



NEWS RELEASE May 6, 2015

Kentucky School Staff are Finalists for Statewide Service Award

(FRANKFORT, Ky.—) The Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) released its finalists for the 2015 Fred Award. Finalists are:

- Jim Oliver, volunteer and substitute teacher, Lancaster Elementary, Garrard County Schools
- Bobby Kelly, maintenance technician, Hickman County Schools
- Marvin McHenry, custodian at Heritage Elementary School, Carter County Schools

The Fred Award remains a coveted KASA award, drawing in nearly 40 applications each year from school districts across Kentucky. The award was inspired by Fred Shea, the postman who became the subject of Mark Sanborn's national bestseller, *The Fred Factor*. Finalists are selected for this award by a statewide judging panel representing leaders from school districts across the commonwealth.

This award recognizes non-administrative staff, students, and volunteers statewide whose daily efforts are deemed extraordinary and integral to a positive learning atmosphere in their school communities. The first Fred Award was presented to Mr. Fred Strange, a custodian at Grants Lick Elementary School in Campbell County in 2008.

A film crew will visit each finalist's district to capture the spirit of their service. Film crews are expected to be in Garrard County on May 6, Carter County on May 7, and Hickman County on May 12.

Video footage will be presented during the final award presentation July 17, 2015 at KASA's Annual Leadership Institute & Expo in Louisville. All three finalists will receive a distinguished marble plaque detailing the award in addition to overnight lodging at the Galt House Hotel. Both runner-up finalists will receive a \$250 cash prize as well; the winner will receive \$500.

"In education, we talk a lot about school culture, service leadership, and empowering kids. These finalists live and breathe this attitude, and they model the behavior we hope to inspire in each child. Each one of these finalists has earned this, though they are too humble to admit it, and we are honored to be able to show all Kentuckians the power of the Fred Factor," Rhonda Caldwell, KASA deputy director, said.

Brief Introduction of the Award Finalists

Jim Oliver, volunteer/substitute teacher, Lancaster Elementary, Garrard County Schools

Having logged over 5,000 volunteer hours at Lancaster Elementary School since 2009, Jim is known for his strong connection with students and his "servant heart."

Every morning, Jim arrives at school around 6:15 a.m., opening doors for teachers and keeping the principal company during bus duty. Jim can be seen escorting preschoolers to their classrooms, and in some cases, carrying a child who refuses to leave the car without "Mr. Jim." He is there until every child is safely on their way home at 3 p.m.



Jim Oliver
Garrard Co. Schools

Jim is known as a permanent fixture at the school, only absent for family visits or volunteering for a camp in New York serving women and kids with cancer. During the week, he can be found playing with students on the playground, dressing up as Dr. Seuss or other characters, teaching students in the reading center, or building and fixing things for the teachers. On Saturdays, he builds beds for Americorp.



Bobby Kelly
Hickman Co. Schools

Bobby Kelly, maintenance technician, Hickman County Schools

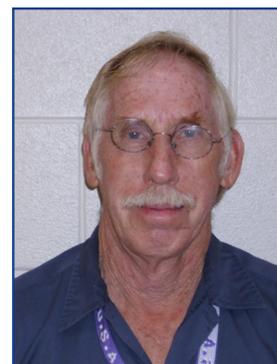
Bobby is known for his humor, humility, and fast-paced work ethic. Leading by example, Bobby is the first in the door and the last man standing at the end of the day. He takes on all projects willingly and is described as an employee “with the eagerness and energy of a teen-age boy and the skill set of an engineer.”

Bobby works exceptionally hard outside the school day to ensure all students have access to fun. He frequently helps transport groups of students to sporting events to cheer on their peers and has turned his barn into a system of mazes and obstacle course features for a game he invented for the kids called “barn ball.” Regardless of the time of year, or whether or not school is in session, Bobby brings the bright side of life to every student, every day.

Marvin McHenry, custodian, Heritage Elementary School, Carter County Schools

Marvin is known primarily for his devotion to lifelong learning and passion for student engagement. A self-taught expert in fly-fishing, small engine repair, photography, the Civil War, and many others, Marvin is constantly learning and sharing his knowledge. For example, on Veteran’s Day, Marvin prepares an annual display with photos and memorabilia from the wars in which United States soldiers have fought.

Marvin engages kids through various hands-on activities that make them eager to come to school. Each year, he dresses up as Santa, visiting each classroom so all the students get a chance to see Santa. He brings in a refurbished horse-drawn sleigh for the lobby that students can sit in. He serves as a guest speaker in classrooms, showcasing Appalachian artifacts he has collected and teaching students about tools and techniques used by pioneers. In addition, he greets each student at the crosswalk in the mornings, a job he volunteered to do the first year he started working at Heritage Elementary School.



Marvin McHenry
Carter Co. Schools

To learn more about the award or about KASA, visit www.kasa.org or contact Deputy Director Rhonda Caldwell at (502) 875-3411. School district contacts regarding the individual finalists include: Cindy Rogers, Garrard County Schools, cindy.rogers@garrard.kyschools.us, (859) 792-3018; Kim Wilson, Hickman County Schools, kim.wilson@hickman.kyschools.us, (270) 653-2341; and Pam Kouns, Carter County Schools, pam.kouns@carter.kyschools.us, (606) 474-6696.

SAVE THE DATE! Next year’s Fred Award will celebrate its 10th anniversary with an appearance from the man who inspired the award, Fred Shea, and author Mark Sanborn at the Annual Leadership Institute, July 20-22, 2016! Shea was a postman who became the subject of Mark Sanborn’s national bestseller, *The Fred Factor*. Stay tuned!

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