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NJAHU Names Marilyn Stenger as 2008 Winner of the Louis G. Mattei Achievement Award

State Association Also Honors Local Chapter Members at Annual Confab

TRENTON – April 28, 2008 – It's been said if you've been traveling the Garden State Parkway over the past eight years and saw a flash go by, it's likely you were passed by Marilyn Stenger.

The Mount Arlington health insurance broker has been one of the most active members of the New Jersey Association of Health Underwriters (NJAHU), attending chapter meetings, visiting Trenton to lobby, participating in the state convention, and doing whatever else is required. She has also been a voice on the national level, taking part in 19 national conference and several regional conferences.

NJAHU has awarded Stenger the recipient of the 2008 Louis G. Mattei Achievement Award – the highest honor an NJAHU member can receive. Stenger received the award at the annual NJAHU convention, held April 16-17 in Atlantic City.

Dave Mordo of Tinton Falls, who received the award in 2007, said Stenger was selected because of for her involvement in all facets of the association. She received the "Triple Crown Award" from the National Association of Health Underwriters for four consecutive years, honoring her for membership recruitment, fundraising and grassroots advocacy.

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Lou Mattei (l) and David Mordo present the Louis G. Mattei Achievement Award to Marilyn Stenger.



David Oscar (l) with Doug Lubenow, who presented him with the President's Award.

“Marilyn is the only state chapter member to achieve this accomplishment every year since its inception in 2004,” said Mordo, who announced Stenger’s award at the convention. “Marilyn has also been active in our political action committee, with more than \$1,000 raised annually. In addition, she has been a member of our state board since 2002 and has the distinction of being NJAHU’s first female president.”

Stenger has been active in the NJAHU with her husband, James, who also served as association president. He was also a recipient of the Louis Mattei Achievement Award, which has been awarded since 1994.

During the conference, the NJAHU also presented the President’s Award to David Oscar of Montclair, who is vice president of the association. Oscar, of Altigro Benefit Services of Fairfield, received the annual award for his outstanding contribution to the association and the health care industry.

“It was a great honor because it takes a lot of work to make this association run,” Oscar said. “There are many people who volunteer to run the many programs and conferences we offer. So, it was nice to be selected from amongst so many deserving colleagues.”

NJAHU also handed out awards to members of its five local chapters during the conference.

The “Shooting Star Award” went to NJAHU members who have become significantly more active in the association over the past year. Winners include: Kathy Burton of Aetna; a Pennsauken resident who is a member of the South Jersey chapter, and Maryanne Van Sant of Marschil Insurance; a Monmouth/Ocean chapter member who lives in Eatontown.

The “Comet Award” is given to long-time NJAHU members who continually provide service to the Association. Winners were Theresa Semple of Sayreville; a member of the Monmouth/Ocean chapter who works for Customized Benefit Solutions, Inc., and Desmond Slattery of the Monmouth/Ocean chapter; a Wall resident who works for John J. Slattery Associates.

Comet Awards were also given to Doug Lubenow of the Lubenow Agency; a Moorestown resident who is a member of the South chapter, and Joan Fusco of Savoy Associates, a North Brunswick resident who is affiliated with the Central chapter.

Nicole Gunia of Flanders, NJAHU president who works at BenefitMall was awarded for bringing in the most NJAHU members this year. Membership recruitment awards also went to David Mordo of Tinton Falls; who works at Walsh Benefits, and Carol King of Sussex, with New England Financial.

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