



*Virginia Education Association-Retired*  
*Martha Wood Distinguished Service Award*

Many retirees have shown their dedication by providing hours of volunteer service in mentoring new teachers, lobbying lawmakers, and serving on national, state, and local committees.

VEA-Retired is asking for your help identifying these outstanding retirees for our **2023 Martha Wood Distinguished Service Award**. This award is named in honor of its first recipient, Martha Wood of Charlottesville, and will be presented at the 2023 VEA Delegate Assembly in Roanoke. Previous recipients include Dot Walton, Sara Jane Knight, Lola McDowell, Pat Kennedy, Barbara Mann, Barbara Allen, Edith Good, Katherine Hairston, and Ernest Holley.

The award information is attached. If you know of a deserving nominee, please send their name and address, along with a brief description of their contributions that meet the Award criteria, to Bea Snidow (by email at [bsnidow@veanea.org](mailto:bsnidow@veanea.org) or by mail at 116 South Third Street, Richmond, VA 23219). Nominations are due by Monday, January 9, 2023.

We appreciate your assistance. Please let Bea Snidow know if you have any questions.

## *Martha Wood Distinguished Service Award*

### **Purpose**

The Martha Wood Distinguished Service Award is meant to recognize those retired members who have made significant contributions to the growth of the active and retired Association, the promotion of public education, and the welfare of public educators since retirement.

### **Eligibility**

The nominee must have been a member of VEA/NEA-Retired for at least five consecutive years as of January 15 of the award year. However, a nominee cannot hold a position on the VEA-Retired Council at the time of nomination.

The **Nomination Documents** may include some of the nominee's pre-retirement contributions to the Association; however, the main focus should be on the nominee's contributions to our profession and the promotion and benefit of our fellow retirees since retirement.

### **Evidence of Contributions to the Association**

Since retirement, the nominee has contributed in one or more of the following ways:

- Advocated for issues and policies that affect VEA-Retired members and active members.
- Served on or led organized meetings, committees, projects, or workshops.
- Held leadership positions in their local retiree council or helped organize a local retiree council.
- Engaged in lobbying activities on the state and/or local level.
- Promoted a positive image of public education through active involvement in their community.
- Contributed to promoting education for children and families.
- Encouraged pre-retirement membership.
- Advocated for ethical, social, and educational responsibility.

### **Nomination Procedure**

Nominations may be submitted by any VEA member, active or retired, and should be submitted in a portfolio which consists of:

- the completed nomination cover sheet,
- a brief narrative of the nominee's activities on behalf of the Association (no more than two pages typed), and
- at least one letter of support from someone other than the nominator.

Nominations for the 2023 award must be received at VEA by the close of business on or before Monday, January 9, 2023.

This award will be presented to the selected nominee during the 2023 VEA Delegate Assembly to be held in Roanoke on March 16 – 18, 2023.

### **Martha Wood Distinguished Service Award Committee**

The committee will review the nomination documents, using the contribution evidence to select only one nominee who best exemplifies the spirit of the Award. If a nominee passes away during the review process and has been chosen as the recipient, that person would receive the award posthumously.

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**NOMINATION COVER SHEET**

DATE OF SUBMISSION: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL/UNISERV UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATOR: Please provide complete contact information for the individual making the nomination.

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINEE: Please provide complete contact information for the individual you are nominating.

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

RETIREMENT YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

LETTER OF SUPPORT: Please provide complete contact information for the person(s) writing the support statement(s). You may have more than one letter of support.

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_