

IN-Huber MD

**Date of Submission:** 6/19/2021

**Nominee:** Richard Huber MD

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**I have informed the nominee of this nomination:** Yes

**Optional: If nominating a couple, please fill the second name below. Only married couples and domestic partners qualify:**

**Please confirm that the nominee is 50 years or older (if nominating a couple, both nominees are 50 year or older):** Yes, the nominee(s) is 50 or older

**Please describe the volunteer work that inspired you to nominate this individual for the award:**

I am inspired by the volunteer work Dick Huber has done with AARP Driver Safety (ADS) as well as his volunteer work with many other organizations including Meals on Wheels, Second Helpings, Volunteer Advocates for Seniors and Incapacitated Adults (VASIA), and Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) / Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for neglected and abused children.

In addition he is a volunteer instructor on Lawn Care, Money Matters and Mutual Funds, Tobacco Education & Prevention, Freedom From Smoking, Gateway Drugs and Fraud Protection-ID Theft classes at libraries like the Greenwood Public Library and schools like Franklin Central High School in Indianapolis.

**How has the nominee's work supported AARP's vision and purpose?:**

Dick has supported AARP's vision and purpose in many ways. For over 18 years as a volunteer instructor he has helped meet the ADS mission of helping drivers and riders remain safe, independent, connected, and confident as they age. His work with Meals on Wheels helps address senior hunger and isolation. Working with VASIA he helped seniors achieve the highest degree of independence possible while assisting them with maintaining the greatest degree of health, comfort and safety. Clearly his volunteer efforts support AARP's vision of a society in which everyone ages with dignity and purpose and in which people fulfill their goals and dreams. And his volunteer efforts support AARP's purpose of empowering people to choose how they live as they age.

**How has the work of the nominee improved the community or enhanced the lives of its residents for which/whom the work was performed?:**

Dick's ADS volunteer work helped senior drivers remain independent, mobile and safe. In his over 18 years as an ADS Instructor he taught 2,373 participants in 199 Smart Driver courses. He would have taught even more if it weren't for the Covid restrictions that prevented him teaching the Smart Driver Course since last March. That is more courses and participants taught by any Instructor in the history of ADS in Indiana. And that doesn't include the courses and participants he taught that he didn't receive credit for as he co-taught courses with new Instructors to get them started.

He also enhanced the lives of countless others with his volunteer efforts with Meals on Wheels, Second Helpings, VASIA, and GAL / CASA. In addition he enhanced the lives of all who attended the courses he taught on Lawn Care, Money Matters and Mutual Funds, Tobacco Education & Prevention, Freedom From Smoking, Gateway Drugs and Fraud Protection-ID Theft.

Here is what Susan Jerger, Reference Librarian at the Greenwood Public Library has to say about Dick.

"I have known Richard (Dick) Huber for over 16 years. I first met him when he conducted a lawn care class at a public library a few towns over from my home. My husband and I were new homeowners with no clue how to manage the scraggly yard that came with our house. I learned many time and money saving tips from him that day and have had the privilege of hosting him for regular programs at my own public library, the Greenwood Public Library (GPL), since then.

Through his twice-yearly lawn care programs at GPL alone (I know he does the programs elsewhere, too), he has empowered hundreds of local people, particularly in the senior age range, to tackle their yard maintenance on their own. Not only has this led to people feeling a sense of accomplishment and beautifying our neighborhoods, his students have saved thousands of dollars over the years.

Dick also taught money and mutual funds classes at the library, inspiring community members to take control of their financial futures whether they were newly joining the workforce or ready to retire. His engaging personality, particularly his sense of humor, encourages his students to learn and laugh at the same time. Through all the programs he's done for my library, he has never received a negative review.

Over the years, I have read Dick's insightful letters to the editor in our local newspapers. I also read an article he authored a few years ago about the loss of his son to drug addiction. It was a brave and moving piece that added depth to his sense of public service and social responsibility.

I greatly admire Dick's dedication to community service. He is a powerful example of how one individual can pursue knowledge and share it with his community, improving the lives of many. He is definitely not one to rest on his laurels and always makes sure he offers the latest information and best practices. I hope I can be as giving of my time and talents in the future."

Here is what Sarah Hanson, Ag & Natural Resources Educator has to say about Dick.

“Dr. Huber is remarkable. I have the pleasure of working with him at least once per year as he teaches the lawn session during our Master Gardener Basic Training. He dedicates so much of his time to prepare and teach the 3 hour class. He arrives with visual props to use while he delivers the information. He has a kind attitude and sense of humor that works well with people of all ages and backgrounds. He is reliable, humble, and enthusiastic. He also teaches lawn information at various other places around Johnson County (such as the hospital and library) throughout the year). He has logged almost 400 volunteer hours as a Purdue Extension Master Gardener, reaching the bronze level. In order to stay up to date on the latest knowledge, he attends the Indiana Green Expo and listens to educational sessions about the turf industry. Dr. Huber has given countless hours of time and energy to the Johnson County community, making him an instrumental volunteer. I enjoy having him as a volunteer and know he’ll do well moving forward.”

Here is what State Representative Woody Burton has to say about Dick.

“Dr. Huber has extensive experience in being a community leader and advocate. Dr. Huber is most known for his "Gateway Drugs" presentations. Presently, Dr. Huber has given 1,931 presentations on drugs reaching nearly 50,000 middle and high school students. I have had the privilege of attending one of such presentations and can attest to the impact that they have on students.

Dr. Huber has also been a staple at the Indiana Statehouse as an advocate for public health. Dr. Huber is frequently meeting with legislators on issues such as raising the minimum age for tobacco and vaping use, eliminating smoking in public buildings and spaces, and opioid use.”

**What is inspiring, courageous, unusual or innovative about the nominee's achievement?:**

What is inspiring and unusual of Dick’s many achievements as a volunteer for so many organizations is his effort to be a top performing and productive volunteer with each organization. The sheer number of ADS Smart Driver courses and drug presentations he has made is impressive. Every class he teaches he arrives with visual props to use while he delivers the information. And he actively encourages everyone in the class to participate. His enthusiasm for whatever he happens to be teaching is infectious!

What is also inspiring about Dick’s achievements as a volunteer for so many organizations is his seemingly tireless efforts to help so many people improve their lives. Being an Octogenarian has not slowed him down from helping people improve their lives and remain healthy. Nor has the passing of his wife, Diane in July of 2019 kept him from remaining an active volunteer helping others in need. And his courageous pursuit of helping young people remain drug free after the tragic loss of his son by drug abuse is most heartwarming.

**How has the nominee's work impacted other volunteers or inspired others to volunteer?**

I cannot say enough about the impact Dick has had on the ADS program in Indiana. As an ADS volunteer he has touched the lives of nearly every volunteer in the program in the last 19 years.

He was a mentor to me as a new volunteer and he has mentored many ADS volunteers over the years. He always is willing to co-teach a Smart Driver class with a new Instructor to get them started. And in doing so he gave the teaching credit for the course to the new instructor. Giving credit for the co-taught course is something most Instructors in Indiana before him did not do. And as Deputy State Coordinator for the ADS in Indiana he has been a good communicator with the other volunteers keeping them informed each month of classes that have been scheduled in Indiana. During the last year while AARP canceled all sponsored in-person events and activities Dick served on the DS2022 Focus Group. The DS2022 Focus Group is a national panel of ADS Volunteer Instructors helping to revise the Smart Driver classroom course. Dick provided feedback on the proposed revisions to the Smart Driver Course curriculum.

**Does the nominee volunteer with AARP?:** Yes

**Does the nominee receive any compensation or stipend for his/her volunteer service?:** I don't know

**Relationship to Nominee:** Former Indiana State Coordinator of the ADS program and fellow volunteer.

**How did you become familiar with the volunteer's accomplishments?:**

As State Coordinator and fellow ADS Instructor I have seen Dick's work for over seven years. I have also become a friend of Dick's and learned from him his involvement with other organizations.

Contact information for other organizations mentioned in this nomination.

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