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NHGSA HONORS AWARD WINNING VOLUNTEERS

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2017 AMBIEs Awards Luncheon Photo Library:

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PRESS RELEASE

Manchester, NH - New Hampshire Granite State Ambassadors (GSA's) are volunteers, industry professionals, and residents of New Hampshire who have been trained and certified as "NH information specialists." You can find them 'welcoming the world to NH' at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, statewide visitor centers, special events, chambers, and many other locations throughout the state. Here in our 21st year, NHGSA can proudly say that we have certified 1,638 Granite State Ambassador volunteers and industry members through 75 classes. In just the past year, 300 GSA volunteers served over 18,000 hours and assisted over 100,000 guests in-state, and when you include the 17 days they spend promoting New Hampshire in the Division of Travel and Tourism Development's New Hampshire Building Information Booth at The Big E in West Springfield, MA, that number soars to over a million!



On June 1, 2017, the NH Granite State Ambassadors held its prestigious AMBIEs Awards Luncheon at UNH Manchester where we take time to recognize our dedicated volunteers and industry partners. This year's recipients are Moe Demers for the 2017 GSA of the Year Award; Dan Memos for the Judi Window, It's Always Sunny in NH Award; Diane LaBelle for the Hospitality From the Heart Award; and Maureen Walsh for the GSA Service Award.

The GSA of the Year Award is given to a GSA extraordinaire for providing excellent service to the community and dedication to the GSA mission. **Moe Demers** is a regular volunteer for the Secure-Side Walk About program at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, at special events, and the NH State Welcome Centers. He has a real passion for NH and takes time to meet our state's travelers on a personal level and shares their stories with other GSA volunteers through writing blogs for our newsletter. Moe has volunteered over 1500 hours since he was GSA certified in the Comfort Inn Airport Class of 2011.



The Judi Window, It's Always Sunny in NH Award is given to a GSA that embodies one of our co-founder's sunny, positive spirit.

Dan Memos' good humor, passion, and welcoming demeanor make him the perfect choice. Dan has volunteered over 620 hours at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, and special events and is part of the NH Division of Travel and Tourism Class of 2009. He and his wife spend every Christmas day volunteering at the airport's information booth to make sure our state's guests feel welcome and have everything they need.

The Hospitality from the Heart Award goes to the GSA volunteer who spends endless hours trying to go unnoticed and give generous contributions to other GSAs from their warm heart. **Diane LaBelle** has volunteered over 920 hours and was part of the Red River Theatre Class of 2013. Diane's warm, caring, and competent demeanor is perfect for her time spend volunteering at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, the Capitol Region Visitor Center, and the NH State House Visitor Center. She is always willing to help with whatever comes up, no matter what, or who is in front of her.



The GSA Service Award is given to a GSA who volunteers with enthusiasm, and continuously strives to learn more about NH through GSA special events, tours, and specialized trainings. **Maureen Walsh** was part of the GSA McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center Class of 2014 and has volunteered over 950 hours mostly at special events, the NH State House Visitor Center, and the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. She is extremely knowledgeable about NH and is always ready to share all she knows with anyone she meets with a welcoming, and understanding smile.

Also honored at the AMBIEs Awards Luncheon were the **White Mountains Attractions Association** for their strong support of our



GSA volunteer educational programs, and the **NH State House Visitor Center's Tour Program** which provides training and support for our GSA volunteers to share their love of NH history.

The final peer merit awards went to **Tim Adams**, Blogger Award; **Jim Byrd**, Rookie Award; and **Mary Lenz**, GSA Emeritus.

Thank you to our AMBIEs Awards Luncheon and Prize Sponsors – UNH Manchester, Fratello's, NH Mountain Inn, Common Man Inn Plymouth & Claremont, RiverWalk Resort at Loon, Silver Fox Inn at Waterville Valley, Experience Squam Boat Tours, Alpine Adventures, Whale's Tale Water Park, Candia Springs Adventure Park, Millie B Vintage Boat Rides on Winnepesaukee.

The New Hampshire Granite State Ambassadors add value to state agencies, local businesses, and individuals through a training and service support network that sustains and enhances the New Hampshire experience. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, charitable organization, NHGSA serves hundreds of travel and tourism related businesses with the support of our Key Partners, NH Division of Travel and Tourism and the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. Find out more about NHGSA, Inc. at www.nhgsa.com.



Merit Award Winners: Rookie - Jim Byrd & Blogger - Tim Adams



White Mountain National Forest Certification - Margaret Minnon, Irene & Bob Mullen, Burt & Sharon Lohnes (not pictured)



NHGSA Key Partners

Vicki Cimino, Director of NH Division of Travel and Tourism

Tom Malafronte, Deputy Director of the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport



KUDOS recipients



Top Annual Hours Awards - Art & Mary Lizie (320), Maureen Walsh (372), Tim Adams (432), Paul Lacourse (522 - not pictured)



5 Year Pins & 10 Year Pins



50 Hour Awards & 100 Hour Awards



250 Hour Awards & 500 Hour Awards



1000 Hour Awards & 2000-8000 Hour Awards

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