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Mary Anne Shea, who has been public relations chairwoman for the Grand Island Professional Women's Chapter, New York State Women, Inc. for 29 years, will receive the annual Effective Leadership Award for Women in Business, presented each year by Advanced Cancer TheranosTx.

The Award will be presented at the Chapter's June meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, in the Buffalo Launch Club on Grand Island. The Chapter was formerly known as Grand Island Business and Professional Women.

Dr. Sherry Bradford, president of ACT, said the award is presented to a woman who "promotes equality and equity for all women in the workplace, inspires women to achieve their full potential, is dedicated to helping women further their education, and fosters the ability of low-income women to attain the tools necessary to obtain their self-sustaining goals."

Mary Anne Shea was a Sr. Customs Inspector assigned to Buffalo/Niagara Falls. Prior to retirement, she was named Federal Woman of the Year for Western New York for her contributions to the federal sector and to her community.

Miss Shea started a program called Woman-to-Woman to assist women interested in improving their applications for promotion. In addition to her law enforcement duties, she was Federal Women's Program Manager and Special Emphasis Program Manager for Customs.

Miss Shea worked for The Buffalo Courier-Express prior to attending college and graduate school. She holds a BS in education from State University College at Buffalo and a MAT, master of arts in teaching (history) from Niagara University.

Since retirement, Ms. Shea has added these pro bono public relations activities to her NYS Women agenda. She is public relations director for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Northtowns Chapter in Amherst, NY. In Naples, Florida, she writes publicity for the Irish American Club and for the Naples St. Patrick's Day Parade, the largest parade in Florida.