

The American Driving Society is pleased to award the very first Volunteer of the Year award to Carol and Frances Bowersock, of Colton, Oregon.

Of all the nominations that were submitted, and there were many, the Bowersocks were the true stand out. These ladies are twins, in their mid-70s, and have made a “retirement career” of volunteering at carriage driving events, although neither competes.

Merridy Hance, who wrote one of the nominations for these remarkable women, said:

“With the disclaimer that they “ran away from home to Oregon to escape responsibilities,” they have been event secretaries for CDEs, DTs, ADTs, and importantly for United States Driving for the Disabled, where they also did secretary duties and fundraising. They have been dauntless navigators. They’ve manned every volunteer position from office to field to outback. On more than one occasion their skills as paramedics have been called upon, where they are masterful, competent, and reassuring. They’ve helped a navigator who was having a stroke every bit as much as, in a previous era they both delivered babies in the back of an ambulance. When they come to events, they come prepared. They are accompanied by “Toto” the golf cart, “Tom” the flatbed trailer, and “Nathan” the RV. All they ask is a job to do and an opportunity to do it well.”

Others have commented that if they ever get tired of volunteering for carriage events, they have a formidable career as stand-up comics; these ladies are masters of snappy repartee.

The ADS and our event organizers could not manage without our volunteers, and we want to recognize them all for the unstinting help they give us, year after year, and sometimes decade after decade. The Bowersocks epitomize this wonderful spirit of giving and we are pleased to recognize them for this at our Annual Members Meeting in October.

Congratulations, and Thank you!