2026 Mae McEwan Award Nomination

There are six total nominee – please see detailed information below.

Nominees are listed in alphabetic order.

Nominee: Dana Bradley

Details:

I am honored to nominate Dana Bradley for this prestigious award.

Dana has been a dedicated Masters swimmer since she was old enough to qualify, and she has rarely missed a year of competition. Her commitment to Masters swimming extends far beyond simply participating. She has traveled internationally to compete, and even when there is no one nearby with whom she can train, Dana finds a way. She coordinates remote practices, learns routines from videos, and does whatever it takes to continue improving and competing.

Dana's dedication to Masters swimming is also evident through her many years of service on the Masters Committee. She has devoted countless hours to supporting, strengthening, and advancing the sport she loves so deeply.

Dana is passionate about Masters swimming and has an extraordinary love for the sport and for its continued success. She is never afraid to speak up, advocate for what is right, or do the hard work necessary to ensure that Masters swimming remains accessible, equitable, and fair to all. She understands that the strength and future of Masters swimming depend on thoughtful leadership, strong rules, and a commitment to making sure everyone has the opportunity to participate.

Dana embodies the spirit of Masters swimming through her dedication, perseverance, service, and unwavering passion. She has given so much of herself to this sport, both in the pool and through her leadership, and I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition.

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Nominee: Janet Jankowiak

Details:

Janet Jankowiak has been competing in masters most of her adult life. Having started as an adult when she was studying medicine in France in her 20's. She has consistently attended masters nationals almost every year over that time and is now competing in the 70-79 age group. She has been instrumental in reviving our group and bringing a full team to masters this year, including a swimmer that is new to the sport this year.

She has become friendly with athletes all over the country because of her involvement. In addition, she is a Doctor doing Neurology Research including on the benefits of Artistic Swimming in keeping our brains active as we age.

Janet is always a friend to everyone on the team and treats everyone with such support and respect. She is a true representation of everything positive about this sport.

Nominee: Kristy Aguirre

Details:

Kristy is an exceptionally talented athlete whose skill reflects years of unwavering dedication, discipline, and hard work. Beyond her impressive abilities in the sport, she is a truly outstanding teammate who leads with kindness, generosity, and enthusiasm. She consistently uplifts those around her, inspiring us to reach new skill levels through genuine encouragement, constant positivity, and a shared passion for the sport. Always willing to give her time and energy, she eagerly volunteers wherever she can make a meaningful difference for the team and the sport. Her talent, selflessness, and commitment to fostering a supportive and uplifting team environment make her an extraordinary candidate for this award. I cannot recommend her highly enough!

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Nominee: Michelle Tilman Kinz

Details:

I am proud to nominate Michelle Kinz for the Mae McEwan award for the dedication she brings to our sport daily. Michelle is a deeply committed and supportive teammate in the pool, while simultaneously working behind the scenes to advance artistic swimming nationwide. She serves our local community on the club's Artistic Swimming committee, as well as serving as a Trustee for the USA Artistic Swimming Foundation. I truly cannot think of anyone more deserving of recognition for making such a profound, lifelong commitment to our sport.

Nominee: Rosy Bell

Details:

Rosy has been a DC Synchromaster for many years. She participated in the sport as a youth, and also collegiate artistic swimmer. She is a perfect example of Sport for Life.

When Rosy joined the DC Synchromasters, she almost immediately jumped in and helped organize, not to mention recruited others for the team. She has grown the team with a large contingent of previous synchro swimmers from all parts of the US who have settled in the Washington DC area. The team has also found new-to-synchro swimmers and works them into their routines. She has raised the bar working with the team to not only go to Master's Nationals, but participating in Canadian Nationals as well.

Her enthusiasm for the sport has also resonated with the DC swimmers, even when they move out of the area as they bring their love of the sport to their new area. As a result Masters artistic swimming teams outside of the Washington DC area become larger and participate in more events.

And Rosy is a great organizer! The team works together finding pools, writing routines and figuring out the costuming, but there is no question that Rosy is involved and making it happen. She works on all team committees, including finding pools, finance, routine placement, social media, and communicating with the team. The team also has a robust social media presence which helps to find new swimmers and show others what artistic swimmers do.

Rosy definitely is worthy of the title of Outstanding Masters Artistic Swimmer and deserves the award for her work in encouraging Masters swimmers of all levels.

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Nominee: Wendy Carter

Details:

There's something in the water, and her name is Wendy!

Have you ever seen light dancing on the waves? That's Wendy. She dances, sings, and brings music to the water. When the speakers fail during a performance, Wendy simply sings herself, keeping her teammates on rhythm and the audience entertained.

Known affectionately as "Water Wendy," she is a true aquaholic. Artistic swimming isn't simply a sport to her; it's a way of life. She has dedicated decades to competing, coaching, teaching, performing, and sharing her love of the water with others.

Wendy's artistic swimming journey began under the guidance of her mother, Mary Ellen Carter, founder of the Briarwood Anemones. Her early competitive career culminated in a 1987 National Junior Olympic silver medal. She later combined swimming with her passion for theater, appearing in films, music videos, commercials, and creating her own aquatic theater productions.

Returning to Masters competition in 2010, Wendy earned a National Grand Master Duet silver medal, followed by a California State Games solo silver medal in 2011, a National Solo bronze medal in 2012, and a US Masters Games solo gold medal in 2016. She continued earning medals in trio, team, and combo events.

Beyond competition, Wendy has made an extraordinary impact as a coach and instructor. Her experience includes Bel Air Synchro, Angelfish, the River City Magnolias, Charlottesville Swans, and the ACAC Angelfish Synchronized Swim Team, which she founded and coached from 2014–2020. While living in Belize from 2021–2025, she even offered free ocean swimming lessons to children and adults.

Wendy is also an exceptional teammate. She continually supports others, helping teammates through recovery, assisting with everyday challenges, and bringing endless energy to the pool. Swimming alongside Wendy is both inspiring and challenging. My constant goal is simply to "catch Wendy!" When choreography requires an impossible transition, we give it to Wendy because somehow, she always makes it work.

But Wendy's greatest contribution isn't measured in medals or performances. It is found in the countless people she has introduced to artistic swimming, the confidence she has instilled in her students, and the teammates she continually encourages and supports.For her decades of contributions as an athlete, coach, performer, instructor, recruiter, and devoted teammate, I wholeheartedly nominate our Superhero Siren of Synchro, Water Wendy, for the Mae McEwan Award.