

Pioneer Hall of Fame: Jane Legg Bower, class of 1969



When you mention “community service” to folks in McLean County, many think of Jane Bower. This mother of three is involved in so many different community organizations and activities that space prevents listing all of them. After graduation from U-High, Jane received a degree from Illinois Wesleyan University. Since then she has had many interesting careers, including elementary teacher, certified aerobics instructor, flight attendant, strength and fitness instructor, and bicycle safety instructor.

Jane continues to build her reputation as an important civic leader in the Bloomington-Normal community. She was the first female to be elected president of the YMCA Board of Directors in its 144-year history. She served on the PTO Boards at both Washington Elementary School and Bloomington Junior High School. She is secretary of the Miller Park Zoological Society Board and is on the Board of Deacons at Second Presbyterian Church. She has been active with Cub Scouts, the Class Night Committee, Alumni Advisory Board, and Alumni Homecoming Committee, as well as working with the Booster Club.

Jane has been recognized for her charitable service as well. She was the 1999 recipient of the YWCA Women of Distinction – Harriet Rust Volunteerism Award. She was also recognized for her many years of work with the Central Illinois Down Syndrome Challenge.

Jane and her husband Pete live in Bloomington with their children John, Jason, and Jessie. She continues to work both as a substitute teacher for District 87 and as an aerobics instructor for the YMCA.