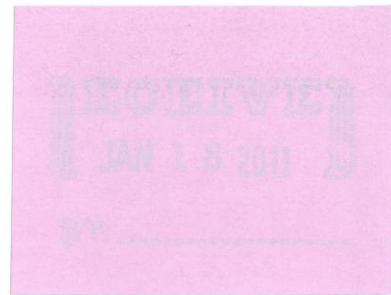


Quota International of Traverse City, Michigan
Proudly Presents and Nominates Our
2011 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR Janet M. Stretlien



Jan, as she likes to be called, began her volunteer skills soon after she and her husband, John, and two children moved to Traverse City in 1974. When her daughter was old enough to join Girl Scouts, Jan became the leader of the troop, soon she became service area manager for Glen Loomis school area, Central Area Association Chair and now holds a Life Time Membership in Girl Scouts. In order to take her girls camping she needed a class in First Aid, the instructor told her she could volunteer at the local fire department and continue to review her first aid skills. Jan joined the Garfield Volunteer Fire Dept. in 1978, took the three courses in fire fighting and became a fire fighter; in 1980 went on to become a basic emergency medical technician. Jan was sent to the National Fire Academy in Emmetsburg, Md. to learn the process of developing fire prevention and safety programs for the Metro Fire Dept.

Jan and John are members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church for 36 years. She has served on the Hospitality Committee, Alter Guild and Christian Care Giving delivering communion and flowers to shut-ins. Jan has arranged for us to use the church fellowship hall for our sewing bee on the last Saturday of each month. We make totes for patients undergoing breast biopsies, at the Smith Family Breast Health Center. By June 2010 we had made over 1,000 totes.

Jan joined Quota in September of 2001. She has been an active member for ten years. Jan was elected in 2002, to be on the Board and served as Financial Secretary. In 2003, she received the Vivian Ingram Distinguished New Member Award. It makes a person dizzy just to think of all the projects she has been involved with.

Quota International of Traverse City elected Jan as President in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. In 2006, as President she represented our club as a voting delegate to the Quota International Convention in Australia.

Jan returned fired up with exciting ideas for service projects, membership drives and in general excited about Quota and what we accomplish worldwide. She began the Healthy Hearing Campaign in 2006 for our club; we voted to purchase 1500 pairs of ear plugs to be handed out at various functions. She made display boxes to be left in doctor's offices, gave some to the Traverse City Rod & Gun Club for their gun safety classes for adults and children, and the William & Leni Carls Hearing Clinic. She encourages the members to carry ear plugs to hand out whenever we see a need. 2007, she was asked to shop and arrange Welcome Bags for attendees of the District 20 Conference, held in Traverse City. Our Golf Outing in 2007, a sponsor failed to honor their commitment. Jan was asked to write a letter to the main head quarters explaining what Quota is and how important our fund raisers are to help others in our area. In answer to her respectful letter, not only did the company send their original donation, they increased it to \$1,000. The past five years Jan has been responsible for setting up a showcase in the public library for the National Healthy Hearing Month. It is filled with pictures, magazine articles about Quota, various Quota pins, golf shirts, hats and a set of flags that represent the countries that Quota has chartered clubs. Grandparents Day held at the Bay Ridge Senior Living Apts. Jan co-chaired the event of helping seniors make crafts and served snacks of Girl Scout cookies, and punch with the help of Girl Scouts of all ages. A special "Soup & Slippers Night" was held at Jan's home to help members get to know each other better. It was a cold snowy night, but six members braved the weather and got to know each other better and strengthened our friendships.

In 2009, Patti Schaap was elected President she experienced a personal challenge to her health and business. Patti asked Jan if she would take over being President and so again, Jan was President for a third time, 2009-2010. The Cherry Festival is always a money maker for Quota; Jan has volunteered at the Bingo tent, Brat's tent, soda tent and assisted at the entertainment concert. Jan helps to pass out pizza for our monthly Pizza Party, held on the third Wednesday each month, at the Goodwill Inn, this is a real treat for the residents and children.

The annual Cookie Sale will find Jan dressed in winter attire, a moose hat with antlers, a large elf style red collar that covers the shoulders of her coat, while standing out in the frigid weather, holding a large sign, "Cookie Sale Today." There is a bank right across from the hall where the cookie sale is held. Jan would wave to all the cars coming out from the drive-in and many of them would stop for cookies. One year a car stopped an elderly gentleman brought her a cup of coffee because Jan looked so cold. She thanked him and encouraged him to come inside for cookies. He stated, "I am a diabetic and cannot eat the cookies but here is a donation toward for your clubs efforts." Since then Jan has made regular and diabetic cookies for our sale. One year a deaf and diabetic couple drove from Grayling just for our diabetic cookies. Jan had a knee replacement in November 2010 and still managed to bake cookies for the sale. Jan is always recruiting new members, even while in the hospital and at the Younker's Community Day Sales.

In 2010 Jan was selected as Quotarian of the Year for the Traverse City Club and honored at the District 20 Conference. She says one of her most memorable invitations was the one to visit the Central Grade School classroom for the deaf. The children wanted to show us their favorite books and puppets that were purchased with our Foundation Grant monies. There wasn't a dry eye among the members of Quota and Jan when they saw these little ones express their appreciation. We were encouraged to know what a wonderful thing our efforts have been in going the extra mile in fund raising.

I could go on and on about all the things Jan has done to provide our Local, District and International clubs as she seems to be everywhere at the same time. There is nothing too small or too large a project that she doesn't say, "I can help." Helen Keller once said, "When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or the life of another."

Jan has touched our lives and Quota's with joy.

Sincerely,

Patti Schaap, QI of Traverse City, MI