



AVON JUNIOR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



2020 AJAA Founder's Award

It is with great esteem and pleasure that AJAA awards the "Founder's Award" to John Demerly.

John Demerly approached the AJAA Board of Directors prior to the spring of 2008 with an idea to start a running club under the umbrella of Avon Junior Athletic Association. The Board room at that time featured many long-time volunteers including Greg Jansen, Kurt White, Mike Langford, Steve Broadasky, Gail Bradley, Charlie Rodgers and others that decided to accept the proposal to add this program to our offerings at AJAA. And, what a ride it has been.

The Junior Runners program started under the direction of Demerly in 2008, and is designed to encourage the love of running for children in 4th, 5th and 6th grades. "Getting a program going was not easy, and I relied heavily on other volunteers to make it happen," said Demerly. One of those

volunteers that helped with a lot of heavy lifting in the early stages was Kettie Mothersead. "I had no problem with the organization aspects of a program, but I leaned heavily on Kettie's expertise in running to really bring Jr. Runners to the level it is now," continued Demerly.

Junior Runners has been a center piece for the Demerly Family for twelve years, and John was hoping to go out on a high note in 2020. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 global pandemic had other plans for his retirement party. "Walking away after not being able to have a season is not what I had in mind." Demerly said. Demerly is the father of five and has raised the kids within Avon with his wife Laura. John also recently took the job as CEO at CommotiAg, and has helped with AJAA in many aspects for the past 12 years as a commissioner, coach, board member and advisor.

Please join us in thanking John for his service to this great organization.