



Kathy Nyberg: "I've had a lump in my throat the size of a cantaloupe. It's hard to leave."

## Educator gets assignment to raise teaching standards

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
STAFF WRITER

Harrison High English teacher Katherine Nyberg has been searched out, recruited and asked to serve.

Nyberg will be a teacher in residence for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, a nonprofit organization developing an advanced certification process for elementary, middle and secondary school teachers.

"The honor, which Nyberg called 'humbling,' follows her being named best secondary educator for the district and Oakland County last year. She is taking a three-semester leave from her position at Harrison High where she has taught for 23 years.

"The kids have been warm and wonderful," said Nyberg, who was contacted by a Philadelphia search firm in August about the position. "There have been lots of hugs and many of

them have wished me well.

"I've had a lump in my throat the size of a cantaloupe. It's hard to leave . . . even for three semesters."

Nyberg will work out of the board's offices in Detroit and direct its outreach program.

She'll be encouraging other teachers to embrace the idea of advanced certification. The overall goal of the group is to elevate teaching standards nationwide through a voluntary certification process.

Licensing for teachers is handled by the state and occurs when a person first enters the profession. The certification usually ends there.

"What a beginning teacher is expected to do and what an experienced teacher is expected to do are two different things," said Mary-Dean Berringer, who is vice president of the board's Programs for Advancement of Teaching. "The only standards teachers have to go by are entry

ones . . . We're trying to raise the bar."

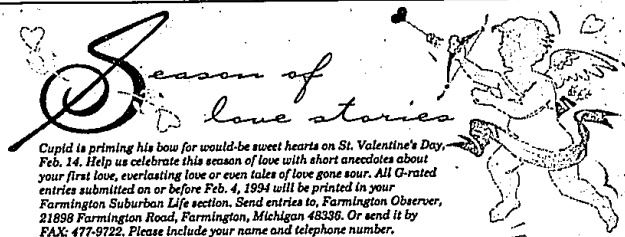
The board sees Nyberg as someone exemplifying teaching excellence, Berringer said.

Nyberg has taught journalism, Advanced Placement English and American literature at Harrison. She's been the chairwoman of the English Department since 1985.

Nyberg has served as an adviser to Harrison's award-winning magazine The Catalyst. Also, she's been involved with the district's LINK program, an interdisciplinary approach to education combining such things as social science and English.

Her professional qualifications make her ideal for the position, Berringer said. But there was something else, too.

"One of the things that impressed me about her . . . is the outcry I heard from students," Berringer said. "They were saying, 'How can you take Mrs. Nyberg away from us?'"



## Scoutmaster completes training, pledges, receives Woodbadge beads

Daniel Stocklin, Scoutmaster of Troop 110, sponsored by Our Lady of Sorrows parish, received his Woodbadge beads in a ceremony at the Boy Scout Roundtable.

Stocklin was the 10th Scoutmaster honored this year in a tradition that dates back to 1919 and Scouting founder Lord Baden-Powell.

The Woodbadge program is an advanced training course in Scoutcraft leadership skills,

which is offered to volunteer leaders. It involves either a week-long, or three complete weekends of training as a practical experience.

Upon completion of this formal training, each Scoutmaster makes a formal pledge of service for the next two years — using skills experienced during practical — a program designed to better equip leaders plus help assure a continuous quality program to the youth.

Upon completion of these

pledges made, the Scoutmaster is presented with his Woodbadge beads, neckerchief, Woggle and certificate.

Other local Scoutmasters who completed their pledges in 1993 are Mike Synowiec, Troop 170; Dave Voight, Troop 179; Doug Haines, Troop 320; Fred Schriever, Troop 308; Ralph Alce; Frank Duffey, Troop 327; George Cronwell, Troop 263; Dick Band, Troop 1039, and John Duneske, Troop 54.

## LWV offers information

Looking for information about state government? The League of Women Voters has a toll-free telephone service (1-800-292-5823) that may be helpful.

The league's Citizen Information Center in Lansing offers to help people find out about such things as pending legislation, the state constitution, election laws, voting regulations or tax information.

The telephone is answered from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

The telephone service is paid for by the league's education fund. The League of Women Voters is a non-profit organization that works to keep voters interested and informed about governmental issues.

Melissa, 15, delivers the Observer on the streets of Farmington and Edge Hill in Farmington Hills. She has been delivering the Observer since February, 1989.

The Harrison High School ninth grader's favorite subjects are history and geography.

Her hobbies are volleyball, swimming, marching band and dancing.

Melissa plans to go to college after graduation. Organizational skills, people skills and commitment are some of the things she has learned on her route.

Melissa is the daughter of Don and Lori Lindgren. She has one sister, Amy, 13.



Melissa Lindgren

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