

## 2018 PENINSULA POP WARNER'S - NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Craig Connelly, President of the Santa Clara Lions and chartered member of Peninsula Pop Warner Football Conference has been selected the 2018 Pacific Northwest Regional and National Male Volunteer of the Year.

Craig's qualifications in youth football administration and coaching stems from 50 years in every conceivable position within an Association and League, as well as a major contributor to the Pacific Northwest Region and National Pop Warner rules and the scholastic programs.

Craig has been a Football Coach, Football Athletic Director, Association Board President, League Board Member, League Scholastic Review Board Member, League Scheduler, League Rules Director, League Bowl Director and League Hearing Officer.

Craig has sponsored and mentored Associations that have joined the PPW League as well as the Pacific Northwest Region. At the Regional Level, he has been a Delegate, Rule Director, Regional Book Check-in Supervisor as well as Regional Cheer Competition Coordinator both the at Regional and National Hosted Competitions.

Every administrative person within the Peninsula Pop Warner Conference and the Pacific Northwest Region has witnessed Craig in action during practice, games and competitions. They speak of his skill and expertise – skill in turning disorganized crews of would-be volunteers as well as athletes into, precise functioning teams, that have led our League as well as his teams to several Regional and National rankings. His expertise at getting the best out of each volunteer, coaches as well as athlete while designing of strategies that worked under the most trying conditions is of his greatest attributes.

We would also speak of his humanity. Craig is always willing to go out on a limb for all that need help. He has inspired all that have dealt with him by personal example and personal enthusiasm. He is well recognized as a friend that will always be there when you need him, always ready to give that helping hand.

Peninsula Pop Warner would also like to speak of the respect that Craig Connelly commands from all his peers, Coaches as well as League, Regional and National Officials. We would also mention that the respect is not given gratuitously, but has been earned over the years by what this man has accomplished in his own life and in the lives of others.

Craig has been instrumental in the development of rules and regulations providing an educational system within Peninsula Pop Warner and the Pacific Northwest Region that provides our administrators and coaches with a keen understanding of the National Rules. Craig has developed over his 50 years in Pop Warner a very strong communication skill and this skill has been critical at League Coach's Clinics as well as League Board meetings conveying the necessity for a well-managed and structured program.

Tim Hilton, CEO Peninsula Pop Warner Football

Craig Connelly's Pop Warner Involvement 1968 - 2018

**Santa Clara Lions Association;** President, Athletic Director, Head Coach, Equipment Manager, Snack Shack Coordinator, Flag Football Director, Scholastic Committee Chairman

**Peninsula Pop Warner League;** Board of Director, Scheduling Director, Rules Director, Referee Director, Bowl Director, Hall of Fame Recipient, Chairman of Several Committees, Scholastic Committee Founder Status, Regional Delegate, Budget Committee Member

**Pacific Northwest Region;** Rules Director, Events Coordinator, Host National Championship Field Coordinator 2 years, Volunteer of the Year, Scholastic Committee Founder Status, Championship Committee Chairman

**National Pop Warner** Volunteer of the Year, Weigh-master Committee, Book Check Committee, Scholastic Committee Member, MPR Equalization Rule - Author, Scholastic Grading Equalization Standard - Author