

**Submitted to the  
Academy of Model Aeronautics,  
Hall of Fame Selection Committee**

**Nomination for Joyce Hager, AMA # ED914  
for the “AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame Award”  
March 2023**

Nominated and prepared by Eric E. Williams, AMA #102  
Vice President, AMA District II  
Chairman, AMA Membership Committee  
Chairman, National Model Aviation Museum  
AMA Fellow

## **A Lifetime Career with AMA**

There are few individuals, if any, that have given a lifetime of work to the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). No single person, no AMA staff member, nor any AMA Executive Council member has dedicated their entire career, an entire life's work of 53 years, in service to AMA like Joyce Hager has. Joyce's years of contributions to AMA are beyond exceptional, and will most likely never be matched.

*"Joyce has always been involved in the inner workings of AMA and has always done what was right for AMA members. We are fortunate to have had her experience and influence for so many years."*

Tom Scott, AMA # 701, Life Member  
AMA Contest Board - RC Pylon Racing

## **A Unique Legacy of Exceptional Service**

Joyce Hager joined AMA shortly after high school on February 2, 1970. Starting in secretarial and office assistant roles, Joyce quickly rose through the ranks of AMA and eventually found herself as the Academy's Executive Director from 1996-2004. Along the way Joyce served AMA and its members in numerous capacities. When AMA needed an experienced leader Joyce served again, as the Interim Executive Director from November 2005 through December 2006, and yet again from August 2010 through April 2011. Joyce was always up to the task and always answered the call when AMA needed her.

Joyce has always demonstrated an unwavering commitment to AMA. Her value to AMA has been proven time and time again, particularly during challenging periods! Over her 53 years with AMA Joyce has interacted with thousands of members, and she has been the "face of AMA" at countless trade shows and national events. She is among the last "keepers of the flame" of AMA's institutional knowledge over the past half century.

## **Committed to the AMA Journey**

When Joyce began work at AMA in 1970 the Academy's "headquarters" was a one-bedroom apartment at 1239 Vermont Avenue N.W. in Washington, D.C. At the end of 1970 AMA would move from Vermont Avenue finding itself at 806 Fifteenth Street N.W. in Washington, DC, and later at 815 Fifteenth Street N.W. where more traditional office space was rented.

In 1983 AMA moved into a dedicated headquarters after purchasing property, raising funds through national donations, and constructing its own building in Reston, VA. After Reston AMA moved its national headquarters to Muncie IN in 1993 in, more or less, two moves. First, AMA moved to the Frank V. Ehling Complex, now known as the National Model Aircraft Museum building, and then to the present AMA headquarters building in 2001. Joyce has been with AMA during five AMA headquarters relocations, spanning six different buildings, since 1970. No other AMA staff member was part of all of those journeys, which were often challenging, but in fact were tempered by Joyce's involvement.

Joyce Hager proved more than just integral to all of AMAs headquarters relocations from 1970-2001. With each of AMA's relocations Joyce was not only a key asset, but she would accumulate institutional knowledge of AMA that is relied upon by the AMA Executive Council, AMA headquarters, and numerous AMA members at large to this very day!

## Muncie Almost Didn't Happen

The September 1995 issue of *Model Aviation* magazine celebrated AMA's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including a chronology of AMA's move to Muncie. That chronology validated Joyce's critical importance to AMA and its operations.

*"The trauma of AMAs move (to Muncie) was intense. Of the 50+ employees in Reston, ultimately only six remained on staff at Muncie." "The more than 40 new employees had little knowledge of what we did, how we did it, or why! In an effort to bolster the services of (various) departments ..... by providing association memory (Bob) Underwood contacted Joyce Hager, former Membership Dept. Director and longtime AMA employee, asking if she would consider at least a temporary move to Muncie. Fortunately she agreed to do so and as a result, the departments staffed by capable individuals were able to keep things moving on an even keel.... Joyce has stayed on and now serves as the Acting Executive Director"*

Model Aviation Magazine  
September 1995

## Countless Member Interactions

Few, if any, individuals have worked with as many AMA officers and members as has Joyce Hager. Undoubtedly Joyce holds several records for interacting with AMA members. During her 53 years with AMA, Joyce has served the organization during the terms of no less than eight different Executive Vice Presidents, eight Executive Directors, 10 AMA Presidents, 106 District Vice Presidents, hundreds of Associate Vice Presidents, thousands of Leader Members and Contest Directors, not to mention countless AMA members at large. In the history of the Academy, no one person has touched, served, and supported as many members as has Joyce Hager.

## The Face of AMA

Over her 53 years of service Joyce Hager has, by all accounts, travelled to more national events representing AMA than any other person. Although the record may begin earlier, using a conservative estimate of five events per year since 1980, Joyce has represented AMA at well over 200 national events. And remarkably, Joyce is on track to attend at least five more national events in 2023. If AMA had a booth at a national event, chances are you were greeted by Joyce.

*"The dedication and commitment Joyce has exhibited in her long-standing career with AMA is outstanding."*

Tom Hunt, AMA #95147  
Modeler, Designer, Author, Aerospace Engineer  
AMA Hall of Fame member Class of 2003

## Half a Century in Perspective

Joyce Hager has been with AMA during the 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the AMA NATS, and she will be with AMA for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023. Joyce was central to planning the celebrations of AMA's 50<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. Joyce was also with AMA for the 1996 Celebration of Eagles and later at the second celebration. No other AMA staff member, Executive Council member, or member at large was working at AMA's national level for all those years.

When Joyce Hager began work at AMA in 1970, the AMA Hall of Fame was in its infancy, being established just one year earlier in 1969. At that time there were only seven members of the AMA Hall of Fame. Since 1970, there have been over 300 new inductees. Joyce either worked with, supported, or in some way interacted with most of those people. No one else has that experience.

## **AMA's "Library"**

There are few individuals who possess the institutional knowledge of AMA that Joyce Hager has. It's no surprise as her broad and vast experience spans most all of AMA's departments. Joyce is always quick to respond and she never "varnishes the truth." If Joyce doesn't know the answer, she knows where to find it. AMA's elected officers, CD's, Leader Members, Contest Board Members and others quickly learned to call Joyce with virtually any question.

***"In the aeromodeling community, Joyce, more than anyone, is known as AMA! She has literally dedicated her entire adult life to the Academy, and has been the library of institutional knowledge for our organization."***

Gary Fitch AMA #133  
AMA Executive VP Emeritus  
AMA District II VP Emeritus

***"Have a question for AMA? Joyce will give you the true story."***

Jeff Troy, AMA # L-79,  
Editor, Author, Designer, Musician  
AMA Hall of Fame class of 2011

## **Always Getting the Job Done**

***"In 1983 I was Contest Director for RC Pattern at the Chicopee NATs. I had to have daily flight line orders for six lines posted by the next morning. I called Joyce at the hotel for help with copying and posting. I thought I'd see her in the morning, but as I looked up the hall there she came in her robe and fluffy pink slippers. It didn't matter what title you had, Joyce would always help."***

Walt Throne AMA# 408L  
National Retail Hobby Stores Association, President Emeritus  
AMA Hall of Fame Class of 2011

## **Why Elect Joyce Hager to the HOF?**

The contributions Joyce Hager has brought to AMA are outstanding, exceptional, and remarkable. The uniqueness of Joyce Hager is that she was present at AMA for over half a century, and she has been of critical importance during most of the Academy's existence. The Academy has been, in no small part, shaped by Joyce Hager.

***Hall of Fame "Selection is based on the individual's contributions to model aviation...." "Emphasis is on the accumulated contributions ..... over an extended period."***

<https://www.modelaircraft.org/form/ama-model-aviation-hall-of-fame>

Joyce's Hager's contributions to model aviation are no less important than those of her female contemporaries in the Hall of Fame, such as Dolly Wischer, Mertle Robberris-Coad, and Hazel Sig-Hester. It is only fitting that Joyce join these remarkable women and be inducted into the AMA Hall of Fame.



# Joyce Hager "AMA Model Aviation Hall of Fame Award" Nomination, Photographic Samples



Joyce Hager at AMA 1970



AMA Headquarters, February 1970  
1239 Vermont Ave. N.W., Washington, DC



Joyce (left) welcoming and assisting competitors  
AMA Nationals, Westover AFB 1983



With Executive Director John Worth  
AMA promotional film 1980s



Top Gun 1997



District X Expo 1997



As the AMA Executive Director



Second Grand Event 1998





AMA Diamond Anniversary (75<sup>th</sup>) Gala



At the AMA booth



John Worth Memorial  
Toledo, 2012



Joe Nall event  
Triple Tree Aerodrome 2016



AMA Expo-West, Ontario California



AMA Expo East 2019



Joyce Hager's 50th anniversary celebration,  
Receiving her AMA Outstanding Commitment and Dedication Award  
With AMA President Rich Hansen and Executive Director Chad Budreau, 2020