



Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc.

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RECEIVED AUG 30 2019

Glenn Koocher—Executive Director

August 28, 2019

Dr. Robert A. Tremblay  
Superintendent of Schools  
73 Mt. Waite Avenue, Suite 5  
Framingham, MA 01702

*Joanna*

Dear Dr. Tremblay:

I am pleased to inform you that the MASC Board of Directors has approved your nomination of:

- the Retired School Volunteers Association as Friends of Public Education,
- The Homework Center at the Framingham Public Library and OUT Metrowest as Outstanding School Partners, and
- Carol Phelan as Community Leader for Public Education.

These awards will be presented at the Joint Conference of MASC and MASS at our Leadership Dinner on Thursday evening, November 7 at the Hotel and Conference Center in Hyannis. Those recognized (and a guest) will be invited to join us for the dinner. We realize that some school committees and superintendents prefer to have the awards presented in the districts rather than at the convention. If that is the case, please contact me directly so we can arrange for this to happen.

Also, please confirm the name of those being honored and the brief summary of your supporting text. At the time of the presentation, we usually ask the nominator(s) to join us and make the presentation with a representative of MASC. Attached is a brief description of the honorands for you to review.

Please contact me directly as soon as possible so we can confirm the accuracy of the information we have and arrange for the presentations. Thanks for participating in this year's awards program. We look forward to working with you to arrange for the presentations.

Yours truly,

Glenn Koocher  
Executive Director  
[gkoocher@masc.org](mailto:gkoocher@masc.org)  
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Attachment: Award Recipient and Description

## Friend of Public Education

### Retired School Volunteers Association

#### Nominated by the Framingham School Committee

The RSVA is a group of retired engineers and scientists with the goal of enhancing and enriching the STEM experience in Framingham. They have provided help with STEM career guidance, Robotics Competition, Science Fairs and as mentors to students and faculty. Serving as volunteers and consultants, they have given of their time, energy, and expertise to promote science and technology instruction in the Framingham Public Schools.

## Outstanding School Partners

### OUT Metrowest, Framingham, MA

#### Nominated by the Framingham School Committee

OUTMetrowest is a nonprofit that supports services to over one thousand LGBTQ youth in grades 6-12 in Framingham and other Metrowest communities. Programs include drop in, socialization, homework assistance, education and training, parent and family support and community events.

## Outstanding School Partners

### Homework Center at the Framingham Public Library (Judith Gatlin, Coordinator)

#### Nominated by the Framingham School Committee

The Homework Center has provided tutoring, homework and project assistance for K-12 students in Framingham, including evenings and weekends. Services include homework tutoring, access to on-line services, college application assistance, Math Camp, Girls Empowerment Workshops, and a Leadership Council. The program thrives under the leadership of Judith Gatlin.

## Community Leader for Public Education

### Carol Phelan, Framingham

#### Nominated by the Framingham School Committee

A two term former member of the Framingham School Committee, Ms. Phelan has continued to serve her community as extraordinary volunteer on several projects, serving with humility, compassion and collegiality as well as generosity all of which support children and families.

## OUTSTANDING SCHOOL PARTNER

**Name:** Homework Center at the Framingham Public Library-Judith Gatlin, Program Coordinator

**Please state your reasons for placing name in nomination:**

For ten years, the Homework Center at the Framingham Public Library has provided free tutoring, homework and project help for K-12 students in Framingham, Monday through Thursday, 2:30-5:30, and by appointment in the evenings and on weekends

With over 50 highly qualified volunteer teachers, the Center is an invaluable out-of-school time partner that provides our students the support and guidance that they need to help them thrive in school.

**Community Activities**

-Provides K-12 students with free homework, tutoring and school project help.

-Over 50 highly qualified tutors, proficient in all subjects taught in Framingham Schools

-In its Tenth Year

-Provides students weekly (up to 4 sessions each week ) individualized tutoring, school project support including free school art and crafting supplies, access to online help school and research support through the FPL minuteman database collection.

Provides individualized SAT and subject test tutoring, college search, application and FAFSA assistance.

-Hosts annual spelling and geography bees, Framingham's essay contests, Robotics Day, March Math Madness, Environmental Awareness Fair,

- Facilitates the following annual academic enrichment programs/ classes;

Math Camp - grades 3-8, Just Another Mandarin Monday - Chinese language and culture classes, The Road to Code Leads to the FPL - Coding Club, Girls Empowerment Workshops, Wise Guys - boys empowerment group, Amateur Ham Radio Kids Day.

Facilitator to the Student Advisory Board - This board is a community service and youth leadership experience for 18 students grades 6-12. The board meets on a monthly basis to plan fun academic based library events for the community,

**Any other information you feel would be helpful to the Board of Directors**

Under Judith Gatlin's leadership as its coordinator, the Center is thriving and accommodating the academic, as well as the social and emotional needs, of hundreds of Framingham's students. With a high poverty rate in our city, the Center provides services and supports that many of our students would have difficulty in accessing otherwise.

**Person placing name in nomination:**

Vote by Framingham School Committee on May 15, 2019

## OUTSTANDING SCHOOL PARTNER

**Name:** OUT Metrowest

**Please state your reasons for placing name in nomination**

OutMetrowest is an outstanding non-profit community partner that provides supports and services to over 1,000 LGBTQ youth in grades 6-12 in Framingham and other Metrowest communities so that they may succeed in school and thrive in society. This organization helps to ensure that our youth feel valued, respected and empowered by concentrating on their social and emotional wellness.

**Community Activities**

- Programs for students in grades 6-12.
- Weekly drop-in hours-support, socialization and homework help
- Variety of education and training workshops
- Parent/caregiver/family support and resources
- Community events

**Any other information you feel would be helpful to the Board of Directors.**

State Representative Jack Patrick Lewis founded this group to address the needs of an underserved and at-risk population. It has grown to be a highly regarded and instrumental community partner in providing much needed supports to Framingham's youth.

**Person placing name in nomination:**

Vote by Framingham School Committee on May 15, 2019

## COMMUNITY LEADER FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AWARD NOMINATION

**Name:** Carol Phalen

Carol Phalen is a community leader and educational advocate who takes on a multitude of projects each year from inception to fruition with humility, compassion, collegiality and generosity. She is a catalyst for enhancing programs and services that benefit Framingham's youth. As a two-term School Committee member, she was instrumental in overhauling our Policy Manual, instituting our Academic Data Dashboard and lending her financial expertise in improving our budget processes. She challenges the status quo to enhance programs and systems.

**Community Activities: Please list all pertinent information including, but not limited to, any office(s); committees; leadership roles; MASC activities**

- School Committee Member 2009-2014
- Convener of Policy Subcommittee
- Finance Subcommittee
- Academic Data Dashboard Committee
- Framingham High Foundation
- Salute to Framingham
- Women's Correctional Institute-helps train service dogs

**Any other information you feel would be helpful to the Board of Directors (i.e. occupation, accomplishments, education, community involvement,etc)**

**Person placing name in nomination:**

Vote by Framingham School Committee on May 15, 2019