



10 OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS HONORED FOR STRENGTHENING THE ST. LOUIS REGION

2026 St. Louis Women of Achievement Announced

*Volunteers from across the St. Louis metropolitan area to be recognized
for extraordinary service, leadership and lasting community impact*

*Honorees to be recognized at 2026 Women of Achievement Award Luncheon
on Tuesday, May 19 at the Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis*

ST. LOUIS, MO (March 2026) – Women of Achievement is pleased to announce the **2026 Women of Achievement** – a selection of **10 outstanding volunteers** from across the St. Louis metropolitan region. The St. Louis Women of Achievement Award, which was founded in 1955 and celebrates its 71st anniversary this year, is the **oldest, ongoing program in the area** whose sole mission is to honor and recognize the volunteer service and volunteer leadership of women. The 10 honorees will be recognized and celebrated at the **2026 Women of Achievement Award Luncheon** on Tuesday, **May 19** at the Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis.

Across neighborhoods, schools, nonprofits and advocacy efforts throughout the region, these volunteers' leadership has **shaped lives** and **strengthened communities locally, regionally and even globally**. The **Class of 2026** represents a powerful cross-section of the metropolitan area—from St. Louis and St. Charles to St. Peters, Florissant and Washington, Missouri—with volunteer efforts that span family enrichment, veteran's advocacy, neurodiverse advocacy, health, social justice, and creative community engagement.

The 2026 Women of Achievement and their designations are listed below.

- Marcy Bursac** — Family Enrichment
- Karen Dawson** — Community Betterment
- Terrie Desloge** — Neurodiverse Advocacy
- Staycee Dixson** — Fostering Support
- Aleeza Granote** — Family Support
- Ivy Grant** — Women's Empowerment

Jeanne Savel — Veterans Advocacy
Pamela M. Stanfield, Ed.D. — Social Justice
Julie C. Treloar — Creative Comfort
Helen M. Wall — Health Advocacy

Each year, Women of Achievement selects 10 honorees from an **extensive nomination and review process**, beginning with nominations submitted by the public. The honorees are volunteers who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the betterment of the St. Louis metropolitan region through uncompensated voluntary contributions, volunteer leadership and a significant breadth of a volunteer career in areas such as, but not limited to, education, arts, health and human services, youth and family, philanthropy, social justice and advocacy. Collectively, **they have devoted decades of service to causes** that advocate for vulnerable populations, expand access to care, uplift families and build stronger civic foundations across the region.

The **2026 Women of Achievement Award Luncheon** is Tuesday, **May 19** at the Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis. Doors open at 11:15 a.m. The luncheon ends at 1:30 p.m. This year's luncheon chair is **Bess Wilfong** (Class of 2004) and the vice chair is **Eleanor Higgins** (Class of 2024). **Cassie Strom** (Class of 2021) is the president of Women of Achievement and **Cynthia R. Bennett, DBA** (Class of 2022) is the vice president. Presenting sponsors are **KMOX Radio, Ladue News** and **St. Louis Post-Dispatch**.

Luncheon reservations are \$60 per person and can be made online beginning in March 2026 at woastl.org/event or by contacting Women of Achievement at 314.896.4962 or woastlouis@gmail.com.

For additional information about the awards, luncheon and honorees, please visit www.woastl.org.

For all media inquiries, including press kit (photos, video, honoree bios) and interviews:

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About Women of Achievement

In 1955, the St. Louis-Globe Democrat newspaper created an awards program that became known as the Women of Achievement Award, to recognize and honor the achievements of women who, through their volunteer efforts, have demonstrated their dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life in the St. Louis community. The St. Louis Women of Achievement organization, a 501c3, not-for-profit organization, was established in 1993 by former Women of Achievement who wanted to ensure the longevity of the award for future generations of St. Louis area women. The organization's Board of Directors, comprised of past recipients of the award, continue to plan and implement the nomination, selection and award presentation process ensuring that this award will continue to enhance and honor the women volunteers in the St. Louis metropolitan region who positively impact the community, for many years to come. For more information visit the Women of Achievement website at www.woastl.org.

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