

Margaret Geering Award History

The Margaret Geering Award was created in 2001 to recognize current or former WAMSS members for outstanding contributions to the medical staff profession of NAMSS and/or WAMSS.

Margaret Geering was one of a handful of medical staff professionals who attended the Oregon Association Medical Staff Services annual conference in 1978. The keynote speaker for the Oregon event was Charlotte Cochrane, the founder of the National Association of Medical Staff Services. During a break between sessions, Charlotte called the small group of Washington attendees together and proposed we start our own association. We all agreed but needed someone to step forward, take the lead, and make it happen. Margaret took the reins and began networking with each of us to pull together the first WAMSS conference in 1979. In those days we were small and took turns for many years meeting at various hospitals in the state. Margaret later became our first Washington State member to serve as a NAMSS president, serving from 1985-1986.

Margaret's contributions were numerous, but as a person she represents someone willing to volunteer, she focused on education, adamant about the power of networking, and she was secure enough to focus on the greater good we could all become as a single entity versus individuals within our own organizations. This award represents those qualities for which we should all strive within the profession.

