

Kathlene Lyman, 2018 NYSUT RC 12 Community Service Award Winner

by Phyllis VanSteenburgh, OE Teacher Retiree

Established in 1993, the NYSUT Community Service Awards were created to recognize individuals who have given outstanding volunteer service to their communities. Since inception, hundreds of NYSUT members have been nominated by their locals or retiree councils to receive this award. Now, for the interview of this most worthy recipient

P. Van: What was your first job as a teacher?

K. Lyman: I taught 8th grade mathematics at Van Antwerp Middle School in the Niskayuna School District. I ended up teaching over 34 years and retired in 2004.

P. Van: What made you want to be part of your local union while teaching full-time?

K. Lyman: Our faculty was close and informed on national and state issues. Our middle school program was very strong. I wanted to help my colleagues continue to be informed and to protect our programs. I was 2nd vice president, district liaison, and building rep in my local school union.

P. Van: How did your volunteer opportunities in your local continue to grow in retirement?

K. Lyman: I wanted to continue to be part of the Niskayuna community so I subbed for five years. Then, I coordinated our retiree book club as well as our local retiree steering committee.

P. Van: What volunteer roles have you had within Retiree Council 12?

K. Lyman: Since 2011, I have been very involved with NYSUT RC 12. I have been on the social committee since 2011 and serve as its secretary as well as an event planner. From 2011-2014, I have been the RC 12 secretary. I have been honored to serve as RC 12's first vice president with goals to serve the organization, support our co-presidents, and increase retiree participation.

P. Van: What other local activities are you involved in that would be of interest to us?

K. Lyman: At the local senior center, I am part of the book club. As part of the Alplaus community, I support and participate in village activities and remember the elderly. For global efforts, I support all veterans and contribute to Paralyzed Veterans of America.

I am also a mother of twins. I became involved with both the local and the state organizations of the Mothers of Twins Clubs. Currently, I am the president of the Schenectady Mother of Twins Club and vice chair/ treasurer of the scholarship committee of the state organization.