March 1, 2019

Dear PAHVRP Member,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Society of Directors and Volunteers, I am writing this letter to inform you of our annual prestigious volunteer administrator award. Every year our professional organization recognizes a particular Director, Coordinator, or Manager of a health care organization’s volunteer program who has demonstrated excellence in leadership within their institution as well as on a state or national level. This award is given the name, the Evelyn Burston Award and it is the highest distinguished honor annually awarded to only one volunteer administrator in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Please see the attached document enclosing the history of the Evelyn Burston Award.

Would you be so kind as to consider nominating one of your fellow members for this prestigious award? Your nomination will recognize the accomplishments and dedication of our many institutions volunteer administrators. Please complete the attached nomination form, or you may complete the form online at http://www.psdvs.memberlodge.org/burstonaward and return it to me no later than March 22, 2019—scan and email forms to tjohnsen@pennstatehealth.psu.edu or fax 717-531-0422.

On behalf of the Evelyn Burston Award Committee, thank you for your support of the volunteer organization in your institution. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tracy Johnsen M.Ed., CAVS

Tracy Johnsen, M.Ed., CAVS
PAHVRP President Elect
Manager of Volunteer Services
Penn State Health M.S. Hershey Medical Center
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 (PSDVS/PAHVRP). 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. PAHVRP 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 members from each region, the Burston Chairman and past award recipients.

Past Evelyn 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  
2016-Sue Espenshade  
2017-Not Awarded  
2018-Christi Brown