

Biography of Janice Burdick

THE DELAWARE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE'S "Woman of the Year" award is named in memory of Margaret "Peg" Pandick, a former Delaware County Democratic election commissioner. Fittingly, the 2009 recipient of the award is the current commissioner, Janice Burdick, a resident of the hamlet of Bloomville in the town of Kortright.

Janice grew up in the town of Bovina and attended Andes Central School through the sixth grade, and then transferred to Delaware Academy in Delhi for grades 7-12, graduating in 1963. After furthering her education at SUNY Delhi, she was married in 1966 to Alden "Aldie" Burdick. They have one daughter and three grandchildren, and have enjoyed many golfing outings over the years.



In 1988, "Peg" Pandick died while still in office. Janice recalled, "Evelyn Fitch, who had been Peg's deputy, was named as the commissioner, and I started in this office as her deputy."

As the deputy commissioner, she became a full-time worker in the office, and applied herself diligently to the position. If a town committee person, in either party, had a question, Janice has always had the answer, and a gently way of steering one in the right direction.

Since 1988, she has seen many changes in the election laws of the state, and has been a key link to the office for the county committee, providing the necessary forms and information during each election year. She also served many years as a member of the Kortright town committee, and formerly chaired her town committee.

After serving nearly 20 years as the deputy, Janice was appointed by the Delaware County Board of Supervisors as commissioner, upon the recommendation of the county committee, at the beginning of 2008. Since her predecessor, Bill Buccheri, resigned late in 2007, she actually filled the position on an interim basis before the official appointment.

She pointed out that the special election held earlier this year, in the 20th Congressional District was "the first special election that I can remember. Because it was so close, it was a very busy time for us," she commented. "There have been a lot of close town races where it took a long time to decide, and that makes our work interesting, too."

"I'm really honored to receive this award, that was named for Peg," Janice said. It is also special to her, because her early mentor in the job, Evelyn Fitch, is another who has earned the honor.