

Cora Bailey Award Recipient 2021

Patricia Wales



Rita Pallisco (left) presents the award to Patricia Wales (right)

The Cora Bailey Award is presented to a branch member of RWTO-OERO who has contributed outstanding service to her branch.

Since her retirement Pat has been an active member of the Windsor Essex Branch, Area 3. She has served as Issues and Concerns Convenor. In this role Pat researched and wrote articles for members, always bringing forth valued and interesting information. She has been our newsletter editor extraordinaire, never missing a beat. She has served as first vice president for the past three years and has been our President's right-hand lady. Pat willingly shares her wonderful sense of humour while conducting the business of the day.

Pat shares her computer skills with the Zoom initiatives and has helped many members navigate this new technology. In addition to participating in Zoom sessions such as Book Chat she also scribes and provides a summary of books discussed during the sessions. Pat has also facilitated the Zoom gardening sessions, designed the In Memoriam section in the newsletter as well as flyers for upcoming events.

Pat was a special education teacher, religion resource teacher, and classroom teacher in various schools in the Windsor area.

The motto Caring and Sharing has always been central to her life. As a young woman she worked in a summer camp for children with special needs. Pat is remembered by so many students and colleagues as an amazing teacher with a tremendous love for and commitment to helping others learn. While serving in Project Overseas she travelled to Nepal to work with the teachers there to improve their teaching skills. In the community, Pat has been an active member of Ste Anne Parish, Tecumseh, a past member of parish council as well as the bereavement ministry. She has served meals at the Downtown Mission and has shared her time with the Friendship Club which provided evenings of prayer and fellowship for adults with special needs in our community.

Pat has a special talent for supporting family, friends, colleagues and students especially in times of illness, loneliness, stress and sorrow. She shares so readily and often. So many of us have received this gift in the form of a phone call, visit, card, or special gifts.

All of this is done quietly, humbly, and selflessly with no expectation of recognition.