



## Your 2010 VECA Board



**MEMPHIS**

**VECA Awards  
January 22, 2011**

**Vollintine Evergreen  
Community Association**

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## Heinemann Award

The Heinemann Award is named for long time board member, Treasurer, and resident of Belvedere Street, Martha Heinemann.

During this time when VECA has not had any staff, the board members have stepped up and have given of their time and talents to guide VECA. It is fitting that there are two winners for the Heinemann Award for the outstanding board member.

Chris Floyd has been on the board for five years and has been the secretary for three years. She prepares the board minutes, which are incredibly important since VECA is a volunteer organization. There is now an accurate paper trail of the board's actions because of her work. At the committee level, she almost single handedly, she has built back the code enforcement work of VECA through the Neighborhood Preservation Committee of which she chairs. She has spent countless hours working with city government to encourage them to deal with problem properties. She rides the neighborhood looking at problem properties. She has been working closely with the Lyndale Block Club to help build the community garden. She is always present at VECA events, whether it is a neighborhood cleanup or the recent mailing of the VECA membership information to the neighborhood. Recently, she has attended meetings of the Business Districts Committee and is interested in seeing the Jackson Gateway improved.

Lilly Gilkey has been a board member for many years and attends meetings on a regular basis. In June of last year she spearheaded the first health fair at the VECA Welcome Center that brought many residents and health professionals to the event. She is involved in the Neighborhood Network Committee which includes the Stonewall Block Club. Lilly was involved in the Dumpster Day event as well as many other VECA events over the years. Even

more important, Lilly Gilkey serves on VECA's Managing Committee which helps guide the administration and finance of the organization.

## Who is VECA? We are all VECA

### Dichtel Award

The Dichtel Award is for outstanding contributions to the neighborhood and is normally given to a resident or institution inside the neighborhood. Margaret Dichtel was one of VECA's founder – many recognize her as the most prominent of the founding members. She was a consummate grassroots organizer and it is fitting that there are three winners of the Dichtel Award who are so involved in the community.

Barbara Gavalas has been on the board for two years and has made her mark as the consummate grassroots organizer. She lives on Brown Avenue near Springdale Street and she connects her neighbors to VECA. She has worked hard on cleanups in the area – for example she served on a steering committee to plan the Giant Cleanup sponsored by Springdale Baptist Church in April. She has gone door to door to her neighbors and friends and solicited VECA memberships and told them about the role of VECA in their neighborhood. She also solicited business owners for ads in the newsletter and in the process brought in new advertisers. She has also taken an interest in the business district near her home and is working diligently to make improvements.

Ann George comes to the VECA Welcome Center on Monday and Wednesday mornings to do whatever is needed by VECA. One of her most important task is picking up the newsletters from the printer, sorting them into routes and delivering them to distributors, businesses, churches, and schools. She also does many mailings of the newsletter and other items including the V&E Greenline materials. She looks after the Welcome Center by vacuuming, cleaning,

disposing of paper, and many other tasks. She delivers flyers in the neighborhood, does field surveys of problem properties, calls real estate agents when their properties are not being cared for, volunteers at every VECA event, and even helped the Greenline as a "spotter" when heavy equipment was being used. During this time when VECA has no permanent staff, Ann George is a treasure for the community.



Wayne Stanfill has made an outstanding contribution to the VECA neighborhood by focusing on his street, the 1400 block of Lyndale. Wayne became involved in the Neighborhood Preservation Committee in 2009 after becoming frustrated with the number of dilapidated homes and overgrown vacant lots on his street. Wayne has volunteered his time by identifying problem properties in VECA, reporting complaints to the City of Memphis, attending VECA committee meetings, cleaning up vacant lots and by encouraging his neighbors to volunteer. Wayne and the Block Clubs are currently working on a community garden site located on the 1400 block of Lyndale. The property has been a problem for many years, first as a dilapidated house and then as an overgrown lot. The residents are looking forward to planting vegetables in the community garden. Through Wayne's initiative and countless volunteer hours, the residents of the 1400 block of Lyndale have seen tremendous improvements in the condition of their street.