



Minnesota NOW Presents the 2020 Charlotte Striebel Long Distance Runner Award To M. Kathleen Murphy!

M. Kathleen Murphy is the current chair of the Equality NOW Issue Committee of Minnesota NOW. She has worked tirelessly on feminist issues throughout her long and productive activist career and continues to do that hard work today. She is nominated for the Charlotte Striebel Long Distance Runner Award by Melanie Sedqi, Heather Allison, and Beth Anderson.

A Short Introduction by Heather Allison:

I don't know if anyone can remember a time when this person was not actively pursuing her Feminist Agenda. For longer than I've known her, Kathleen Murphy has been a fierce advocate of women's issues in Minnesota; fighting tirelessly for the Equal Rights Amendment, reproductive rights, abortion rights, pay equity and stopping violence against women. She has actively supported myriad women leaders in local and national politics. She has been a critical member of countless DFL campaigns as well as a key collaborator, board member, board chair, advisor and member of numerous grassroots organizations including the Twin Cities Chapter of MN NOW, ERA Minnesota, MNCASA, Gender Justice, Women Winning, MN CAFE and more. Her historical knowledge, talented skill-set and vast experience make her a valuable asset to every endeavor she joins; she is truly a one of a kind warrior who never seems to tire or lose focus of fighting for what's important not just to her, but to all women. Kathleen Murphy is truly a Long Distance Runner when it comes to women's rights.



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- - - Wild Applause!!! - - -

A short nominating speech from Melanie Sedqi:

I met Kathleen during the Instant Runoff Voting (now Ranked Choice Voting) Campaign in St Paul in 2006. IRV/RCV helps level the playing field for underrepresented groups

such as People Of Color and WOMEN. After that campaign I did not cross paths with Kathleen until 2014 when I started volunteering with a group that would soon become known as ERA MN.

Kathleen has advocated for women's rights through voting reform, lobbying for choice, training women to run for office, fighting for an ERA Amendment in the MN Constitution, and working to put more women in elected office. She is driven to advance the rights and leadership of women.

For me, one memory is indelible, it was captured in a photograph. The picture is a culmination of Kathleen's dedication to writing women into the Minnesota Constitution. After years of lobbying, educating, testifying, and writing, the Minnesota House finally passed a bill to put an ERA Amendment into the Minnesota Constitution. Mary Kunesh Podein, the chief author of the bill turned around and hugged Kathleen with all her heart. My sentiments exactly.



--- EVEN MORE THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE!!! ---

Some herstorical perspective from Beth Anderson:

Kathleen Murphy is an extremely dedicated, exceptionally talented feminist. I've known Kathleen for so many years, it gives away our ages to tell you how many. I am continually impressed with Kathleen's dedication to the advancement of women's rights. Kathleen believes in the power of activism to change the world and she puts that belief into practice every day. Her goals are simple, equality for women in all areas of society including the workplace, the home, and the government.

While many of us balance our activism with our everyday lives, Kathleen has made her activism a way of life. One only has to look to her resume to see how she has immersed herself in the feminist agenda. Kathleen has been the Director of Public Policy for the Midwest Health Center for Women, she has been the Communications Director for the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, she's been the Board Chair for Gender Justice, and for years she was on the Board of the WomenWinning PAC.

Kathleen has been active in NOW for many years and founded the Minnesota Constitutional Amendment For Equality (MN CAFÉ) coalition. This passion, for a

national and state ERA has been a leading goal for Kathleen and her lobbying on this issue has been inspirational for many. In large part due to Kathleen Murphy's tireless work on this issue, the Minnesota House finally passed a bill in 2019. It's the first step in getting our constitution amended, but it's an important milestone. Today, Kathleen continues her work for the ERA through Minnesota NOW's Equality NOW issue committee.

But her activism doesn't stop there. Kathleen knows that sometimes you have to change the people at the table in order to get your issues addressed. To that end, Kathleen has been involved in numerous campaigns, legislative activities, and political action committees in an effort to get more feminists elected to office. She has been active in DFL party politics, working for candidates, and working within the party to bring the feminist agenda front and center. She has been a Legislative Assistant at the Minnesota State Legislature and has a full understanding of how Minnesota government works and where it doesn't.

Kathleen brings to the table, not only her dedication to women and justice, but her numerous design and communication skills which she employs for our benefit everyday. Kathleen has often used her talents on behalf of volunteer organizations at no charge to the organization. Many coalitions and feminist organizations do not have the funding to hire professional help to get their message out. Kathleen is generous with her talents and uses her connections with printers, digital professionals, and design companies to bring professional quality messaging to every group she works with.

Oh, and my mother, Sharon Anderson, lobbied with Kathleen at the Capitol back in the day. She tells the story of Kathleen asking for people to go with her to the Capitol to sit with her while she testified to legislators. You didn't have to say anything if you didn't want to, but Kathleen wanted to show the legislators that women from all walks of life cared about the issues. My mother thinks Kathleen is Brave, Articulate, Effective, and an Inspiration. That alone makes me smile and makes her worthy of this award. Kathleen has inspired generations of feminists and is our Charlotte Striebel Long Distance Runner for 2020.

Thank-you Kathleen.

- - - - GRINNING FROM EAR TO EAR - - - -