

New Life Member: Diane Stowell



Diane Stowell

At the OCC Annual Meeting on February 24, members elected Diane McLean Stowell to Life Membership in recognition of her 63 years of membership and distinguished service to the Outrigger Canoe Club as a committee member, chairperson, director and officer.

Over the years Diane served as a member or chair of the Running, Triathlon, Swimming, Admissions and Membership, Public Relations, Nominating and Judges of Election Committees.

She was elected to the Board of Directors in 1988 and served as Coordinating Director of Athletics, and the House and Historical Committees. She served the Board as Vice-President of Activities, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary.

In addition to her service on Club boards and committees, Diane is a well-known athlete who has represented the Club in local, national and international competition for the past 30 years. She was the first woman elected to the Winged "O" in 1991.

Her athletic honors read like a who's who of local running and swimming competition. She won her age group in every event she entered and twice was named the Honolulu Quarterback Club's Senior Female Athlete of the Year (1988, 1989) and was named one of the Honolulu Advertiser's Top Ten Athletes of the Decade in 1990.

Her swimming prowess won her a place in the Hawaii Swimming Hall of Fame. She won more than 100 national and international swimming titles and holds more than 50 state swimming records in varying age groups.

Diane joined the Outrigger Canoe Club in 1953, working at a summer job to pay the \$60 initiation fee.

She was a swimmer at Punahou (1949-1952) and was the 2009 recipient of the Punahou Old School Award and was inducted into the Punahou Athletics Hall of Fame in 2013. She was a two-time All American swimmer at UCLA. She was an All-American swimmer in the masters division many times.

Diane competed annually in the Club's Castle Swim and won the women's division four times—in 1981, 1982, 1983, 1987, and her division in the other years.

She was also the winner of the elite division and first in her age group in the Outrigger Invitational swim in 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 and 1990.

Diane finished second overall in the women's division in the 1986 OCC Triathlon.

Her running success in numerous community competitions won her recognition as Hawaii State Runner of the Year in 1984 and 1986.

But perhaps the achievement she's most proud of is her six Hawaii Canoe Racing Association championships for senior masters women. She earned the first one in

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1985, the year she first learned to paddle, and repeated in 1986-1990. No other crew (with the same individuals in the canoe) in the history of the HCRA had won as many state championships as this crew.

Diane was also on many other winning OCC masters crews in regatta and distance canoe races.

In 1990, Outrigger fielded its first masters crew in the Na Wahine O Ke Kai canoe race and Diane was on the winning crew. She was also on the OCC Molokai crew in 1991 and 1992.

Diane was one of the most competitive women in sports. It didn't matter whether it was running, tennis, skiing, swimming or paddling. She always wanted to win.

One of Diane's strong interests was in making it possible for young athletes to compete at higher levels in college and in national competition. To this end, she served on the Board of Directors of the Outrigger Duke Kahanamoku Foundation and chaired the scholarship committee from 1988-1994.

Diane has served in many capacities in the Club and has

represented Outrigger Canoe Club throughout the world as an athlete in an honorable and winning fashion.

As Diane celebrates her 80th birthday next month, let's congratulate her on a full life and thank her for her many contributions to the OCC and the athletic community.

Congratulations Diane, see you in the water!

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