

Lois Peacock, RN, FCN – 2006 HMA Wilkerson-Droege Award Recipient

Lois Peacock is one of the pioneers of health ministry and was significant in the early development of the Health Ministries Association (HMA) working directly with Sister June Wilkerson and Rev. Tom Droege. Health Ministries would have come to the west coast much later than it did, without the vision of Lois and Sister June. Lois planted the seeds for health ministries in congregations throughout Northern California, often traveling long distances to offer her enthusiasm and guidance to those interested.

Lois was significant in the formation of the California Valley/Sierra (CCVS) Chapter, originally named Central California/Northern Nevada Chapter. Through the Bay Area Health Ministries (BAHM), Lois educated the majority of the CCVS parish nurses and continues today to be a beloved mentor of these faith community nurses.

Lois was the Executive Director of BAHM for over ten years and tirelessly wrote grants and held fund-raising events to support this worthy health ministry non-profit organization. A grant received from the California Endowment was used to create the video, *The Healing Team*, available through HMA and widely used as a “classic” to explain the basics of health ministry. Lois is a “familiar face” to many around the country because of her appearance in the video.

As a key participant in the development and growth of HMA, Lois served on the Board of Directors as Financial Planning and Development Chair, Secretary and Editor of the HMA Newsletter, *Connections*. She has been a faithful leader in the faith/health movement and her visions, along with those of the early pioneers have shaped the groundwork for the growth of health ministry today.

Over the years, Lois has graciously extended herself in many ways to support health ministry. She gave of herself and her home - housing the first office of BAHM, provided space to numerous fundraising activities, offered shelter for anyone who needed a place to stay in Northern California for health ministry business or a HMA friend on vacation.

Although she is “retired”, the name Lois Peacock continues to appear as a speaker or on boards for health ministry related organizations throughout the country. Lois continues to be connected with all areas of health ministry nationwide. She currently serves in two key positions for HMA - Chair for the HMA Emeritus Committee and as a member of the Development and Funding Committee.

Lois resides in San Francisco, CA with her husband, Gordon, a retired OB-GYN physician. They couple also have a ranch in the Sonoma Mountains where they have a vineyard and winery. Lois is a mother and grandmother. She continues her work in her congregation and in leadership through the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The Health Ministries Association is proud to honor this gracious lady who has served to inspire so many of us.

