



Maureen Sullivan

Town of Billerica Civic Hall of Fame

Induction Class of 2025

Maureen Sullivan is renowned within her considerable circle of family, friends, and colleagues as a natural born leader. Whether it was during her formative years teaching an art class in her parents' basement, or directing a Lowell Girls Club class called the "Dinner Club," instructing young ladies on overall manners, polite dinner conversation, and cooking meals using government surplus food, or when she arranged the funding for an in-house master's degree program for her fellow Billerica Public School educators, without fail, Maureen has been a trailblazer in whatever endeavor she pursued.

After earning a teaching degree from the Massachusetts College of Art, in 1962, she began a 33-year career in the Billerica school system, first as an art teacher in the former Howe Junior High School before serving the bulk of her tenure as a humanities teacher at the Locke Middle School. Not surprisingly, it was during her illustrious classroom career that perhaps Maureen's most impactful initiative affecting on our town's students took shape, spearheading the effort to establish the exceedingly successful Billerica Scholarship Foundation as a founding member.

Already recognized as an accomplished fundraiser for several worthy causes, including a popular bike-a-thon for the mentally challenged in the 1970s as well as managing the Billerica Boys and Girls Club weekly bingo night, in 1988, Maureen turned her attention to creating a permanent scholarship fund through Town Meeting approval that collects donations and raises funds for college scholarships for all students who reside in town, regardless which high school they attend.





Initially serving as the foundation's vice chair for its first four years before long tenures as its treasurer and later chair, Maureen oversaw the Dollars for Scholars program's growth from its first \$500 scholarship issued in 1991 to more than 170 distributed annually to graduating Billerica seniors. As of 2025, the Billerica Scholarship Foundation has awarded more than 4,300 scholarships totaling nearly \$4,300,000.

As if teaching and constant fundraising was not challenging enough, Maureen soon turned her attention to local government. Elected to Town Meeting in 1980, as is her nature, she soon expanded her involvement in local politics by serving as president of the League of Women Voters for four years before being appointed Assistant Town Moderator in 1985 under Moderator William Greene, serving in that role for the next eight years. When Mr. Green moved on to the state legislature, Maureen campaigned to replace him as Town Moderator, winning the seat six times from 1993 through 2006 during which she developed the reputation of being a strict but fair leader of Town Meeting.

Since arriving in town, for more than 60 years, Maureen either served on, introduced, or directed an incredible 130-plus committees of some sort on behalf of our community and its citizens. Commendable and thriving Billerica missions such as wetlands preservation, townwide recycling, the 350th town anniversary celebration, hazardous waste management, Boys and Girls Club expansion, and, of course, the Scholarship Foundation are forever grateful for the contributions and tireless commitment of Maureen Sullivan.



