



Don MacKinnon Excellence in Education Award

2018 Nomination Form

1. **Nominee: Patty Alsworth**
2. **Home Address: PO Box 1 The Farm, Port Alsworth, AK 99653**
3. **Dates of School Board Membership: 1986 to present**
4. **Description of nominee's unusual contribution(s) to education at the local and/or state level: (board service, committees, support of local control, negotiations, publications, statewide activities, legislation, policy development and support, promotion of child-centered activities, voting record, promotion of education, support for collegial educational functions, etc.)**



Patty and her husband Glen with a few of their grandkids...

Patty Alsworth has been on the Lake and Peninsula School District Board for over 30 years and we believe her energy and passion for helping kids has increased with each passing year. She has influenced the lives of our students, staff, and community members as well as Lake and Peninsula School District in such a positive way; she has truly had a tremendous impact on our region. It gives us great pleasure to nominate Patty for the Don MacKinnon Excellence in Education Award.

Patty has been the backbone of our school board and brings a historical perspective that keeps us consistent in our decisions and direction. She has held many different offices and has sat on countless committees. But most importantly, Patty has always represented the entire district and is constantly aware of, and reminding us of, the diverse student population that we serve.

Patty is also a bucket filler as you will see from the statements below.

Alaska Superintendents Association

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“Patty has been a rock-solid board member for LPSD since 1986. She has been there to guide us through the creation of our Borough, the advent of new technology (from word processors to the iPad Pro), the building of new schools, the creation of our Standards Based System, the implementation of NCLB, the implementation of ESSA, the Pebble Mine controversies, and numerous superintendents. Through good times and bad, Patty has been there for LPSD. I now find myself working closely with Patty and constantly learning from her breadth of experience, wisdom, and guidance. She is without a doubt a keystone for our board and our district.” – Ty Mase, LPSD Superintendent

“I can think of no other board member in Alaska more deserving to be singled out for their devotion and excellence. Currently vice-president of LPSB and chair of the scholarship committee, Patty has devoted more than 30 years of service to the board. A founding resident of the village of Port Alsworth on Lake Clark, Patty has raised 5 children and is grandmother to 24. Her long and devoted service on the school board is just one example of her lifelong commitment to improving the lives and prospects of children, not just in her own community, but across a vast region of Southwest Alaska.” - Bryce Edgmon, Speaker of the House

“Miss Patty entered the position of school board member, with the intent to make herself aware of what was going on in our schools. Many times she attended teacher in-services to meet the teachers, and make herself available to talk and listen to them. She attended training sessions, so that she could learn about the curriculum. She let all employees know that she was there to listen and learn.

Miss Patty, many times over the years, has visited communities to hear their concerns about the education of their children. She listens, while gracefully informs the people, regarding the task of a School Board member, which is to be a good representative of each and every community and their children. She has listened to angry communities, unhappy parents, students, and school employees and has always responded and worked toward solving problems with fairness and equality as a School Board member. Over the years, as times have changed, difficult decisions have had to be made. But the commitment to maintain what is best for the students even in the face of diminishing funding is always her priority.

Because of her position, Miss Patty has never been able to work in our schools as a paid employee. However, she has spent countless hours as a volunteer. While I was head teacher at Port Alsworth, Miss Patty would volunteer to copy materials for me, she would put kits, and programs together, she would teach music and art and many other tasks. Over the years, she has continued to volunteer, sewing book bags to hang on all the student chairs, sew costumes for play performances, listen to students read, or tutor struggling students. This just names a few of the volunteer projects Miss Patty has performed. She has continued to teach music to students and has taken several choirs to state competitions.

Miss Patty’s loyalty and commitment to the children, communities and employees of the Lake and Peninsula School District, go far beyond what I would think might be considered a great School Board Representative. I can’t imagine anyone who is more deserving of this award.” - Linda Richter, LPSD Head Teacher and 30+ year veteran of the district

“One of the biggest weaknesses of regional board representation is that the needs of the home community unduly affect the board member’s support of the whole. I commend Ms. Alsworth for her willingness to ensure equity for all students in district activity. She consistently championed the cause of students from Perryville to Nondalton. In sum, Patty Alsworth has helped guide enormous change for all of LPSD. The

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District would not be where it is today with a less effective board member representing her region.” – Steve Atwater, UAF School of Education

Patty Alsworth has not only been a School Board Member for more than thirty years, but she has been the benevolent well-loved matriarch for our whole community and school. She raised her five children in LPSD, adopted a child from Africa, has opened her home numerous times to Alaskan children in need, and has volunteered in our school to provide choral music to our children. Because of years in Miss Patty's music programs, our high school students are talented and inspired enough to perform in a performance choir. During the school year, they earn performances and awards around the region, including Superior Ratings in the Alaska State Solo & Ensemble Music Festival. During the summer, the choir sings each week to wounded veterans in Samaritan's Purse's Operation Heal Our Patriots program to refresh our veterans and to heal their marriages. Thank you to Patty Alsworth! - Nate Davis, Tanalian Principal

“Patty is the type of board member that most superintendents dream of having on their board. Simply put, Lake and Peninsula is a better district because of her!” –Bill Hill, BBBSD Superintendent

- 5. Please be sure the nominee will be able to attend the ASA Fall Conference Awards Banquet on Friday, September 22nd in Seward, Alaska.**

8-23-17

Signature of Nominator

Date

PO Box 498 King Salmon, AK 99613

District Address

Please submit the completed nomination form to:

**John Conwell, Committee Chair
Unalaska City School District
jconwell@ucsd.net**

Deadline: September 1, 2017