

Marie Hydukovich Receives Lars Steltzner Intellectual Freedom Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marie Hydukovich Honored for Defending Students' Right to Read

The Minnesota Library Association has awarded the **2026 Lars Steltzner Intellectual Freedom Award** to **Marie Hydukovich of Stillwater Public Schools**.

The award recognizes educators who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to preserving students' rights to intellectual freedom and opposing censorship in schools.

Hydukovich was recognized for her leadership and advocacy during challenges to library materials within the Stillwater Area School District. She worked with colleagues to document events, communicate with district leaders, ensure policies were followed, and advocate for professional library practices and student access to information.

Despite significant personal and professional challenges, Hydukovich remained committed to protecting students' freedom to read and ensuring that established reconsideration procedures were respected.

Her efforts ultimately contributed to a process that upheld access to challenged materials and reinforced the importance of professional library policies.

The Minnesota Library Association recognizes Hydukovich's courage, perseverance, and dedication to intellectual freedom.

About the Minnesota Library Association

The Minnesota Library Association advances excellence in library services, supports library workers across the state, and promotes equitable access to information for all Minnesotans.

Contact: office@mnlibraryassociation.org
