

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Lifetime Achievement Award honors an individual for their outstanding leadership contributions to the association, the independent agency system, and community.

Body of work and longevity are taken into consideration. Nominees may be retired. Award may be given posthumously.

Angela Kurlich,

Nominated by: Carl Stoecklin, CIC, CPIA, Broz Insurance Agency, Cincinnati

Nominated for her many years of service to the association and her help to take us where we are today.

Sadly, Angela passed away on August 8, 2020 at the age of 55. She served as PIA president in 2002.

Quotes received after her passing:

Carey Wallace

I too was so shocked and saddened by this news. I am so sorry for all of your loss, as I know Angela was incredibly special to all of you. I feel fortunate to have known her, learned from her and most importantly called her both a friend and mentor.

I interviewed Angela to get her advice to future female leaders in our industry last year, and this is what she had to say about it, and all of you...

Angela Kurlich, Principle, Angle Insurance Solutions refers to the all-male Board of Directors as her "band of brothers," as she reminisces on her experience joining the OIA board in 90's. "When I first came on the board, back in the late 90's, the guys were all concerned that I was prim and proper and that they would have to be on their "good behavior". It was clear to me that they thought serving with a woman would change the dynamic in the room, but that didn't last long. During a fairly intense conversation, I shared my views with same level of conviction and passion they had and from then on, this particular group viewed me as one of the guys and became my band of brothers." Her advice: Treat the men you work with as though they are your brothers; let them see your professionalism as a leader, but also let them see your humor, your passion and your intellect – these are the things that we have in common and value in each other. It is possible to be "one of the guys" without giving up your femininity and still being your authentic self.

Dan Henery, CIC, CRM DGIA

This one is bothersome. The world will miss Angela and DGIA has reserved a place for her in the Hall of Fame.

Jeff Smith

We lost another special member of the PIA/OIA volunteer leadership far too early. Angela Kurlich passed away over the weekend at age 55. She served as President of Ohio PIA in 2002 and was instrumental in building the foundation of the organization that we are all so fortunate to work for.

While I didn't know Angela well, every time I interacted with her she brightened my day. She loved PIA/OIA. She owned a small agency that was the epitome of our members. She was always willing to volunteer and was just on a call with our Data Focus Group on Thursday offering insightful feedback on RISE and data insights for IAs.

Angela stood for the culture and core values that are instilled in OIA. She had infectious energy, a gregarious personality and a warm smile. We will miss her dearly. The best way we can honor her is to live like her by treating each other kindly and living with passion and purpose.

Please hug your loved ones extra tight and keep Angela's family in your thoughts and prayers.

Shawna Belcher

Angela was a light everywhere she went. She will be missed terribly by her family and friends. I remember at a conference a few years back we were short on seats and she very willingly gave up her seat to allow other attendees to sit down. That's just the type of person she was.

Jeanie Giesler

Angela was an exemplary agent leader working to do what was right and in the best interest of her customers and community. She was always supportive of the OIA and I enjoyed catching up with her at meetings and sharing a laugh. She had such a positive outlook and attitude and will be missed!

George Haenszel, CAE

I've been thinking about Angela all week. It's hard to write with such a heavy heart. We've suffered losses but Angela is especially hard. She was so young and full of life. The last thing any of us would expect is Angela dying in her sleep.

It's also hard to write about a person with so many wonderful qualities and memories. The big smile and hearty embrace. Her robust laugh. And, her mouth! She could hang with the most prim ladies and make a bunch of sailors blush. Such a force of nature.

She was kind and thoughtful. I can't begin to count the number of personal notes she sent for all special occasions. Her calls after I left PIA were very caring and supportive.

Her love of family and her Italian heritage were palpable and genuine. When she was convention chair and asked if she could invite her parents dance troupe to do a small performance at the banquet I expected 15 people. 200 people in full traditional Italian garb would flow into the room. What a show. She was so proud. And the humility. They took busses to Columbus at their own expense yet thanked me for allowing them to perform. Later that night Elvis surprised everyone and took over the program. One of Dan's finest and last performances.

Her dad Rick was one of the first people I met at PIA. He made me feel like an old friend. He was so proud of her.

It was a unique era and we are lucky to have been part of it Great people-“we were poor but we had love.”

I'm searching for the board photo of all of us dressed in mob black with white ties. Angela loved being our PIA goomah.

She was a gift.

Will miss her terribly.