

Main Street earns state, national honors

BY JIM HALE Times Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, June 9, 2014 12:08 am

For its work in bringing groups together to achieve large-scale, long-term community goals, Main Street Gettysburg (MSG) received state and national honors in recent weeks.

MSG President Deborah L. Adamik received the Pennsylvania Downtown Center's award for Outstanding Achievement by a Program Manager.

Her selection, from among nearly 100 Main Street and similar organizations, was announced Monday during the center's annual dinner.

However, Adamik was quick to turn the focus away from herself in an interview Friday.

MSG simply "connects the dots" between groups and offers "indirect leadership" to help them define and tackle goals too big for a single entity, she said.

Collaboration among community groups is what earned MSG recognition as one of the top 10 such programs in the nation, she said.

MSG received that honor last month during the National Main Street Center's annual conference in Detroit, Mich. The organization comprises some 1,200 Main Street-style programs, Adamik said.

Judging was based on voluminous entries, Adamik said. MSG submitted data including six 500-word reports on its overall impact on the community, and specifically on living, working, playing, historic preservation, and visitation here.

The recent recognition by outside groups shows that this community is "on the cutting edge" in those areas, Adamik said.

An MSG news release outlined recent achievements by community groups in which the non-profit organization played a facilitating role:

- Last year's 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg "would have gone on regardless, but with Deb as chair of the countywide steering committee for the 150th anniversary last year, things ran



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MAIN STREET RECOGNIZED - Main Street Gettysburg President Deb Adamik at her desk Friday with her award for Outstanding Achievement by a Program Manager from the Pennsylvania Downtown Center. (Jim Hale/Gettysburg Times)

smoothly and local infrastructure needs were met so that the commemoration became a point of pride in our community," former Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Bob Kirby said.

- "No one has been a stronger cheerleader in and for our community than Deb Adamik," said Michael Cooper-White, president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. "With Deb's leadership, Main Street Gettysburg has served as the catalyst for so many projects that enhance the Gettysburg experience. We on Seminary Ridge are especially grateful for her personal and Main Street's support for developing the Seminary Ridge Museum, which has welcomed more than 50,000 visitors in its first year."

- "Under Adamik's leadership, Main Street Gettysburg was behind the opening and running of the David Wills House, turning it into a first-rate museum now operated by the Gettysburg Foundation. The museum opened in the teeth of a recession and yet, only a few years later, was turned over to the Gettysburg Foundation with a balanced budget," the release said, with MSG Board Chair Patricia A. Lawson adding, "that's an incredible feat given the downturn in the economy at the time."

- Adamik and MSG aided the Steinwehr Avenue Business Improvement District in gaining funding for streetscape renovations, the release said. "Too often in today's world, the people who lead community teams do not get noticed because they focus on the team. Deb has done an excellent job helping the community, the businesses, citizens, and local governments. I know I appreciate what she has done and what she tries to do for Gettysburg every day," said Emmett Patterson, area McDonald's franchisee and president of JDCS Enterprise.

- MSG's recent community retreat brought together some 60 community leaders to discuss topics including how the area can attract and retain members of the younger "millennial" generation.

Adamik has served as the Main Street Gettysburg CEO since 2007, when she joined the organization as executive director. Before that she was a leadership consultant working with area colleges. She serves on numerous area boards and received the Adams County Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2005.

A Baltimore native and graduate of Towson University, she relocated to Aspers in 1992 with her husband, Adams County native John Adamik, and their daughter Ashley. With 30-plus years' experience in strategic planning, organizational development and leadership consulting, Adamik worked in quality management programs for three Baltimore banks.