

# 317 Board 2025 Annual Meeting Nominations

	Past award recipient?	Nominated By	I am nominating	Reason(s) I'm recommending this person	County Nominee works in	Contract provider employee?	Provider Name
1	Yes-1994-Substance Abuse Prevention (Behavioral Health)	Stephen K. Thomas TASC	Reggie Robinson	Recently retired, Mr. Robinson has over 30 years of service in prevention/intervention services. He is very well known in Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties. His message of prevention is strong, as is his over 30 years of sobriety. He has dedicated his life to helping people make positive choices in their lives. He is most deserving of an award for his many years of professional service.	Athens, Hocking and Vinton Counties	No	
2.	Yes-2014-MH Advocacy (Behavioral Health)	Cathye Williams ISBH	Kim Jackson	For many years, Kim Jackson has provided unwavering support to the communities of Athens, Hocking and Vinton. Kim is a friend to all, a fierce advocate for others and a person who finds joy in honoring others. Kim enjoys coming alongside others in our communities, honoring their stories and empowering people in their personal journeys. Over the years, Kim can be found at the peer houses, manning booths, fund raising for amazing events for the peer houses, creating safe spaces, making meals, lobbying for the rights of others just to name a few of her talents. Kim has held numerous roles that supported the passions of the communities and took care of all people with dignity and respect. Kim's passion for people is innate and a driving purpose for who she is.	She worked in all these counties for 20 years.	No	
3.	No	Ginger Schmalenberg	Autumn Brown	Autumn Brown is a champion for peers with lived experience of a MH and/or co-occurring SUD- she was instrumental in helping to develop and implement The Gathering Place's plan and partnership with the City of Athens- in creating the Athens County Emergency Warming Center in the winter of 2025- without her community leadership of advocating for interim and long-term solutions for unhoused residents, and countless volunteer hours- the project would not have been a success.	Athens	No	
4.	Yes-2019-Rita Gillick	Cathye Williams ISBH	Tracie Dearing	Tracie creates a welcome space for all at Home away from Home. Her great cooking, creativity, care for others and kindness attract people to have a seat at the table and chat. Tracie provides safety, comfort, structure and friendship to all who enter the house.	Hocking	No	

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5.	No	Cathye Williams ISBH	Jennifer Starnes	Jennifer truly comes along side people, where they are, offering support, kindness and care. Jen has worked hard expanding SUD services and IOP services for ISBH in Hocking County but it goes beyond her work at the agency. Jen is a great team member, friend genuine in spirit with how she honors others.	Hocking	No	
6.	No	Ellen Martin, CEO Health Recovery Services	Candy Kemmerer	I cannot limit my response to six lines so I will send it as an attachment to a separate email I am nominating Candy Kemmerer as the Taffy Marks Award Recipient. Candy, a lifelong resident of Hocking County has, over 58 years, established herself as a well-known, effective community advocate and respected financial professional. This mother of 2 has dedicated her career to working on behalf of the families of Hocking, Athens, Perry and Morgan counties. As a member of the Senior Leadership Teams, Candy has worked for a number of banking institutions and over her 38-year career has brought in over 5 million dollars to benefit and better the lives of our Appalachian geographic catchment. She worked tirelessly throughout the COVID epidemic to provide support and much needed monetary relief to those affected by this disastrous public health emergency. Candy has been a champion in leading the development of behavioral healthcare support systems necessary to combat the damage caused by the opioid crisis plaguing the state of Ohio. Through her work as an Athens, Hocking and Vinton 317 Board member and officer, she was able to influence local efforts to establish a comprehensive system of behavioral health care for our area. She continued to navigate the same pathway for primary care as a community appointee to the Ohio Health O’Bleness Governance Council, formerly the Ohio Health O’Bleness Board of Directors. Involvement in both the Rotary and the Rotary Foundation positioned her to be able to utilize her individual efforts in team direction that resulted in much positive change and community growth. I would like to acknowledge her pivotal role in making the dreams of few, a sustainable reality for many in Appalachian southeastern Ohio, specifically, Hocking County.	Hocking	No	

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7.	No	Cheryl Spence HRS	Judge Jason Despetorich	Judge Despetorich has offered services for individuals in the community to address mental health issues impacting their lives. He believes in co-occurring disorders and looks at the whole picture to provide services for all their needs that led them to involvement with the judicial system. Since his time on the bench, he has strived to make steps to bring awareness of mental health struggles in the community as well as advocating for individuals to have more access to services. He is determined to help individuals reduce number of barriers present so that they can receive the services they need to improve their mental health. He does this while showing respect, compassion and understanding for all the individuals he encounters.	Hocking	No	
8.	No	Brittany Eckert	Stephanie Seibel	I'm honored to nominate this incredible survivor who has turned her healing into action. She leads a county-wide support group, offering a safe space for others to grow and be heard. Through organizing community events, she raises vital awareness around behavioral health and domestic violence. Her courage in sharing her testimony inspires others and breaks down stigma. She actively participates in taskforce meetings, ensuring survivors have a voice and a seat at the table. Her leadership is a powerful example of resilience and change.	Hocking	No	
9.	No	Barbi Hammond HHC	Tricia Sands	Trisha has been director of Shepherd's house in Vinton County for a number of years. She not only provides services thru Shepherd's House, she also is a key member within the community for resource information and support for the clients she serves.	Vinton	Unsure	