



# NAGVA

## HALL OF FAME

### JOHN "JUDY" FERNSLER

*Nominated by Jason Fallon*

John "Judy" Fernsler, Madison, WI, first joined NAGVA in the early years. He played his first NAGVA Championships in 1986 at NAGVA IV (even before we used Roman Numerals!). John was the co-director of Madison's "Magic" Tournament which pre-dated NAGVA and was held over the same July weekend and Madison's annual Magic Pride event. He helped run this event for over 20 years.

In 1992, John joined the NAGVA Board in the role of VP of Accounting/Audit. It was shortly after joining the board when in Houston Championships 1994 he made the mistake of when asked about it, he replied "I don't have a girl name." Dubbed "Judy" as in Judy Getsome, his nickname has become legendary in NAGVA.

In 1996, John was voted onto the NAGVA executive team as Treasurer. He would hold the position for 10 years – the longest in the organization's history of any one officer. Even before computers (no joking) John helped compile, organize, and put systems in place to assure transition and compilation of NAGVA. He has a copy of the original, hand-written NAGVA By-Laws. He steered the organization through challenging and tough financial times and made those he served with better. Even when the reward of going north of the board to Vancouver was good for the organization but risky financially, John's leadership helped assure overall success.

When he decided to not run again he shared "it's time we pass this along to some of the newer players who can use systems to take NAGVA into the next period." A designer by day and now a staff member at the University of Wisconsin, during his NAGVA years and for many years since, he's given his organizational talent to Wisconsin as the leader of Badger Games and countless other charity events.

Judy has always been the worker and leader behind the scenes. Even since stepping away from the board and then from playing, NAGVA has had him help run ground zero at many Championships. Over the years, many have heard the name Judy but never put the name to the face as you'll never see him talking on the podium (if selected, the odds of getting him on stage to accept are extremely small as he'll come up with some excuse to be at the bar!). Those who know him care for him dearly because of his heart, passion, love of beer and gin and anything alcoholic, and especially for his love of the volleyball and NAGVA. But, those who love him love Judy most for his dedication, heart, humor and that incredible laugh. Judy is truly the foundation of NAGVA and should be in the NAGVA Hall of Fame.

