

RRCA Scott Hamilton Award 2004 Nominee:
Sue Brown
President – Calumet Region Striders

Dear Ms. Andrews:

Sue Brown exemplifies the qualities of a model RRCA club president. Her exhausting efforts and pure love of our club have made the Calumet Region Striders (CRS) the outstanding organization it now is. Under her direction for the past five years, the club was transformed into a renowned running club recognized throughout the region. Along with promoting membership, increasing community awareness of the club, expanding geographic location of membership and board member participation, and improving the financial health of the organization in order to provide more scholarships and assistantship funds to runners, Sue maintained her 1st place Gold Cup age group title.



The Gold Cup (GC) Series is a collection of twenty-five local running events selected by Calumet Region Striders according to stringent standards. It has become the coveted series for local race directors to gain acceptance. Sue implemented improved guidelines, comprehensive race evaluations, and mentored GC and prospective GC race directors. The overall quality of every race in the series has improved. As well, member participation within the series has more than doubled. Event coordinators and runners have benefited from her efforts by knowing that the sanctioned races will meet or exceed expectations across the board, and draw an increase in registration/competition year after year. Sue was the only female recipient of the 2004 Jim Cox Award, a feat accomplished by finishing all 25 races in the GC Series.

Calumet Region Striders has also become an integral part of the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Track and Field because of Sue's efforts. Our members volunteer in excess of one thousand hours each year to assist AAU director Joe Mis with the AAU Northern Indoor Nationals and the AAU Northern Outdoor Nationals. Between 800 and 1,000 student athletes from across the nation look to the Strider volunteers for direction, encouragement, and their results as they participate in either event.

We would also like to introduce RRCA to our Junior Strider program. Sue recognized an important demographic segment that was in need of attention; runners fourteen and under. Jr. Striders now have competitive age divisions at all Gold Cup races of the 5k distance, uniforms that they wear with pride, and Sue as a coach to lead Jr. Strider training runs. Sue received her USATF Coach certification to ensure the delivery of proper direction and advice about track and field events. Our Jr. Striders participate in and receive awards at the AAU Track and Field meets. In 2004, fifteen Jr. Striders advanced to regional competition. As well, our annual Holiday Party, Strider Survivor Picnic, and Gold Cup Banquet encourage family attendance by providing activities and accommodations for children and teenagers. We have realized an increase in family membership and race participation.

An additional result of Sue's efforts: Calumet Region Striders has also formed a partnership with two other running groups. One with Opportunity Enterprises (OE) to assist with the OE Marathon Team (oerunners.org) and another with Park Forest Running & Pancake Club (lincollnet.net/pfrpc). This networking was done in an effort to promote each club's training program and running schedule.

The Calumet Region Striders can boast about providing the following because of Sue Brown's dedication to the club as president and member.

- Professional and inspiring articles in monthly INSTEP newsletter
- Informative www.calstrider.org web site updated daily
- Competitive Gold Cup Series & Jr. Strider Team
- Second most popular water stop – 2004 Chicago Marathon
- Regional recognition as a RRCA club
- Regional newspapers feature CRS athletes and club activities
- 25 years of club history archived

Sue's reign as president has truly been a labor of love. She will continue to offer guidance and direction as she steps down from her position as president, but leaves an incredible pair of running shoes to fill. The Board of the Calumet Region Striders is honored to have had Sue as president for the past five years and hopes that RRCA will recognize her contributions to the running community by selecting Sue Brown as the 2004 recipient of the coveted RRCA Scott Hamilton Award.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Cassandra Rozycki, Hal Slager, Cecilia Bernal,
and the Members-At-Large

Elected Board Members of Calumet Region Striders

Submitted by:

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CRS
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