

INDIANA RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



2022

CLOCK AWARDS
CASA AWARDS
SCHOOL BELL AWARD

Presented June 7th, 2023

AWARDS LUNCHEON AGENDA

2023

Introductions

Laura Penman

Presentation of Presidents Award

Paula Dyer

Presentation of School Bell Award

Paula Dyer/Jim Colvin

Presentation of CASA Awards

Don Metzger/Rae Feller/Jared Bond

Presentation of CLOCK Awards

Ellen McKenzie/Jim Colvin



PRESIDENTS AWARD

2022

“This person has offered me guidance and support throughout my term as President.” - Paula Dyer



SCHOOL BELL AWARD

2022



Deborah Meyer

LaPorte County RTA

During her career, Debe taught grades 3-8. She taught for 29 years at Kingsford Heights Elementary School in LaPorte Community School Corporation. For over twenty years, she served on the Negotiating team for the LaPorte Federation of Teachers. After retiring, she supervised student teachers for Purdue Northwest and volunteered at Kingsford Heights. Her community activities include treasurer of Delta Kappa Gamma, president and vice-president of Psi Iota Xi, and a board member of READ, LaPorte County. She has two daughters and four grandchildren, ages 13-21. In her spare time, Debe enjoys playing cards, reading, attending plays, walking, and Zumba.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA) AWARDS

2022



Mary Beth Gibbons

Orange County RTA 4 ½ Years

Mary Beth was drawn to the opportunity of working with children again through CASA after a twenty-five year career as an elementary school counselor. In order to understand the circumstances of the family, she attends all of the Children and Family Team meetings. She coordinates her efforts with the Family Case Manager, and contacts any area teachers, counselors, therapists, and other service providers assigned to the case. Mary Beth has a big heart and a gentle spirit that makes her a natural for this work.



Beth Young

Hancock County RTA 2 ½ Years

Beth has a very calming, motherly manner about her that makes her great with children and a great asset as a CASA. She is good at suggesting ideas that can help struggling parents with their specific situations. When Beth visits her children, she likes to read them stories and play an appropriate game with them. She talks with their teachers to see if there are other concerns they might have. Beth's concern for the children she advocates for as a CASA is a genuine caring act of love to make their lives better.



Ameer Yoder

Monroe-Owen RTA 10 Years

Ameer not only supports the children in Monroe County, but she is also a wonderful ambassador for CASA through her work and connections in the community. Ameer has advocated for 17 children in her 10 years as a CASA. Beyond making sure that the children are safe, and in situations that allow them to heal from the trauma of abuse and neglect, she makes sure services, education and support are in place to give the children what they need. She is a strong advocate in the courtroom and is not afraid to voice her concerns when warranted. Monroe County CASA and the children of Monroe County are fortunate that Ameer continues to advocate for their best interest.

AMBA OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER CLOCK AWARDS

2022

Presented by our partners at Association Membership Benefit Advisors AMBA, this award recognizes the member from each IRTA Geographical area with the most volunteer hours.

Joyce Weakland



Area 1 - Lake County

Joyce volunteered many hours at her church as chairman for the staff Parish Committee. She substitutes and organizes substitutes for absent personnel each week. However, her main time is spent at the Thrift Store “Bibles for Missions” where she sorts and prices donations. Her additional duties include mentorship of Special Needs students who visit the store with their teachers-of-record for job training and practice in sorting and stocking skills in preparation for potential employment. The Thrift Store is open three days a week where 60% of their clientele are senior citizens. Proceeds from sales at the Thrift Store provide Bibles and support for Missions worldwide.



Rosa Marlene Wasson

Area 2 - DeKalb County

Marlene volunteers at Brianna’s Hope which is a support group for people of all ages who experience all sorts of afflictions. Also she serves two area churches. In one, she is a Sunday school teacher and makes herself available to help



and so whatever needs to be done. In the other church, she helps a Christian Action group raise money for missionaries and mission projects. Marlene is also involved with the Christian Women Fellowship.



Judith Neilan

Area 3 – White County

Judith teaches 3 ESL classes through White County Literacy Volunteers, and she is vice president of the White County Literacy Volunteers. She serves on a committee to help women get scholarships and grants for education through P.E.O (Philanthropic Education Organization). She volunteers within her church visiting and sending cards and providing meals for shut-ins and homebound. She is vice president of the general board at MCC. She evaluates newsletters for the Indiana State Organization of Delta Kappa Gamma Society. With youth she volunteers for vacation Bible School and youth daycare activities at church.



Kathleen Steele

Area 4 – Montgomery County

Kathy has a substantial number of volunteer hours as a significantly active volunteer in her community. She is past president of Montgomery Retired Teachers Association (2021-22). Her list of community offices are President of the Art League of Montgomery County, the Campaign Chair for Montgomery County United Way, and an active member of the Education Committee for the League of Women Voters. She is on the board of Main Street for Downtown Crawfordsville. She is a mentor for an International student at Wabash College. Kathy presents programs and occasionally assists at the Crawfordsville Montessori School working with the preschool children. She drives for Meals on Wheels and helps neighbors and friends with food and transportation needs.



Karen Lydick

Area 5 – Marion – Wayne County

Karen began volunteering in the NHJ in 2012-13 two days a week with her grandchild and in 2016 split the two days between now two grandsons school experience. One grandson moved to the middle school, however, Karen continued to do volunteer hours two days a week. She kept the classroom library updated. Her volunteer roll includes making copies, preparing projects, and encouraging teachers and students. Through Lifeline Christian Mission she meets with librarians from Honduras sending Spanish and English books to them. She has set up a library in Haiti sending English and Creole books to them. She volunteers with FAME. Her work there may involve sorting medications, packing medical supplies, or cleaning donat-

ed medical equipment. Karen is a volunteer in my fifth grade classroom. To me, she is an irreplaceable volunteer.



Al Lind

Area 6 - Madison County

Al gives many hours of volunteer time to the middle school and high school to educate youth about our military and its importance to maintaining our freedom. He educates youth at Memorial Day. He provides a high school assembly for Wreaths Across America. The purpose is to remember fallen U.S. Veterans, honor those who serve, and teach your children the value of freedom. Al belongs to the Daleville American Legion Post 0446 Honor Guard. He participates at military funerals locally and in Marion Indiana and at the National Cemetery. Al also provides clothes and furniture to St. Vincent De Paul. Generously, he provides medals to students to promote connections to freedom. Let's not forget Al the cook. He makes vegetable beef soup for the Anderson Rescue Mission on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.



Dave Willhelm

Area 7 - Franklin/Union - Whitewater Valley

Dave enjoys volunteering in the Franklin community. He describes his volunteering in these categories: neighbors, church, community theatre, and imagination library of Franklin. Dave, a farmer, helps farmers in his community maintain machinery plus plant and harvest crops. His faith is very important to him so he helps maintain, repair, and clean the church and grounds. He is the Eucharist minister. Dave continues to spread his talent. He is a retired Shop/Industrial Tech teacher. Dave stepped in when Franklin County recently formed a youth community theatre and Dave helped design and build the play set. Again he is not in this half way. He helps tear down and clean up after performances. He is on the board for the theatre, and he is out in the community to promote and recruit children for the program. He is also a board member for Imagination Library of Franklin County actively attending events and recruiting children for the program.



Bob Austin

Area 8 - Monroe - Owen County

Bob is described as high energy, having a remarkable skill set, and an action volunteerism second to none. He volunteers with youth in the community tirelessly. He has a bicycle group he works with a unique name, the Decycles. He runs the rooky orientation, supervises the training rides from March-June. This year the group toured the Southwest. Next, is a description of his musical talents. Bob plays the drums and presents drum demonstrations at

local elementary schools. He is in a musical group called Shir Simcha and he performs at a local synagogue. He also performs in the Bloomington Symphony. He is actively involved in another music venue in Bloomington titled "Lotus World Music Festival" as ticket manager. He ushers at a live theatre, Buskirt Chumley. Adding to this, he serves on their MLK committee.



Carolyn Veale

Area 9 – Pike/Gibson County

Carolyn has served on the Pike Community Foundation Board of Directors for more than nine years. She has served multiple years on the Southwest Indiana Regional Community Foundation Alliance. Carolyn has helped many individuals by providing transportation to medical appointments, physical therapy, and cancer treatments. Frequently, she is a volunteer at Somebody's Place assisting people with food, diapers, clothing, and cooking utensils. She is busy at Children's Christmas as she helps parents select presents for their children. With all of this, Carolyn is the Pike/Gibson Treasurer since 2011, and plays an active role on the planning committee. Mixed with all of this, she is an active volunteer at her church sanding doors, painting, and laying carpet. And she teaches a children's Sunday school class.



Jim Pierce

Area 10 - Dearborn County

Jim has been one of the many voices for teachers. He served on the Board of Directors for IRTA and Area Director of SE Indiana. Jim retired in 2010, and since, he has served every office in our local Dearborn County Retired Teachers Association except Treasurer. Jim is a member of the Knights of Columbus and he volunteers at fish fries filling orders from beginning to end. He has worked toward teacher grants through K of C for parochial schools. His heart for children is apparent by his actions as he travels to the Gibault Home for Children in Terre Haute three times a year to spend time with at-risk boys and girls living there. The three special days are Fishing Derby, a Chicken fry, and a Christmas party. When he is not doing this, he plays a role in Tootsie Roll sales for Special Olympics. Jim has taken in Julian, a man from Haiti. Julian is in the United States to earn money to send to his family in Haiti. Jim feeds and houses Julian on a rotating basis with another individual. Jim finds jobs for him plus encouraging Julian to educate others about Haiti.



We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the winners, and we express our gratitude on behalf of the Indiana Retired Teachers Association for your valued presence and participation.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS



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FINANCIAL ADVISOR

