out utility player. After playing against some of the best in women's slow pitch, her peers decided it was time that she brought her talents to the Seattle Express team, where she played for the next 10-12 years. She retired only after her team had won the Women's "A" National Championship in 1997. She has been honored with numerous All Star and MVP awards throughout her time in slow pitch. While she was an All Star shortstop for many years, she moved to the mound in her last 6-7 years where she continued to excel both in the field and at bat. Over the years Sue has played with many of our current Hall of Fame members, including Cesilee Coulson, Sally Koenig, Cathy Percy, Kathi Illman, Sue Peters and Kathy Seba. While she truly misses the game, and the challenges that come with it, she is currently helping to coach her sons and daughter in baseball/softball and wouldn't trade that experience for anything.



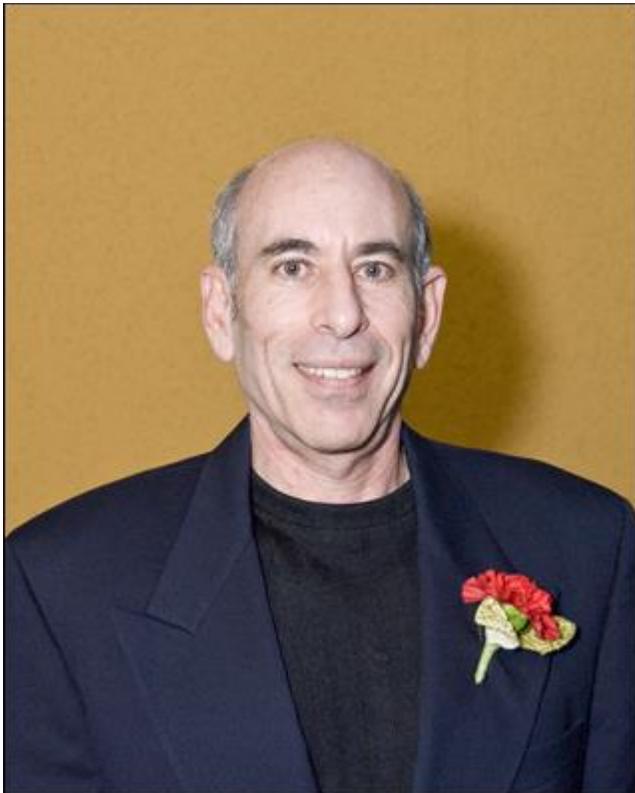
John Griffith, Manager/Coach Category

John's involvement with slow pitch softball began in 1971 as a coach of a local team and has continued until the present time. He began playing USSSA in the early 1980's when Dave Nusser began running tournaments in the Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood areas. John has coached teams in the Men's program, Church and Masters over the years and has participated in a State Tournament in almost every year that USSSA has been available in Washington. His team, The Fellowship, won the 1994 Church "A" State Championship and ranks as one of the all time great moments in John's career with USSSA Washington. John has not just coached, but has sponsored many teams over the years, and has been an annual supporter of our Tournament Guide for many years, by advertising his company, Remax Realty, in it. He believes that USSSA is the best program available, because of the rules, umpires and directors that are involved, and their care about the game and the players. While there may be many individuals that have won more trophies, or achieved higher expectations, there is not an individual in softball that has enjoyed the game more, shown more support for USSSA Washington or made more friends than John Griffith.



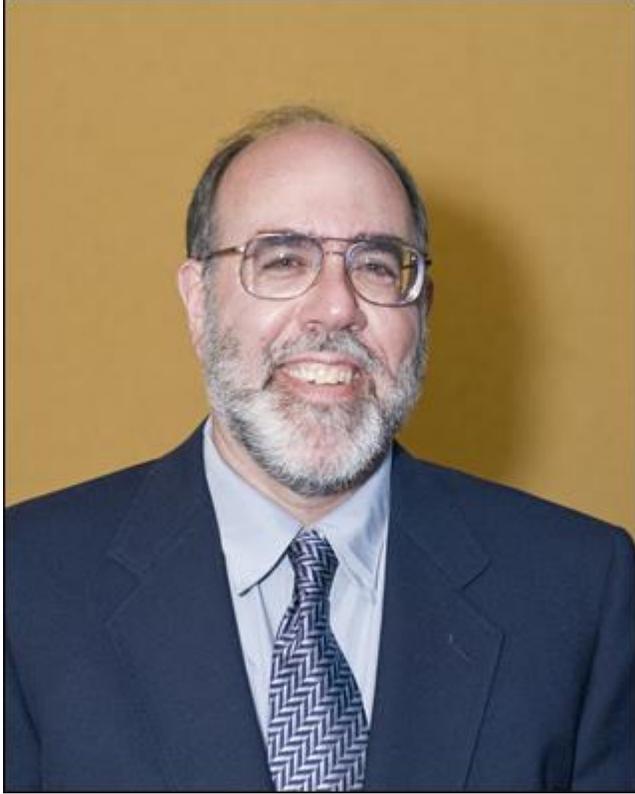
Robert C. Callaham, Umpire Category

Known for his red hair and red beard, Bob has been a USSSA umpire for 21 consecutive years. He began his umpiring career in 1986, and was one of the original seven umpires in the Kitsap County Umpire's Association. He took a program with 8 USSSA teams that played on only Tuesday nights, and helped it grow to a league of over 200 teams playing 7 nights a week. When our State program was looking to expand into areas such as Moses Lake, Tri-Cities, Cle Elum, Wenatchee and Bellingham, Bob established a crew of umpires and was on the road training umpires in numerous parts of our state, aiding in the growth and expansion of USSSA Washington. He has worked Regional, National and World Tournaments in Washington, Colorado, Utah, Oregon, California and Arizona, at all levels of play. In just his fifth year as an umpire, Bob took over as the Umpire-In-Chief for the Kitsap Peninsula area, and held that position for ten years. Through his tireless dedication, the Kitsap County Umpires are known for their hustle and positive attitude whenever they take the field. Bob has hosted and directed some of the best run State Tournaments ever held for USSSA Washington, including the first ever Youth Girls Fast Pitch State Championships.



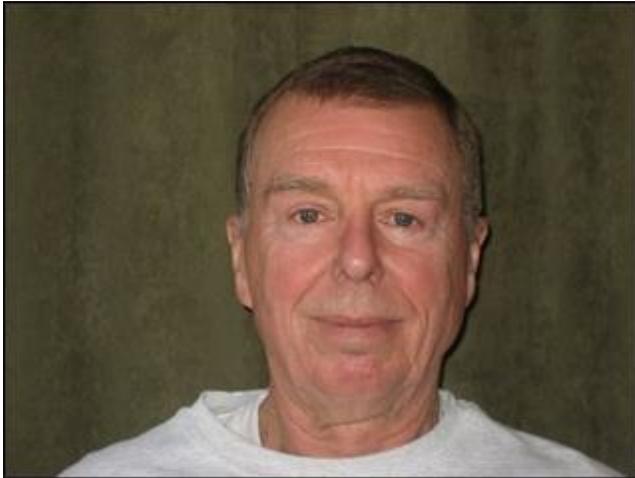
Steve Wollach, Special Category

Steve has been a major part of USSSA Washington, in one way or another, since the mid 1980's. He began his USSSA career as a player in Michigan; moved to California, played there; moved to Washington in 1984 and continued to play. Over the years Steve has coached and played on numerous teams that have year in and year out been recognized as the top teams in the "C" Division of play. Some of his teams were: Waldo's - 2001 3rd place in State and 3rd place in the 'C' NIT; 2002 - BIC/Team 180 - 'B' State Champions; 2003 - DeMarini/Team 180/Kazuma Sports - 1st place 'C' NIT and 3rd place 'C' Northwest Nationals; 2004 - Dorman/DeMarini - 3rd place 'C' NIT; 2005 - Team Freedom/DeMarini - 2nd place 'C' State. He says, "The most fun was beating Bleachers with their super star coaches, Calvo and Wilson". Steve became an Area Director and was instrumental in bringing USSSA to Bellevue. He has supported USSSA Washington, almost exclusively, for over 20 years, and has been a major part of the Men's program for the majority of that time. He is currently serving as the Assistant Men's Program Director, and for the past 12 years has also filled the roll of Men's Classification Chairman. Steve keeps a complete record of all of the top teams in each division of play, and can identify almost any player that has competed at the "D" level or higher with any amount of success. He has been instrumental in many of the new ideas that have been put into place over the years, including the current system of Travel Vouchers that is used by USSSA Washington. Steve has donated his time and knowledge of the game to USSSA Washington, over all these years, without once asking for anything in return.



Marc Blau, Special Category

Marc has been a valuable asset to USSSA Washington for 20+ years. He and his team played in the very first qualifying tournament at Firgrove Fields. His team took second place and qualified in that tournament to play in the Western World 'C' Tournament in Sparks, Nevada. His participation in USSSA Washington State began when he became a member of the Classification Committee in 1980. He served on the Men's state classification committee for three years and served as an Area Director for Pierce County for eight years. Marc was the first Parks and Recreation employee that USSSA Washington State allowed to run State, Regional, and Divisional Championship tournaments. He ran these tournaments for over 12 years and has earned the respect of not just USSSA Washington State, but the majority of the players that have participated in these tournaments. Marc is an individual that we can honestly say has made a difference in helping USSSA Washington be what it is today. Marc recently retired from the Pierce County Parks Department but because of his efforts over the years the leagues continue to be run under the USSSA banner.



Dick Taylor (Gas Lamp Tavern), Sponsor Category

Dick was a very big part of USSSA Washington during the 1980's and 1990's. For many years he sponsored teams that support our program. He ran one of the most successful tournaments we had for many years, with the umpires from all areas fighting for the chance to umpire in his event. The Wet T-shirt Contest at the bar may have had something to do with that. Dick was instrumental in USSSA getting the Issaquah leagues to change over from ASA. He was a Men's Program Area Director for the Bellevue and East King County area for many years. He always carried himself with class, and was a true friend to all of us in USSSA Washington.