

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

# Kovensky lends hand to YMCA's success

### Volunteer instrumental in summer basketball league's success

By John Hartsock

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The Hollidaysburg Area YMCA Women's Summer Basketball League has developed into one of the top competitive basketball leagues for female players in the state of Pennsylvania.

And Hollidaysburg native and life-long resident Sue Kovensky has been one of the driving forces behind the league's success.

Kovensky, a PIAA and collegiate basketball official for the past two decades, has served the league in a variety of capacities for the past 25 years, helping to organize the league's officiating crews, helping to recruit players and teams for the league, and recruiting sponsors for the programs sold at league games.

With the assistance of a community service crew and her trusty lawn-mower and hedge-trimmer, Kovensky, 52, even handles the yard work around the YMCA building, keeping the surrounding grass and hedges in tip-top shape each summer while working tirelessly as a volunteer.

"A lot of people know me from my doing the mowing there on Sundays, and being at the games there on Sunday afternoons and evenings," Kovensky said. "It's been a labor of love."

It's also been a labor of relative anonymity until this year for Kovensky, who will be honored as the Blair County Sports Hall of Fame's 2010 Community Service Award recipient.

"She has been an absolute volunteer," Hollidaysburg Area YMCA executive director Tom Kopriva said.

"Everything we do with that league, Sue has been involved in. I think Sue is one person who has helped to sustain the program and keep it at the level it has been at for years, attracting players from all over.

"There are not that many women's basketball leagues in Pennsylvania, but we have one of the best ones here."



**Sue Kovensky has served the Hollidaysburg YMCA and its women's basketball league for the past 25 years.**

Blair County Sports Hall of Fame President Dave Andrews said many people in the community have noticed Kovensky's quiet but invaluable contributions to the league.

"She's done so much for the YMCA, she's always willing to donate her time, and we felt that she should definitely be recognized," Andrews said of Kovensky, who has been an English teacher at Bellwood-Antis High School for 30 years and was formerly the school's varsity girls basketball coach. "We received several letters of recommendation for her from people who felt she should be honored."

Kovensky is the Hall's seventh Community Service Award recipient, joining John Conlon, John Robertson, Tom Stout, Harry Sickler, Skip Dry and The Miracle League of Blair County.

Kovensky also helps coordinate

the YMCA Summer League's annual Lynnette Williams Spirit Award, given in honor of the late, great Hollidaysburg Area and Bishop Guilfoyle Catholic High School player to the YMCA League player who best exemplifies Williams' passion and love for basketball.

"Sue really believes in our community, and does her part to help keep our community a great place to live," Kopriva said.

#### Past recipients

- 1998:** John Conlon
- 2000:** John Robertson
- 2002:** Tom Stout
- 2004:** Harry Sickler
- 2006:** Skip Dry
- 2008:** Miracle League of Blair County