2018 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Dwight "J.J." Johnson, Founder / Membership Chair
Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts (LCACE)

Brief explanation of why you feel your group's nominee should receive the Don Singleton Volunteer of the Year award.

Dwight "J.J." Johnson founded our club in 1983 and has held every officer position over the years (some on multiple occasions) and has kept us together and vibrant for 35 years. He is truly the 'Swiss Army Knife' of our club! In addition, he routinely reaches out to other local computer clubs to share information and ideas, solicits new members for our club and volunteers as a computer expert at a local Senior Center.

Describe how your volunteer has made a difference to your group. For example: Show specific examples of your volunteer's roles and responsibilities.

Our club started out as the Lake County Atari User Group, with an Atari-specific focus. Under J.J.'s leadership, our club was a recognized leader among Atari clubs and hosted several national Atari conventions.

As technology changed, J.J. ensured that the club did as well. In 1992, he changed our name to Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts, in part to reflect a shift to a broader technology focus. Meanwhile, he immersed himself in digital photography and used his new-found knowledge to provide photo services for club events and to teach interested members more about this new subject. As digital video technology became available at the consumer level, J.J. repeated the process. He now frequently records our monthly presentations and posts them online so that members who were unable to attend a meeting can have access to the presentation. He is also our "go-to" person to coordinate showings of APCUG VTC and other YouTube technology-related video presentations at monthly meetings.

As a further assist to presenters and our Program Chair, J.J. created a program evaluation form which he distributes to members before each month's presentation. Afterwards, he collects the completed forms, tabulates the results and shares them with the presenter, Program Chair and President. And, speaking of monthly meetings, J.J. purchases door prizes and runs our door prize raffle and 50/50 financial raffle at each meeting.

As our current Membership Chair, J.J. is our contact person to the outside world. He handles calls and/or emails from individuals or organizations seeking computer assistance, those wishing to join our organization, potential presenters and other local computer clubs. He also serves as our APCUG contact and passes along related APCUG information to his fellow officers.

J.J. is our current Webmaster and maintains our website, our Google Group email account (which allows any member to easily share information with or request assistance from our entire membership) and our Facebook account. He keeps fellow club officers up-to-date with member name, address and contact information listings, along with individual photos of each member, helpful in keeping track of who is who at our meetings. (In this regard he also maintains a library of member ID cards, displaying name and photo, which they pick up at the beginning of each meeting and return at the end.)

He assists our Newsletter Editor in publishing our monthly newsletter, providing photos and material from other computer clubs. J.J. steps in for the Editor when he is off on vacation or otherwise unable to prepare the monthly issue and deserves credit for making our newsletters available online in an easy-to-read Flip Album format (in addition to the traditional PDF version.)

Our annual Holiday Party depends heavily on J.J.'s contributions. He designs and prints the flyer for our Holiday Raffle, arranges for special raffle ticket printing & distribution and purchases the raffle prizes (in addition to the usual assortment of door prizes). At the party itself, he provides photo services and arranges games and associated prizes (such as our Ugly Sweater Contest).
In addition to his many contributions to our club, J.J. also visits other local computer clubs and shares information and ideas with them. He is also a regular volunteer at a local Senior Center, providing computer assistance and presentations to their clients.

J.J. began our club with the motto, "Members helping members"; it is as true today as it was then, in large part due to his personal example!