

# The 2024 Connecticut Citizen Action Group

## Laddie Michalowski Community & Labor Award Honoree

### Lynne Ide



Lynne has spent the past 43 years as an organizer, policy advocate and coalition builder in Connecticut. She started as a door canvasser for CCAG in the summer of 1981 and has never looked back. After being recruited by CCAG director, Miles Rapoport, she cut her teeth as a community organizer in Meriden and went on to be an at-large organizer with a focus on environmental justice, working with local groups across the state as issues popped up. In 1985, she was promoted to coordinate policy advocacy for CCAG. After serving as deputy director of CCAG, she became co-director with Judy Maslen and eventually director. While at CCAG, Lynne worked closely with Laddie Michalowski and enjoyed his comradery for many years to come.

In 1993, Lynne left her beloved CCAG to become director of the groundbreaking statewide progressive electoral coalition, Legislative Electoral Action Program (LEAP). LEAP recruited, trained and elected numerous grassroots leaders to run for office and then organized with them once elected. She helped "staff" the legislature's progressive caucus. During her time there, she helped organize Citizens for Economic Opportunity (CEO) with Phil Wheeler from the UAW. It is worth noting that Lynne and Marc Caplan were the only two people to direct both CCAG and LEAP.

Lynne went on to become associate director of the Connecticut Housing Coalition in 1998, which was led by CCAG alum, Jeff Freiser. She helped found the statewide Public Housing Resident Network and served as secretary of the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

In 2006, Lynne began 18 years of work at Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut. She coordinated the dynamic healthcare4every1 campaign, which successfully worked to pass the nation's first public option bill, Sustinet, in 2009. In 2017, Lynne helped start the Protect Our Care CT coalition to fight back Trump's threat to get rid of the ACA.

Since June 2024, Lynne has been taking a break and focusing on her family. She is married to Andy Woodcock. They have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Lynne lives in Willimantic and serves as chair of the Board of Education.