I am proud to introduce Kathleen Lohff as our recipient for the 2018 GSA History and Philosophy of Geology Division Gerald M. And Sue T. Friedman Distinguished Service Award. Her service to this division has often been quiet and behind the scenes.

Kathy agreed to take on the role of the History and Philosophy Division Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter Editor in 2014. Although she inherited a sparse newsletter record, she quickly moved the position forward by asking questions and assembling newsletters. When our Division finances were uncertain, she contacted GSA repeatedly to retrieve financial statements—for both our operating costs and the Foundation funds. Kathy sent out e-mail calls to Management Board officers looking for new information to share in newsletters. Kathy’s Newsletter was a welcome edition in our e-mail boxes. She tweaked formatting, sought advice, and produced the product by the deadlines requested by the Chair. When new Chairs rotated in, Kathy also sought to keep the newsletter routine, sending out e-mails to the Management Board asking about an upcoming edition.

In her role as Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy made certain that finances were transparent to members. She provided a formatted, extensive report at the annual Management Board meetings, and a brief, written report to all members at the annual HPGD business meeting and luncheon. She offered detailed reports to all members who wanted additional information. Kathy made certain to include the Foundation monies in her reports, which had been missing from our view for several years.

Long before she rotated into the role of Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor, Kathy could be seen at the History and Philosophy of Geology Division booth. When members failed to sign up to staff the booth, Kathy agreed to stay beyond her volunteered hours on in order to have a representative present in the Exhibit Hall. In fact, she and Heather Brice served more booth hours than anyone else. Some of my colleagues stopped by the booth searching for me, and encountered Kathy when I was away. They later asked me about our new Chair (Kathy Lohff), and commented what a good liaison she was for our division!

Kathy hauled books, give away items, and pamphlets for our division events. She volunteered to photocopy additional materials as needed. She stayed until the end of our conferences, packed up supplies, and mailed items (including tablecloths) back to their owners.

With the 2016 chair Jody Bourgeois, Kathy co-convened the session on Unearthing Women in the History of Geology. As a Hutton scholar with research interests in the history of women in early geology, she also provided a talk for that session on the geological activities of early wives of British geologists.
When Kathy Lohff’s 2 year term as Secretary-Treasurer had concluded, she agreed to stay on another year while a replacement was found. Although the Nominations committee consistently sought out nominees who would agree to take on the position, no one agreed during the 2 year search process. Rather than abandon the History and Philosophy of Geology Division to additional work for the Chair, Kathy remained in the position, serving the division until someone stepped into the role. Once Stephen G. Pollock agreed to serve as Secretary-Treasurer in 2018, Kathy agreed to move into the Chair rotation.

When I was serving my second year as Chair, our Division convened a field trip to the Drexel Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia to view a 1815 William Smith map. One of the field trip stops was the American Philosophical Society. It was on the stairs of the building that I missed a step, and rolled my ankle (or so I thought). Kathy Lohff’s quick actions – Tylenol, elevation, and ice bags – enabled me to get back on the bus, and back to the hotel. Imagine my surprise the next day—October 31, 2015—when I learned that I had broken my right foot! That evening, Kathy Lohff and her husband David hosted our Management Board meeting at their home. Their gracious hospitality has set a high bar for subsequent Management Board meetings.

Indira Ghandi stated, “There are two kinds of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group; there is less competition there.” Kathy Lohff is in the first group, and it may come as a surprise to our members that she has done so much for our division. She is quiet, behind the scenes, and always ready to volunteer and lend a hand. When I remarked to her former advisor, Sandra Herbert, how helpful Kathy Lohff had been during my tenure as chair, Sandra replied, simply, “Kathy is exceptional.”

Kathy Lohff is exceptional. I am happy to introduce her as the recipient of the Gerald M. and Sue T. Friedman Service Award.