

2008 - Mary "Cheney" Elmquist-Lane

Mary "Cheney" Elmquist-Lane graduated from Elida High School in the class of 1958. During her high school years, she was a member of the Elida High School Band, Editor of the Bulldog Review, member of the Ethan Allen Honor Society, FBLA, and GAA among various other activities. Mary graduated from Tiffin University in 1996 with a Bachelors Degree in Business Management and went on to receive her Master's Degree in 1999 from Ohio State University with a MA in Workforce Education and Lifelong Learning. She is also a graduate of Allen Lima Leadership and Leadership Ohio. Mary worked at Ford Motor Company Lima Engine Plant for 39 years until her retirement in 2003. She was Co-Manager of the UAW/Ford/Rhodes State Training Center and was on the design team of this training center when it was designed and built in 1995. Mary has been a long-time member of Trinity United Methodist Church serving in many capacities including Trustees, Administrative Board, and is currently chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee. She has been the Captain of the Education sector for the United Way for 12 years, served on the board of Goodwill Industries, Allen Lima Leadership, the YWCA, American House, Northwest Ohio Literacy Council, Family Resource Center, and American Heart Association. She is a member of the Lima Rotary Club. She served actively on the Celebrate Community Diversity Committee for many years and was co-chair of the Gala Celebrations for Montel Williams, Charles Dutton and Gregory Williams helping to bring understanding of diversity to our community. She is a member of the Lima Allen County Chamber of Commerce Education Committee and serves as liaison for Ford Motor Company Partnership for Advanced Studies that is being implemented in some of the Lima/Allen County schools. She is a member of Iota Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Psi and has chaired their annual golf outing for 12 years resulting in the group raising over \$170,000 for cancer research. Her Honors include: Appleseed Ridge Girl Scout Women of Achievement Award for Business and Industry in 1999, Outstanding Alumnus ward for Allen Lima Leadership in 1999, Finalist for the Athena Award in 2003, United Way of Greater Lima Campaign Chair's Award for Education in 2004 and Jefferson Awards Volunteer Recognition in 2003. Her most recent endeavor is serving on the Planning Committee of the Great Strides Cystic Fibrosis Walk in memory of her son, Durell "Beaver" Blank who passed away in April of 2007 while waiting on a lung transplant due to his life-long battle with Cystic Fibrosis. Both her son Durell and daughter Debra graduated from Elida as well as her siblings, John and Dan Cheney and her sister Barbara. After being a widow of 20 years, she recently re-married to Richard "Dick" Lane.