April 27, 2020

Dear Skating Friends

At the annual meeting (via Zoom) of the ISU Adult Figure Skating Group (AFSG), our long time member Rhea Schwartz officially stepped down from the ISU AFSG.

In addition to being an adult competitive skater, Rhea has been instrumental in the development of Adult Figure Skating for the past 25 years.

Rhea, now a retired lawyer from Washington D.C., created the adult skating program for the United States in 1995 and at the same year, she also took care of the first adult national competition in the United States.

That same year, Rhea became the Vice Chair of the Adult Advisory Committee. When she thanked everyone for their interest and enthusiasm, she told to everybody: "The USFSA is not aware of how dangerous a force Adults can be!"

And she was right, the number of Adult skaters has increased tremendously.

In 2000, she was named one of the 25 most influential people in figure skating by the International Figure Skating Magazine. In 2004, she was named the first chair of the newly created ISU Adult Figure Skating Working Group and she was a part of the first international competition held in Oberstdorf, Germany in 2005. Last year the Oberstdorf competition attracted more than 700 skaters from 36 ISU member Federations. In addition, the ISU now supports a North American competition.

Rhea has done an amazing job representing the interests and enthusiasm of adult skaters not only in USA but worldwide! We are all very thankful to Rhea for her pioneer work for so many years to promote and develop adult figure skating.

Rhea, even if you step down from work on the Adult Figure Skating Group, we know that you always be our “Ambassador for Adult Skating.”

On behalf of the ISU Office Holders and figure skaters everywhere, Marie Lundmark, ISU Council Member responsible for Adult Figure Skating, thanked Rhea for her great work.

Submitted by the ISU Adult Figure Skating Group
Diana Barkley, John Fisher, Ville Penttinen, Beth Delano