

# Sanner led by example in Marion community

**Andrew Carter**, Reporter 12:03 p.m. ET May 8, 2017



*(Photo: file photo / The Marion Star)*

MARION - Marion County has lost "a volunteer extraordinaire" with the passing of Robert O. "Bob" Sanner.

Sanner died unexpectedly on Friday at the age of 62. He leaves behind his wife, Victoria Sanner, daughter and son-in-law, Julie and Jim Pooler, and two grandchildren, Eleanor and Lewis Pooler, along with several other family members.

A native of Toledo, Sanner moved to Marion in 1983. He joined the staff at Fahey Bank in 1997 and served as a vice president and residential lender for the bank for many years.

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"He epitomized what it means to be a member of a local community," said Carl F. Hughes, chairman and CEO of Fahey Bank. "He was involved. He loved Marion, Ohio. He loved the people here. He wanted to do what he could to be part of the community team to make Marion function and be an excellent city. He had a great heart.

"He loved working with his customers, trying to help them buy their homes," he said. "For many people it was their first big purchase of their life, and he would help put them in a home. The American dream is to own your own home and Bob helped many people fulfill their dream."

Sanner's legacy is being hailed by those who knew and worked with him as one of tireless service to the community.

"We are deeply saddened by the unexpected news of our board chairman, Bob Sanner, passing on Friday," said Bruce Hagen, president of OhioHealth Marion General Hospital. "Bob was an optimistic, energetic, supportive leader who always saw the best in people. He was a strong advocate for our associates and physicians, and especially our patients. He loved the city of Marion and was an asset to Marion General Hospital. He was devoted to his community and his family. He will be missed."

Marion General Hospital is just one of the many organizations to which Sanner has devoted his time, talents and treasure over the years, either a board member or volunteer. The Marion Council on Aging, Marion Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Residential Home Association-Marion, Marion City/County Regional Planning Commission, Marion Port Authority and the Junior Service Guild are among the agencies to which he gave his time. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church, serving as a deacon and Sunday school superintendent.

WMRN radio personality Jeff Ruth paid tribute to Sanner with a heartfelt Facebook post on Sunday.

"There was not a more devoted family man and person of character than Bob," wrote Ruth. "He loved Marion and helping the community. There were so many things Bob was involved in but to WMRN listeners and to those that worked with him he will always be 'The WMRN Peanut Push King.' For nearly 20 years he raised thousands and thousands of dollars for the Junior Service Guild and the Christmas Clearinghouse.

"The city of Marion and those who knew this true gentleman will never forget what he has done for so many people. The Peanut Push will never be the same. Rest in peace my friend."

Mark Holbrook, executive director of the Marion Area CVB, said Sanner's dedication to Marion County was evident in his service as a board member.

"Bob understood how important it is to encourage others and be supportive," Holbrook said. "He did so in leading our board and genuinely enjoyed helping to bring visitors to Marion. It was if he was excited that someone was coming to visit his own home. That's how much it meant to him that people visited our community."

Brenda Donegan, a columnist for Marion Star and a former staff member at the newspaper, was a friend of Sanner's and served with him on several boards.

"He is a real icon in the community, involved in many charitable efforts in the area and employed by Fahey Bank for many years," she said. "He is just an all around good guy. His interests are many and gives 150 percent effort always. I felt privileged to have him as a friend."

Visitation is scheduled from 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at First Presbyterian Church, 143 S. Prospect St., Marion. A service honoring Sanner's life is set for 11 a.m. Thursday at the church. Burial will take place at a later date.

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