

Susie Blackburn Boyce has represented Murphy High well through her professional career and public service.

While a student at Murphy, she participated in multiple activities which foreshadowed her later ones. She was her homeroom representative for 9th and 10th grades. She played flute in the band all four years, winning 1st chair at All State Band in 11th and 12th grades; and participated in stage performances all four years with lead roles in 11th and 12th, also singing in the special chorus 11th and 12th. Her other interest was argument: She was a member of the National Forensics League 10,11, & 12 holding office of vice-president and then president. She was also part of Argument Inc., the debate team, again holding office (secretary and vice-president). Susie's other club activity was in Tri-Hi-Y, where she served as vice-president and president. And you guessed it—she still achieved in academics and was inducted into the National Honor Society in eleventh grade. Susie was also Murphy's 1st National Merit Scholar.

After graduation, Susie attended Florida State University, earning selection to Phi Beta Kappa and graduating in just 2.5 years! She continued her education, earning a MA in Education at Tulane University, eventually earning her Ph.D. in Education at Rutgers in 1972, all while teaching at various public secondary schools. She then joined the faculty of Montclair State University, staying there until her retirement 1996, whereupon she was appointed Professor Emerita by the school's Board of Trustees.

Susie's debate training came to her aid when she entered the political arena in the Warren Township in 1974. She was elected to the WT Committee seven times and served as mayor twice: 1975(1st female!) and 1986. Dr. Boyce was Registrar for the Basking Ridge Chapter of the DAR, assisting many women in researching ancestry for application to membership. Another outlet for her interest in ancestry was writing: she published six books, four on family history and two histories of local Methodist churches. After her retirement, she also served on the Advisory Council of the New Jersey State Library.

Susie Boyce has lived an exemplary life, serving education and community, and we welcome her to the MAA Hall of Fame.