

**21st Annual Celebrate Women
Awards**

*Celebrating
West Virginia
Women*

**Saturday, April 29, 2006
Embassy Suites Hotel
Charleston, West Virginia**

West Virginia Women's Commission

History of Celebrate Women Awards

The Celebrate Women Awards began in 1985, under the direction of Shirley Williams, Lura Watkins and Mary Alice Summerfield, members of the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs (WVFWC). The WVFWC initiated the awards to encourage public awareness of the important roles and contributions of women in West Virginia. The awards highlight positive role models, assist young women in establishing career goals, recognize the ongoing need for selfless service in addressing the issues and concerns of women and their families and realize that one person's efforts can make a positive difference. The 21-year old awards program, now sponsored by the West Virginia Women's Commission, serves as a "Hall of Fame" for West Virginia Women.

West Virginia Women's Commission

The West Virginia Women's Commission is an agency of state government created by the Legislature in 1977 to advocate for women and to educate on issues relating to women. As an office of the Department of Health and Human Resources, it seeks to improve the legal, social, economic, educational and political status of women by working with businesses, government agencies and non-profit groups.

Eleven Commissioners, appointed by the Governor for three-year terms, determine the goals and projects of the Commission. Current Commissioners include:

Wendy Thomas, Chair, Cabell County
Elaine Harris, Vice-Chair, Kanawha County
Ellen Allen, Mercer County
Kelly Davis, Upshur County
Cheri Heflin, Kanawha County
Carmen Hutchins, Ohio County
Margaret Jarvis, Putnam County
Heather Johnson, Fayette County
Robin Stultz, Lewis County
Lisa Younis, Jefferson County

The West Virginia State Code also designates representatives from seven state agencies to serve on the Women's Commission as ex-officio commissioners. They provide input on state policies and procedures to the Commission. Those agencies include the Attorney General's Office, represented by *Dawn Warfield*; the West Virginia Board of Education, represented by *Sallie Harrington*; the Department of Health and Human Resources, represented by *Jerry Roueche*; the Human Rights Commission, represented by *Sally Brown*; the West Virginia Department of Labor, represented by *Jennifer Burgess*; the Division of Personnel, represented by *Tari Crouse*; and the State College System of West Virginia's Higher Education Policy Commission, represented by *Joyce Waltz Daniels*.

Celebrate Women Awards 2006

∞ Arts:	Helen Chilton
∞ Business:	Penny Moss
∞ Education:	Shirley Ann Porter Tolbert
∞ Government:	Virginia Mahan
∞ Labor:	Joyce Creel
∞ Math/Science:	Ailene Phillips
∞ Mountaineer Spirit:	Julia Oliverio
∞ Professions:	Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Jarvis
∞ Public Service:	Jan Lilly-Stewart
∞ Sports:	Darby Lentz
∞ Unsung Hero:	Carla Nardella
∞ Volunteer Service:	Juanita T. Hooks
∞ Commissioners' Award:	Jae Spears

Profiles

of the

2006

Celebrate Women

Award

Winners

Arts:

Helen Chilton

Helen Ziebold Chilton received a bachelor's of fine arts from Denison University in 1968, but did not dedicate herself to a career in art until later in her adult life. Helen continued her education, studying watercolors at the University of Charleston and the Huntington Museum of Art. Helen has perfected her signature look by using a technique of wet on wet - soaking entire sheets of paper before beginning to paint on them. Her work is unique, beautiful and instantly recognizable. She has over six hundred paintings dispersed worldwide. Helen's work has been displayed in local, regional and national exhibitions and is available in galleries from Nashville, Tennessee, to Virginia Beach, Virginia. Helen's work has been included in an exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American Art and continues to be displayed at various exhibits and museums across West Virginia.

Helen also uses her artistic talent for the betterment of her community. Helen donates pieces of her artwork for local benefits and fundraisers, such as the Covenant House and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Helen has also sponsored fundraisers for the Charleston YWCA and serves as a mentor to other women in the arts. Helen works to promote the talents of other artists by teaching workshops to share her skill and by helping other artists market and show their work.

Helen is an entrepreneur, having owned two successful businesses. She participates in many community projects and devotes her time to various organizations, including the Junior League of Charleston Cookbook Committee, the Salvation Army's Boys and Girls Club and CAMC's Women and Children's Hospital, where she painted murals. Helen also participated in Habitat for Humanity's Blitz Build, where she worked on an all-woman construction crew building houses. Helen's work has been displayed in exhibits state and nationwide. Through her art and her actions, Helen has made a permanent impact on her community, region, state and nation.

Business:

Penny Moss

Penny Moss Sheppard, an anchor for WSAZ-TV evening news, graduated from Poca High School and continued her education at Marshall University, where her father once coached football. In 1991, Penny graduated *cum laude* from Marshall with a degree in broadcast journalism and a minor in political science.

Prior to her work at WSAZ, Penny worked at two other smaller market television stations in West Virginia. She began her career in journalism with a reporting job at WOAY-TV in Oak Hill. After spending three years learning the news business, Penny moved to WVVA-TV in Bluefield, where she anchored the morning news for nearly two and a half years. In 1997, Penny moved back home and began reporting at WSAZ-TV. Penny currently serves as the primary news anchor on NewsChannel Three's 5:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. newscasts. She is the only news anchor in the Charleston-Huntington area who is a native West Virginian. In addition, she is only the third woman to hold the position of primary news anchor in the 56 year history of WSAZ-TV. Penny has won several awards for her work as a news anchor, including the AP Best Newscast, 2003-2004 and AP Outstanding New Operation, 1997-2004.

Penny serves as a leader and a mentor to younger reporters in the newsroom. Other reporters look up to her for guidance in local knowledge and for guidelines in ethical decision-making. She is proud to bring the news to viewers in her home state and her hometown. In addition to being a successful anchor on one of Charleston-Huntington's major news channels, Penny also serves as a board member on local and statewide organizations, including Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Greater Kanawha-Putnam area and HI-Y Youth in Government.

In her reporting, Penny tries to seek out stories that will help educate, empower and/or motivate her viewers. Penny enjoys speaking to schools and professional organizations around the state and spending time with her husband and two daughters.

Education:

Shirley Ann Porter Tolbert

Shirley Ann Porter Tolbert, a retired educator, graduated from Garnet High School in 1954. Continuing her education at West Virginia State College, now West Virginia State University, Shirley graduated *magna cum laude* in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in political science and history. She later earned her master's degree in reading from West Virginia University. Shirley has devoted her entire life to education. She was a public school teacher, director, supervisor and administrator for 30 years. After retiring from the public school system, Shirley has served as a social worker for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, a case management supervisor for the West Virginia Bureau of Employment Programs providing test administration and counseling to dislocated adult workers and has also served as an adjunct professor and full-time visiting lecturer of education at Shepherd University.

In recent years, Shirley has volunteered her time tutoring children at a local Boys and Girls Club and young adults at the Job Corps Center. In light of her amazing accomplishments as an educator and her years of dedication to her community, Governor Joe Manchin III recently appointed Shirley to serve on the Board of Governors of the Community and Technical College of Shepherd. In addition, Shirley was appointed by Shepherd University's President to the school's prestigious strategic planning committee. Shirley is a member of Phi Delta Kappa, the National Association of University Women, the Old Opera House Board of Directors, the ACT-SO Committee of the NAACP and a former member of the Jefferson County Schools Cultural Diversity Team. She also serves as secretary/treasurer of Episcopal Church Women.

In 1990, Shirley received the Unsung Hero Award from the NAACP and was honored with the 1993 Outstanding Educator Award by the Virginia Admissions Council on Black Concerns. In 1997, she was given an award for Excellence in Education by the Henry Highland Garnet Foundation Hall of Fame.

Government:

Virginia Mahan

Delegate Virginia Mahan is currently completing her fifth term in the House of Delegates. Before being elected to the House of Delegates in 1996, Delegate Mahan worked as a professional highway safety and consumer advocate for various national and state non-profit organizations, organizing trips to our state and national Capitols to teach citizens and shareholders how to best approach and inform elected officials of issues that were important to them. She continues to work as a consultant for various non-profit organizations.

Delegate Mahan is a member of the House Judiciary Committee, the House Health and Human Resources Committee and the Equal Pay Commission. She currently chairs the Joint Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee that reviews all rules maintained by state agencies and was appointed to the powerful House Rules Committee in 2003. In 2005, Delegate Mahan was asked to co-chair the Select Committee on Child Protective Services and became the first female delegate to serve on the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

In 1998, Delegate Mahan received the first Linda Schnautz Environmental Courage Award for her pro-active conservation efforts. The West Virginia Women's Commission honored the delegate for her work on issues affecting West Virginia women with the 2003 Guardian Angel Award. She is a member of the Business and Professional Women, West Virginia Federation of Democrat Women, NAACP, West Virginia Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders, Friends of Summers County Public Library, Board of Directors of the West Virginia State Water Festival and Summers County American Cancer Society.

As a member of House leadership, Delegate Mahan has continued to pursue legislation intended to help eliminate inequality and encourage the advancement of women. By diligently working to serve her constituents and at the same time becoming a team player within a government body that is overwhelmingly male, she has quickly advanced through the ranks of the House of Delegates.

Labor:

Joyce Creel

Joyce Ann Creel is a tireless worker who knows how to get things done. She became and advocate for labor and for working people's issues in 1989. In the last 15 years, Joyce has made many trips to the State Capitol to lobby for legislation for working men and women and retirees. She has also taken groups of people to the State Capitol to show them how the three branches of our government function. Joyce has also traveled to our Nation's Capitol on several occasions to volunteer to work in the White House mailroom. Joyce has marched in Washington in both the "Stand Up for Steel" and Solidarity II Marches.

Joyce has been a volunteer with the West Virginia AFL-CIO for several elections, accumulating over six thousand volunteer hours for COPE, the political arm of the West Virginia AFL-CIO. Joyce has volunteered her time going door-to-door, passing out leaflets in communities and at plant gates, preparing mass mailings, working phone banks, registering voters, arranging meet the candidate forums and doing whatever else needs to be done. As a result of her work, Jim Bowen, former president of the West Virginia AFL-CIO nicknamed Joyce "The Worker".

Besides being an activist for working families, Joyce has and continues to be involved with many civic and community affairs, including the Girl Scouts and 4-H. She is a Sunday School teacher at Cottageville United Methodist Church and presently sits as vice-chair of the Jackson County Democrat Executive Committee. Joyce is a co-founder and current president of the Jackson County Democrat Women's Club and has previously served as the organization's vice-president and secretary.

Kenny Perdue, president of the West Virginia AFL-CIO, nominated Joyce for this award, describing her as a person who "doesn't seek any recognition for all the good things that she does." "Instead," he stated, "she puts her all into helping and encouraging other women to get involved."

Math / Science:

Ailene Phillips

Ailene Phillips, a senior process research specialist at Dow Chemical Company in South Charleston, earned her bachelor of science in chemical engineering from West Virginia University in 1982. After graduation, Ailene joined Union Carbide and later pursued a master's degree in chemical engineering from Louisiana State University, which she received in 1991.

For the past 24 years, Ailene has worked as a chemical engineer in the areas of reaction engineering, process development and process safety. As a result of her work, Ailene holds several patents for novel chemical processes. One of her professional accomplishments includes leading a team that designed and constructed a state-of-the-art testing facility for Union Carbide process technology, which continues to be the cornerstone for advancements in this highly valuable technology.

Outside of her professional duties, Ailene has also served as Dow's representative for the American Heart Association, the "Women in Technology" forum, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee and is a member of Dow's Women's Innovation Network. Ailene also serves as a mentor to young women across the state, encouraging them to consider, prepare for and achieve in technical fields. Ailene presents and lectures at workshops, visits high school classrooms to speak to students and mentors college students who intern with Dow.

Through her work in Union Carbide/Dow Chemical Company's Reaction Engineering Group in process safety, Ailene has made significant contributions to the community. Much of her work has been in process improvements, reducing the environmental impact, reducing costs and improving safety associated with the manufacture of a wide variety of products including components of home cleaning agents and personal care products. In addition to a career full of technical successes, Ailene, through her work as a mentor, has also influenced countless young women to pursue careers in technical fields.

Mountaineer Spirit:

Julia Oliverio

Julia Oliverio graduated from Morgantown High School in 1951 and attended West Virginia University Business College from 1951 until 1953. Julia has worked various jobs through the years, including work as a dental assistant, typist, clerk, flower salesperson and 24 years as a deputy assessor. Even more outstanding than the extent of her work experience is the amount of volunteer work she has selflessly performed for her state and community.

Alongside her husband Michael, Julia has helped orchestrate political receptions and fundraisers for such prominent figures as former President John Kennedy, Senator Ted Kennedy, Senator Robert C. Byrd, Senator Jay Rockefeller and former Senator Jennings Randolph. Julia has also been a very active volunteer for the Monongalia County Heart Association and the American Heart Association for more than 30 years. In 1968, Julia began her volunteer work with the Monongalia County Heart Association. She was elected to the State of West Virginia Heart Association Board and has held city, county and state leadership posts for the American Heart Association. Julia has been a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) of West Virginia and a representative of NRA-NRCA Goodwill International.

Julia is still very active in volunteer work in her community. She is a member, past and current President of the Monongalia County Democrat Women's Club, a member of the Red Hat Society and an active member of the Mountaineer Women's Club, where she has held various leadership positions and aided in coordinating the Heart Fund Annual Dance for the past 25 years. Julia has helped coordinate the Celebration of America 4th of July event in Morgantown for more than 15 years and has been elected to the State Senatorial Executive Committee since 1991. Throughout her life, Julia has been devoted to the betterment of her state and community as exemplified through years of selfless volunteer work.

Professions:

Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Jarvis

Reverend Dr. Patricia A. Jarvis, a retired United Methodist Minister, was born in Romney, grew up in Fairmont and graduated high school in Wheeling. Patricia received her undergraduate degree from Ohio Wesleyan and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary.

Throughout the years of her ministry, Patricia has served the church in many different capacities. She has served as mission director, parish preacher, district superintendent, co-pastor of the West Virginia Conference's seventh largest congregation, Trustee of West Virginia Wesleyan College, Chair of the Division of Elders, foreign mission leader and on the Board of Ordained Ministry. Patricia also spent time ministering at inner city churches in East Harlem and Brooklyn, spreading the gospel throughout Africa and traveling for the United Methodist Church General Board. Patricia was the "first" female in many different professional positions within various churches across the state. She was the first female pastor of St. Stephens United Church at Coal Branch Heights; the first female pastor of Glenville United Methodist Church; the first female district superintendent in the Wheeling district; the second female to serve on the West Virginia Conference Bishop's Cabinet; and, together with her husband, the first husband and wife pastoral team at Trinity United Methodist Church in Bluefield and Lewisburg United Methodist Church in Lewisburg.

Patricia is a loving wife, daughter and mother of two. As a woman, Patricia's path to becoming an ordained minister was not an easy road. However, her accomplishments speak for themselves in measuring the success of her chosen career path. In addition to her countless accomplishments within the ministry, Patricia has served her community and state through volunteer and community work. She has been a member of various Rotary Clubs; a member of the PEO Sisterhood; and an active participant in community improvement programs, such as the "Make It Shine" anti-litter program.

Public Service:

Jan Lilly-Stewart

Jan Lilly-Stewart, an advocacy specialist with the West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council, earned a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation counseling and a master's degree in counseling from Marshall University. Jan has been a state and national advocate for the civil rights of people with disabilities her entire life. She worked for the Huntington Center for Independent Living, now the Mountain State Centers for Independent Living, for 10 years, serving as assistant director during her last two years with the center. Jan currently holds the post of advocacy specialist with the West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council. In her role as advocacy specialist, Jan coordinates a leadership training program called Partners in Policymaking to teach people with disabilities and their families advocacy skills they can utilize to help change the disability system both within our state and on a national level.

Jan was instrumental in the founding and continuation of the Fair Shake Network, a grass roots advocacy organization for West Virginians with disabilities. She also served as our state coordinator for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Through her participation in national and statewide events, Jan has helped bring attention to issues that affect the daily lives of people with disabilities. She is recognized and respected by policymakers, lawmakers and the general public as a strong activist for the issues that most affect people with disabilities. Jan has established herself as an effective voice for West Virginians with disabilities.

Jan has received several awards for her efforts, including the Region 3 Advocacy Award from the National Council on Independent Living and the 2002 National Association of Human Rights Workers Advocacy Award. Jan was also honored as a Charter Inductee to the West Virginia Independent Living Hall of Fame. Jan was one of the state's first women professional advocates for people with disabilities. Because of her own disability, Jan has experienced first-hand the barriers that people with disabilities face every day. Her life's work has been dedicated to eliminating these barriers for the next generation.

Sports:

Darby Lentz

Darby Lentz, a senior at Lincoln High School in Harrison County, was a member of the 2005 Lincoln High School football team. Darby and her family moved to West Virginia three years ago, where she initially enrolled at Robert C. Byrd High School in Clarksburg to play soccer. Darby stayed at Robert C. Byrd High School for about a year, participating in both spring and fall soccer. During the spring semester of her junior year, Darby transferred to Lincoln High School, where she contemplated joining the football team. Darby began participating in summer football practices, immediately earning the respect of the football team and coach. Not long afterwards, the coach, with the support of his players, asked Darby to join the team.

In addition to the amazing feat of being the state's only first string female football player, Darby has maintained a 3.8 grade point average. Her future plans include attending either Carnegie-Mellon or West Virginia University to study structural engineering. Darby has currently completed thirty hours of engineering work-related experience. Some of her other extracurricular activities include participation in the Christian Club and volunteer work for the Angel Tree and Food for the Needy Programs. Darby also serves as secretary of the student body and works part-time at Brey Hollow Horse Farm in Fairmont. Darby was voted Lincoln High School's 2005 Homecoming Queen and was also voted Prom Queen by her peers.

With support of her friends and family and the students, staff and football team at Lincoln High School, Darby successfully and quietly integrated herself into a predominately male sport. Darby became a member of Lincoln's all-male football team without wreaking total havoc. She was accepted by players, staff and the community as another member of the football team, irregardless of her gender. As a kicker for Lincoln's football team, Darby impressively converted 14 of 16 extra point attempts. Darby's outstanding commitment to excellence is illustrated not only in her success on the football field, but in her academic and social accomplishments as well.

Unsung Hero:

Carla Nardella

Carla Nardella, executive director of Mountaineer Food Bank, graduated from Gassaway High School in 1969. She attended Glenville State College from 1974-1975 and graduated from Alderson-Broadus College in 1989. Carla worked as an ESPOT Case Worker for the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources before taking a job as an office manager at Mountaineer Food Bank in 1984. Three years later, she was appointed executive director. For nearly 20 years, Carla has served as Mountaineer Food Bank's executive director, leading the battle to resolve and help alleviate the issue of hunger for residents across the state. Today, Mountaineer Food Bank serves forty-eight West Virginia counties, distributing approximately six million pounds of food products annually.

Carla has been relentless in her pursuit to fund the nearly \$2 million a year project, while maintaining the services to those in need and keeping up with everyday operations of the food bank. Over the years, Carla has secured numerous grants from nationally recognized philanthropic entities and local donors, including an Appalachian Regional Commission grant, a special purpose grant from Senator Robert C. Byrd and multiple grants from the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation and Kraft, Inc.

Carla utilizes the resources she has to make her organization as effective and efficient as possible, while always looking for new ideas and new sources of funding to make the process easier. She recruits volunteers to help with the cause; secures funding from organizations, groups and individuals across the United States; and oversees the transportation, storage and distribution operations of the food bank.

Carla is a past member of Precision Services, Inc., the National Commission on Children, the West Virginia Coalition on Food and Nutrition and the Braxton County Community Coalition. Carla remains active in other community groups, including the Women's Club of Gassaway, the Braxton County Development Authority, the Volunteer Organization Active in Disaster and the West Virginia Healthy Lifestyles Coalition.

Volunteer Service:

Juanita T. Hooks

Juanita Towles Hook, a retired educator and girls' basketball coach, serves as the director of the Concerned Citizens League, volunteering her time to the community at the Harry L. Joyce Center. Juanita earned her undergraduate degree from West Virginia State College, now West Virginia State University, in 1953 and her graduate degree in from Marshall University in 1969, both in health and physical education. Juanita is also an advanced degree graduate of seminary extension of the West Virginia Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Seminaries and completed post-graduate work at Pikeville College in Kentucky.

Juanita is a long-time member of the National Education Association; it's national, state and county chapters, serving as treasurer for Mingo County's chapter for a number of years, and continues to be an active member of the West Virginia and Mingo County Retired Teachers Association. She is a member of the West Virginia Baptist State Convention Camping Commission, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the Tug Valley Arts Council and the American Association of University Women. Juanita currently serves as president of the West Virginia Baptist Wives and Widows Auxiliary; First Vice-President of the WV Baptist State Women's Auxiliary; president of the Tug River District Ministers Wives and Widows Council; president of the Tug River District Women's Missionary and Educational Convention; the Dean of Christian Education of the Tug River District Congress of Christian Education; statistician for the district Bible Bowl Committee; and, a Life Member of the Williamson Branch of the NAACP, serving as chair of the Education Committee and a member of the Program Committee.

Active in her church, Juanita was the "first lady" of the Logan Street First Baptist Church in Williamson until her husband's death in 1990. She continues to serve as the church clerk, church treasurer, Intermediate Sunday School Class teacher, Rose of Sharon Senior Mission teacher, Senior Choir member and chairman of the church's Education Scholarship Committee. Juanita currently volunteers her time at the Harry L. Joyce Center, offering programs to help seniors improve their educational, physical and social well-being.

Commissioners' Award: Jae Spears

Jae Spears began her career in public service in the House of Delegates. First elected in 1974, Jae served three terms in the House. In 1980, she was elected to the State Senate. During her twelve year tenure in the Senate, Jae became the first female Senate Majority Whip and became the first and only woman in the Legislature to hold the post of Chairman of Finance, serving two years in that post. In recognition of her legislative accomplishments, Jae was named one of the 11 Women Pioneers of the West Virginia Legislature.

Throughout her legislative service, Jae was a strong advocate for Veterans and the National Guard. She introduced legislation addressing the employment and training of Veterans that was unprecedented nationwide. As a result of her legislation and efforts, Jae received a national award from the U.S. Department of Labor and Veterans Affairs. Legislation Jae introduced established a Veterans Visibility Day, which is still recognized annually at the West Virginia Legislature. She was the first legislator to receive the state Veterans Council award. She was named an honorary Brigadier General in the West Virginia National Guard and was also made an Honorary Member of the West Virginia Chapter of the Order of the Purple Heart.

In 1993, Jae was appointed by Governor Caperton to the Judicial Hearing Board. She served on the executive board for the West Virginia Employers Support Group for the National Guard and Army Reserve, the West Virginia University Visiting Committee for Extension and Continuing Education, the Advisory Commission of the Governor's Task Force for Children and was appointed to the Advisory Board for the West Virginia Women's Commission. In addition, Jae served and later presided over the State Board of Directors for the West Virginia Branch of Literacy Volunteers of America. Jae continues to give back to her community. Jae has been a member of the Governor's Literacy Council since it was created. She currently sits on the Visiting Committee Advisory Board for the West Virginia University College of Medicine and is an honorary board member of the West Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges.

*Hall of Fame
Members*

*Celebrate Women
Awards*

1985 - 2005

**CELEBRATE WOMEN AWARDS
HISTORY OF WINNERS
1985-2005**

Year - 2005

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
LABOR
MATH/SCIENCE
MOUNTAINEER SPIRIT
PROFESSIONS
PUBLIC SERVICE
SPORTS
UNSUNG HERO
VOLUNTEER SERVICE
GUARDIAN ANGEL AWARDS

Sue Sergi, Charleston
Pam Curry, Sissonville
Dr. Trevellya "Tee" Ford-Ahmed
S. Paige Lawrence Cruz
Nancy Law
Juliana G. Serafin
Pamela Moyers Scott
Dr. Sandra S. Bowles
Sharon A. Walden
Marsha Beasley
Shirley Black Wentz
Sharon Smith Banks
Emily Hopta

Year - 2004

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
LABOR
MATH/SCIENCE
MOUNTAINEER SPIRIT
PROFESSIONS
PUBLIC SERVICE
SPORTS
UNSUNG HERO
VOLUNTEER SERVICE
COMMISSIONERS' AWARD
GUARDIAN ANGEL AWARDS

Catherine Miller, Buckhannon
Nanya Friend, Charleston
Barbara Bias, Huntington
Sharon Weaver, Clarksburg
Rita McCrobie, Bretz
Loretta Haddy, Charleston
Joan C. Browning, Lewisburg
Eunice L. Green, Dunbar
Patricia H. White, Charleston
Alexis Hornbuckle, South Charleston
Lucille Pianfetti, Cross Lanes
Tonya Daft, Mannington
Robert S. Kiss
Bonnie Brown
Sue Julian and in memory of Diana Reese

Year - 2003

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
LABOR
MATH/SCIENCE
MOUNTAINEER SPIRIT
PROFESSIONS

Juanita Walters Reed, Charleston
Glenda M. Robinson, Weirton
Betty Jane Cleckley, Ph.D., Huntington
Cornelia Bruen Bassel, Clarksburg
Nadine Joy Randolph, Ravenswood
Barbara Ann White, Beckley
Margaret Mary Layne, Huntington
Amabile Milano, M.D., F.A.C.S., Beckley

PUBLIC SERVICE
SPORTS
UNSUNG HERO
VOLUNTEER SERVICE
COMMISSIONERS' AWARD

Barbara Hawkins, Princeton
Glenville State College Women's Basketball Team
Sister Mary Rebecca Fidler, RSM, West Milford
Lucie A. Mellert, Charleston
Jessica Lynch, Palestine

Year - 2002

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
LABOR
MATH/SCIENCE
MOUNTAINEER SPIRIT
PROFESSIONS
PUBLIC SERVICE
SPORTS
UNSUNG HERO
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Heather McComas, Huntington
Leigh Currey Merrifield, Shinnston
Jeannette Brooks Simms, Moorefield
Officer 1st Class Gina Panico, Morgantown
Margaret Florine Warden, Beckley
Karen Yoho, Mannington
Helen E. Jones, Bridgeport
Dr. Kathleen E. Wides, Concord
Mary Frances Burnette, Charleston
Caroline H. Ramsey, Bridgeport
Martha D. Cole, Malden
Doris H. Allen, Huntington

Year - 2001

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
MATH/SCIENCE
MOUNTAINEER SPIRIT
PROFESSIONS
PUBLIC SERVICE
SPORTS
UNSUNG HERO
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Dolores Stinespring, Shinnston
Rita Lynch, Clendenin
Deborah S. Akers, Ed.D., Rock
Mary Kay Buchmelter, Charleston
Joyce M. Ruckle, Shady Springs
Lt. Col. Pauline W. Shaver, Charleston
Linda L. Kessinger, M.D., Charleston
Michelle (Shelley) Gaines, Sod
Christen Keely Simpson, Charleston
Anna Evans Gilmer, Institute
Pearl C. Watson, Charleston

Year - 2000

ARTS
BUSINESS (co-winner)
BUSINESS (co-winner)
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
LABOR
MOUNTAINEER SPIRIT
PROFESSIONS
PUBLIC SERVICE
SPORTS
UNSUNG HERO
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Pam Parziale, Kearneysville
Eloise Hamon-Jack, South Charleston
Elizabeth "Libby" Rexroad, Marlinton
Mary Crozier Snow, Charleston
Geneva Mae Holley, Kenna
Rebecca Haley, Cross Lanes
Julia K. Shreve, Charleston
Thelma Ford, Morgantown
Renate Pore, Charleston
Sue Haywood, Davis
Anne Elaine Griffin, Buckhannon
Kimberly A. Sencindiver, RN, Kearneysville

@Year - 1999

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
LABOR
MOUNTAINEER SPIRIT
PROFESSIONS
PUBLIC SERVICE

SCIENCE
SPORTS
UNsung HERO
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Grace Martin Taylor, Charleston
Tari Hampe Deneen, Berkeley Springs
Barbara J. Oden, Ph.D., Institute
Lt. Col. Paige P. Hunter, Clendenin
Sheryl S. Johnson, Charleston
Thelma L. Sorrell, Augusta
Kathy Johnson, Charleston
Hovah Hall Underwood, First Lady of West
Virginia, Charleston and Huntington
Elizabeth S. Wasiluk, Martinsburg
Janet Kay James Bailey, Charleston
Regina I. Lewis-Myers, Huntington
Jane E. Burdette, Parkersburg

@Year - 1998

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION (co-winner)
EDUCATION (co-winner)
GOVERNMENT
LABOR
MOUNTAINEER SPIRIT
PROFESSIONS

PUBLIC SERVICE (co-winner)
PUBLIC SERVICE (co-winner)
SCIENCE
SPORTS
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Jean Battlo, Kimball
Betty Jo Moore, Matewan
Rosemary Haggett, Ph.D., Morgantown
Rose Lee Kraushaar, Princeton
Lin V. Humphries, Wheeling
Elaine A. Harris, St. Albans
Hazel Groves Brown, Charleston
Pamela Jean Games-Neely, Prosecuting
Attorney, Shepherdstown
Diane Reese, Sutton
Sue Julian, Charleston
Janet L. Clayton, Phillipi
Dorothy E. Hicks, Ed.D., Huntington
Mildred S. Caldwell, Dunbar

@Year - 1997

ARTS
BUSINESS (co-winner)
BUSINESS (co-winner)
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
MOUNTAINEER SPIRIT
PROFESSIONS
PUBLIC SERVICE
SPORTS
VOLUNTEER SERVICE
COMMISSIONERS' AWARD

Brenda D. Seabrooke, Hedgesville
Faye R. Hudson, Point Pleasant
Maye R. Smith, Point Pleasant
Naomi M. Garrett, Ph.D., Institute
Judge Irene C. Berger, Charleston
Annette Zavareei, Ed.D., Charleston
Mildred Mitchell-Bateman, M.D., Charleston
Donnalee A. Cockerille, Ed.D., Huntington
Christie Leigh Carroll, Dry Branch
Josephine Midkiff, Beckley
Adrienne Worthy, Elkview

@Year - 1996

ARTS
BUSINESS

Jude Binder, Big Bend
Phyllis Huff Arnold, Charleston

EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
LABOR
PROFESSIONS
PUBLIC SERVICE
SCIENCE
SPORTS
VOLUNTEER SERVICE
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Gloria Marquette Payne, Ph.D., Elkins
Elizabeth Simpson Drewry, Northfork
Vickie Lyn Smith, Oak Hill
Ann Dacey, Morgantown
Pamela L. Nixon, South Charleston
Dale Louise Birkle, Ph.D., Morgantown
Dr. Sandra J. Elmore, Charleston
Jeanne Mozier, Berkeley Springs
Meghan Renee Hatfield, Charleston

Year - 1995

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
LABOR
PUBLIC SERVICE
PROFESSIONS
SCIENCE
VOLUNTEER SERVICE
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Kate Long, Charleston
Elizabeth "Libby" Kraftician, Wheeling
Judith Gold Stitzel, Ph.D., Morgantown
Major Celeita A. Kramer, Bristol
Mildred M. Marshall, Vienna
Lisa J. Diehl, Auburn
Ruth E. Anderson, South Charleston
Sheila Kay Zeto, Beaver
Grazia B. Ferrell, Institute
Florence Isabel Dolphy, Charleston

Year - 1994

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION

GOVERNMENT
LABOR
PROFESSIONS
PUBLIC SERVICE
SPORTS
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Grace Cavalieri, Hedgesville
Martha Ashelman, Berkeley Springs
Lei Lane Burrus-Bammel, Ph.D.
Morgantown
Sondra Moore Lucht, Martinsburg
Sheila Hamilton, Shepherdstown
Carolyn Bailey Lewis, Morgantown
Terri Swearingen, Chester
Diana McClure, Charleston
Geraldine Harrison, Charleston

Year - 1993

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT/PUBLIC SERVICE
LABOR

PROFESSIONS
SCIENCE
SPORTS
TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Rachael Worby, Charleston
Elizabeth Osborne, Princeton
Rae Ellen McKee, Points
Chief Justice Margaret L. Workman, Charleston
Women's Support Group, USA Local 5668,
Ravenswood
Mary Lou Lewis, M.D., Charleston
Thomasina Redd, Ph.D., Philippi
Kittie Blakemore, Morgantown
Sharon G. Mullins, Charleston
Kelly L. George, Charleston

Year - 1992

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
LABOR
PROFESSIONS
SCIENCE
SPORTS
TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Margo Blevin, Elkins
Joan Hairston, Omar
Sallie Ann Helton, Charleston
Charlotte Pritt, Charleston
Teresa Ball, Huntington
Carol Scotti, Lewisburg
Susan DeMesquita, Ph.D., Huntington
Marion Deweese Smith, Beckley
Brenda Laughlin, Mannington
Florette Angel, Charleston

Year - 1991

ARTS

BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
LABOR
PROFESSIONS
SPORTS
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Mountain Thyme (Pam Curry, Pat Epstein,
Bonnie Tatterson, Peggy Longwell, Elkview)
Rita Ray, Beckley
Sharon Burton, Parkersburg
Corporal Ivin B. Lee, Charleston
Jan Courts, Charleston
Robin Jean Davis, Charleston
A. Jean Minnick, Ph.D., Elkins
Leona Scarton, Bretz

Year - 1990

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT SERVICE
LABOR
PROFESSIONS
SCIENCE
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Karen Elaine Vuranch, Beckley
Evelyn K. Rice, Beckley
Pearl S. Carter, White Sulphur Springs
Emily A. Spieler, Charleston
Margaret L. Jarvis, Charleston
Sarah T. Fletcher, R.N.C., Elkins
Sara F. Wright, Beckley
Margaret S. Covey, Beckley

Year - 1989

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT SERVICE
LABOR
PROFESSIONS (co-winner)
PROFESSIONS (co-winner)
SCIENCE
SPORTS
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Toneta Akers Manning, Pineville
Mariwyn McClain Smith, Parsons
Mary Alice Klein, Parsons
Betty Barrett, Huntington
Shelby Leary, Morgantown
Barbara Ann Ferraro, Charleston
Patricia Hussey, Charleston
Dr. Angie T. King, Institute
Vicky Bullett, Martinsburg
Elaine Harris, St. Albans

Year - 1988

ARTS

Roberta Emerson, Huntington

BUSINESS
EDUCATION
LABOR
PROFESSIONS
SPORTS
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Elaine Avington Griffin, Buckhannon
Virginia L. Robson, Dunbar
Mary G. Messenger, Clarksburg
Sister Eileen Catterson, D.W., M.D., Pineville
Kitty Frazier, Cross Lanes
Becky Cain, Cross Lanes

Year - 1987

ARTS
BUSINESS
EDUCATION (co-winner)
EDUCATION (co-winner)
LABOR
PROFESSIONS
SCIENCE
SPORTS
VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Scottie Roberts Wiest, Elkins
Eldora M. Nuzum, Elkins
Mary E. Templeton, Morgantown
Patricia P. O'Reilly, Ph.D., Charleston
Gladys "Betty" Key, Glen Dale
Elizabeth Virginia Hallanan, Beckley
Dr. Joyce Geraldine Foster, Beckley
Amy Jean Gamble, Glen Dale
Mary Virginia DeRoo, Charleston

Year - 1986

No Awards Presented

Year - 1985

ARTS
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS
COMMUNITY SERVICES
EDUCATION
LABOR
SCIENCE
SPORTS

Diana Suttentfield-Abshire, Shepherdstown
Virginia Roberts, Charleston
Betsy McCreight, Huntington
C. Virginia Schoonover, South Charleston
Lillian Thomas, Parkersburg
Janet Lee Wood Hoke, Lewisburg
Catherine deGruyter Williams, Buckhannon

*2006 West Virginia Women's Commission
Annual Student Essay Competition*

Topic 1: What in your opinion is a major issue facing WV women today and why?

Savannah Baisden

Savannah is a senior at Van Junior-Senior High School. Savannah is a member of the Eagle's Nest and the National Honor Society. Savannah participates in her school's softball and cheerleading teams. Savannah plans to attend Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

Topic 2: What do you think West Virginia women can learn from women of different cultures and vice versa?

Sireesha Kalapala

Sireesha is a senior at Parkersburg High School. She is a member of the Key Club and a volunteer for the American Cancer Society. Sireesha's hobbies include reading and writing. After graduation, Sireesha plans to attend college to study law.

Topic 3: How can more West Virginia women be encouraged to become involved in state politics?

Zachary McDonald

Zachary is currently a freshman honor student at North Marion High School. Zac is a member of his school's Bible Club, lettered in soccer as a freshman and was a member of his school's basketball team. His hobbies include reading and playing basketball.

*Celebrating
West Virginia Women
in
2006*



WEST VIRGINIA WOMEN'S COMMISSION
Advocacy. Education. Research.

West Virginia Women's Commission
Capitol Complex, Building 6, Room 850
Charleston, WV 25305
304-558-0070

www.wvdhhr.org/women

The West Virginia Women's Commission promotes the equality and empowerment of all West Virginia women through advocacy, research, education, and consensus building. The commission exists to foster women's economic, educational, political and social development, to ensure their full participation in society and to recognize the achievements and accomplishments of state women.

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

