

Betty Solley
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Betty Solley is a member of Against the Wind (ATW), the breast cancer survivor's crew of the Philadelphia Flying Phoenix Dragon Boat Team (PFP). Betty participated with ATW in the International Breast Cancer Survivor dragon boat festivals in Vancouver, Australia and most recently in Peterborough, Canada. The Against the Wind crew actually pre-dates the parent organization, PFP and celebrates its tenth anniversary this year.

Betty was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003, two months after losing her husband to leukemia. She first went out on the boat shortly after completing chemotherapy, and has never looked back. She knows first hand how dragon boat racing can enhance a survivor's life in numerous ways and has worked steadily with her team to build an organization that has over one hundred members.

As current Philadelphia Flying Phoenix President, former Vice President and premier team captain, Betty has worked with the PFP Board and members to promote dragon boat racing in the Philadelphia region. Outreach to the Wellness Community and regional breast cancer support groups through the Against the Wind Survivors in Sync program has brought many survivors to the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia to learn more about how dragon boating supports health and wellness, especially for those who have received our diagnosis.

Betty has collaborated with other area breast cancer survivor teams in producing an Eye-Dotting ceremony for the community, assisted other bcs teams in getting started with their dragon boat program, and coordinated opportunities for neighboring teams to meet for social get-togethers. Betty enjoys dragon boat competition and recently returned from participation in the USA Club Crew National Championships in Chattanooga, Tennessee where PFP won the silver medal overall. Philadelphia Flying Phoenix has been the USA Eastern Regional Dragon Boat Women's Club Crew Champions since 2008.

A former Health and Physical Education Teacher and Administrator, Betty spent the last five years before retirement as New Teacher Coach in the Philadelphia School District. She was a Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year and continues to work part-time with new teachers in the Philadelphia district.

When not on the water paddling, steering or teaching others the basics of dragon boating, Betty can be found on the golf course. A mother of five and grandmother of eight, Betty resides in Havertown, PA.