

HISTORY OF THE EVELYN BURSTON AWARD

Recognition of one of its peers had long been a topic of discussion for the Executive Board of the State Association of Directors of Volunteer Services (SDVS). During the years immediately following Evelyn Noble Burston's death, her name was associated with these award discussions. Her pioneering accomplishments were respected and emulated by her state associates and her fame extended beyond Pennsylvania's borders. Mrs. Burston's career spanned twenty years, from 1957 through 1977 in the field of volunteer services and public relations. Evelyn developed and organized volunteer service programs at Germantown Hospital (Philadelphia, PA), which was one of the few existing formalized volunteer programs in the nation at that time. Her innovations have been duplicated nationwide. She was one of the first volunteer managers to understand the importance of patients' opinions and their value to overall hospital operations and improvements. She initiated the Patient Visiting Services during her tenure. Mrs. Burston was the first volunteer manager to coin the title, "Candy Striper" for junior volunteers. Along with this, Evelyn developed a male hospital volunteer program. A male volunteer, in the hospital setting, was a relatively new concept however; Mrs. Burston had a clear understanding of the important role of male volunteers.

Mrs. Burston died in 1977 but her accomplishments and name have always been synonymous with excellent hospital volunteer services programs. With that in mind, the 1982 Board of the SDVS decided to recognize one member of the state association each year with an award in Evelyn Burston's honor. This distinguished award is bestowed each year at the annual state conference to a Director of Volunteer Services who best exemplifies Mrs. Burston's vision, energy and professionalism. SDVS members submit the nominations. This year's nomination documentation is attached. Each nomination is carefully evaluated using seven objective judging criteria. The reviewing panel is comprised of the president of each state chapter, the Burston Chairman (PSDVS Vice President) and a past award recipient.

Past Burston Award Recipients

1982-Nancy McBain
1983-Olivia Herman
1984-Nancy Herman
1985-Kerry Dibble & Diana Kreiling
1986-Joyce Wise
1987-Not awarded
1988-Ruth Hughes
1989-Carol Getty & Betsy Laylon
1990-Not awarded
1991-Marjorie Weiss
1992-Beth Modery & Nancy Rigney
1993-Polly Sutch
1994-Hazel Kramer
1995-Jane Frain
1996-Not Awarded
1997-Susan Arnold
1998-Suzanne DeTuerk
1999-Sara Atkinson & Vicki Morgan
2000-Anna Olszewski

2001-Ceil Maynard
2002-Joan Cardellino
2003-Betty Anton
2004-Diane Gloor
2005-Bonnie MacGregor
2006-Jennifer Kopar
2007-Melissa Heinlein
2008-Fran Braun
2009-Connie Klunk
2010-Iris Douglas
2011-Judy Lieberman
2012 – Donna Cawthorne
2013 – Kimberly Giovannelli
2014 – Karla Bachl
2015 – Dana McKee

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