



Linn County Trails Association  
Box 2681  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

News Release (Immediate)

May 11, 2023

For additional information: Tom Peffer, president ([thomaspeffer@gmail.com](mailto:thomaspeffer@gmail.com))

Nadine Brock, vice president ([nadine.brock@gmail.com](mailto:nadine.brock@gmail.com))

## **Trails Advocate Receives Governor's Volunteer Award**

Longtime Linn County Trails Association (LCTA) board member Diane Handler has been selected to receive a Governor's Volunteer Award for "outstanding commitment and service." Governor Kim Reynolds will present the award in a noon June 6 ceremony at the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School, 1002 G Ave., Vinton.

Handler has volunteered with the non-profit LCTA since the early 1990s and has served on the group's board for 20 years. She is the perfect volunteer, according to Board President Tom Peffer. "She is willing to accept leadership positions in the organization, her suggestions are always appropriate and helpful, and, most importantly, she timely does what she says she is going to do." Currently a member of the LCTA's Executive Committee, which helps to review, refine, establish, and implement the organization's Vision and Mission, Handler also has for several years chaired LCTA's Communications Committee.



Additionally, she has served on the board and as a volunteer for Summit Schools as well as a volunteer on the Linn County Conservation Board, including one term as Board Chair. With a Masters in both Education and Nursing, Handler before retirement served as Stroke Coordinator for both local hospitals' stroke care programs and annual accreditations conducted by the Joint Commission, providing continuing education for doctors as well as nurses regarding the latest care for stroke patients, and is a past award recipient of "100 Best Nurses in Iowa."

Launched in 1982, the Governor's Volunteer Awards program provides a non-competitive, low-cost way to honor local volunteers with state-level recognition. State agencies, nonprofits, charitable organizations, and non-state government entities (city, county, and federal offices operating in Iowa) may recommend an individual volunteer or group of volunteers. Awards are presented in regional recognition events held each summer.

LCTA has for years served as a catalyst for a system of connected, multi-use trails through Linn County and Eastern Iowa.