

# Jackson Center Official Wins State Award

By The Post-Journal Staff

Rolland E. Kidder, Robert H. Jackson Center executive director, is the 2006 recipient of the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association Distinguished Service Award.

Each year, the state Bar Association recognizes an attorney who has demonstrated excellence in law-related/ civic education. Kidder will travel to Albany on Wednesday to be honored for the distinction.

"The initiatives led by Rolly Kidder make him truly deserving of such a unique and wonderful statewide award," said Gregory Peterson, Jackson Center board chairman. "We are proud of Rolly Kidder and all he has accomplished on behalf of the Jackson Center."

The lawyer's award recognizes a New York attorney who has made an outstanding contribution to law-related education and whose voluntary service has fostered an understanding of the values of the state legal and judicial systems; informed and educated students as to the roles in society of the law; stimulated a deeper sense of individual responsibility by helping students recognize their duties and rights; and increased communication and understanding among students, educators and those involved professionally in the legal system.

Kidder's nomination was spearheaded by Anita Sanctuary, Jackson Center volunteer, who has chaired large events in 2004 and 2005 featuring young people's authors Jerry Spinelli and Lois Lowry appearances at Jackson Center programs.

Ms. Sanctuary solicited a nomination letter from Fran

---

"The initiatives led by Rolly Kidder make him truly deserving of such a unique and wonderful statewide award."

— Greg Peterson, Jackson Center board chairman

---

Galbato, Kidder's first Jackson Center volunteer who assisted him on a daily basis when he first began work at the Jackson Center. Other letters obtained came from Coco Price, a Jamestown High School junior and a Jackson Center volunteer; Carolyn Volk, a Jackson Center docent who also heads the Jackson Center's marketing and Christmas decoration and Christmas luncheon efforts; Kenneth M. Lasker, attorney at Burgett and Robbins who has worked with the Jackson Center on Law Day events for area school children; Ms. Sanctuary; and Rebecca I. Robbins, who has worked with Mr. Kidder for four years as the center's development director. Carol A. Drake, Jackson Center office manager, helped put together the nomination packet.

In his work of five years at the Jackson Center, Kidder coined the phrase "eventbased education," and organized programs around events featuring historical figures appearing at the Jackson Center. In this process, he developed state book review contests since 2004 with different age level of students, forming collaborations with the New York Bar Law Youth and Citizenship Committee. Statewide writing winners were brought to Jamestown to be honored and to meet personages such as the Brown sisters from the Brown v. Board of Education case, authors Spinelli and Lowry — with Christopher Paul Curtis to appear in April 2007 — and

Holocaust survivors Dr. Helen Fagin and Jamestown resident James Sorg.

The success of the Jackson Center programs led the Law Youth and Citizenship Committee to ask Kidder and the Jackson Center to host the "We the People" constitutional program for high school students.

Other activities leading to Kidder's award include overseeing of annual Law Day programs involving community members and students and initiating an endowment fund in support of Law Day; writing and/or editing of brochures, pamphlets and books for law-related education purposes; support of community education for law-related topics — including the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and Pearl City Lyceum programs; organization of trips to Washington, D.C., and to Nuremberg, Germany; docent training, volunteer enlistment, intern support; capital projects to improve law-related programming; and overseeing the Jackson Center Web site — [www.roberthjackson.org](http://www.roberthjackson.org).

Kidder has worked part-time as the center's executive director, but has served voluntarily more than full-time in his efforts. At least half of his time in the position has been purely volunteer.

An attorney and a graduate of Houghton College, Evangelical Theological Seminary and Buffalo Law School, Kidder is a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, where he served as a patrol



**ROLLAND KIDDER**

officer on PBRs in the Mekong Delta. He has been a member of the state Assembly, a member of the American Battle Monuments Commission and is a director of National Fuel Gas Corporation. Kidder also served on the Jamestown Veterans Committee and headed the building of the Veterans Memorial which stands on Tracy Plaza in Jamestown.

In 1997, Kidder received the Writer's Digest Best Life Stories Award for his book *A Hometown Went to War*, the stories of 36 Chautauqua County veterans who served in World War II. Kidder and his wife, the former Jane Dawson, have four grown children.

"I thank the New York Bar Law Youth and Citizenship Committee for selecting me for this award," Kidder said, "but the designation really is an award for all the many volunteers and staff who have worked to 'make it happen' at the Jackson Center. The Jackson Center enjoys the volunteerism of outstanding individuals, really too many to mention."

---

The Post-Journal  
Sunday, October 22, 2006  
Vol. 180, No. 122  
Section B, Pages 1, 2