

NATIONAL Awards Program

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

The Social Worker of the Year Award honors a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) who exemplifies the best of the profession's values and achievements through specific accomplishments. In honoring the Social Worker of the Year, NASW highlights superb accomplishments in the practice of social work. *Only NASW chapters may nominate candidates in this category.*

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given in celebration of a lifetime of achievement. This award recognizes the best social work values and accomplishments as demonstrated in one's lifetime career. NASW chapters and individuals may nominate candidates in this category.

The Public Citizen of the Year Award honors an outstanding member of the community whose accomplishments exemplify the values and mission of professional social work. *The award recipient is not a social worker.* NASW chapters, individuals, and social welfare organizations may nominate candidates in this category.

The Public Elected Official of the Year Award recognizes outstanding service and contributions of an elected official who has shown leadership in the formulation of public policy, particularly policies that affect social justice, health care, education, civil and human rights, and social practice. NASW chapters, individuals, and social welfare organizations may nominate elected officials for this award.

The International Rhoda G. Sarnat Award is given to an individual, group, or organization that has significantly advanced the public image of social work. The award recipient receives a cash prize of \$3,000. This award is administered by the NASW Foundation. NASW chapters, individuals, and social welfare organizations may nominate candidates in this category.

The Knee/Wittman Health & Mental Health Achievement Awards are given to recognize individuals or groups who are models of excellence and have made significant contributions in the field of health and mental health. The awards are administered by the NASW Foundation. NASW chapters, individuals and social welfare organizations may nominate in this category.

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NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Social Worker of the Year Award honors a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) who exemplifies the best of the profession's values and achievements through specific accomplishments. In honoring the Social Worker of the Year, NASW highlights superb accomplishments in the practice of social work.

CRITERIA

The award recipient must:

- Make a demonstrable difference in such areas as
 - Advocacy for clients
 - Social policy
 - Social work practice
 - Program development
 - Administration
 - Research
- Demonstrate outstanding leadership
- Contribute to a positive image for the social work profession
- Take risks to achieve outstanding results
- Be an NASW member in good standing

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Chapters may nominate an NASW member by submitting six (6) copies of the following:

- Completed official nomination form
- **One-page** summary that describes
 - What the social worker has accomplished
 - What risks the social worker took to achieve results
 - Who the beneficiaries were
- Curriculum vita
- Three (3) letters of support

To ensure the nominee's eligibility, please adhere to the nomination guidelines. Use clear, concise, descriptive examples of activities and accomplishments. The nomination packet must include the nomination form, summary sheet, vita, and support letters. Incomplete packages will not be accepted. The National Awards Committee selects and makes recommendations to the National Board of Directors, which approves the award recipient.

NATIONAL *Awards Program*

NATIONAL PUBLIC CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the largest membership organization of professional social workers, established the Public Citizen of the Year Award to honor an outstanding member of the community whose accomplishments exemplify the values and mission of professional social work. *The award recipient is not a social worker.*

CRITERIA

The award recipient must:

- Make a significant contribution to an area or population of concern to the social work profession such as
 - at-risk or vulnerable populations
 - quality of life in communities
 - social issues
- Act with courage
- Demonstrate outstanding leadership
- Exemplify social work values and ethics

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

*Chapters, individuals, and social welfare organizations may nominate a public citizen by submitting **six (6) copies** of the following:*

- Completed official nomination form
- **One-page** summary that describes
 - What the nominee accomplished
 - What the consequences were
 - Who the beneficiaries were
 - How the nominee's accomplishments relate to social work
- Curriculum vita
- Three (3) letters of support

To ensure the nominee's eligibility, please adhere to the nomination guidelines. Use clear, concise, descriptive examples of activities and accomplishments. The nomination packet must include the nomination form, summary sheet, vita, and support letters. Incomplete packages will not be accepted. The National Awards Committee selects and makes recommendations to the National Board of Directors, which approves the award recipient.

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NATIONAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Each year, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) selects a social worker for this national award to celebrate a lifetime of achievement. In honoring the Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, NASW recognizes the best social work values and accomplishments demonstrated in the social worker's lifetime career.

CRITERIA

The award recipient must:

- Demonstrate repeated outstanding achievements, as well as
 - Recognition beyond the social work profession
 - Contributions of lasting impact
 - Outstanding creativity
- Meet all criteria for Social Worker of the Year
- Be an NASW member in good standing

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

Chapters and individuals may nominate a social worker by submitting six (6) copies of the following:

- Completed official nomination form
- **One-page** summary of demonstrated contributions that describes
 - What was outstanding about the nominee's action(s)
 - Risks the nominee took to achieve results
 - What the nominee accomplished
 - Who the beneficiaries were
 - What long-term effect was achieved
- Curriculum vita
- Three (3) letters of support

To ensure the nominee's eligibility, please adhere to the nomination guidelines. Use clear, concise, descriptive examples of activities and accomplishments. The nomination packet must include the nomination form, summary sheet, vita, and support letters. Incomplete packages will not be accepted. The National Awards Committee selects and makes recommendations to the National Board of Directors, which approves the award recipient.

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NATIONAL PUBLIC ELECTED OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

Elected officials make decisions about a broad range of issues that, when enacted into law, represent the collective values of our society. Of particular interest to the social work profession are policies that affect social justice, health care, education, civil and human rights, and social work practice. In recognition of the responsibilities and challenges of public service, NASW established an annual award to recognize the outstanding service and contributions of an elected official. Special consideration will be given to social workers elected to public office.

CRITERIA

The award recipient must:

- Be an elected official serving, at the time of nomination, in public office at the local, state, or national level
- Make a significant contribution to public service while in office
- Demonstrate leadership in advancing public policy in the area of vulnerable populations, civil and human rights, or social welfare
- Demonstrate leadership on behalf of the protection and advancement of social work practice
- Exemplify social work values and ethics

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

NASW chapters, individuals, and social welfare organizations may nominate a public elected official by submitting six (6) copies of the following :

- Completed official nomination form
- **One-page** summary that describes
 - Nature of leadership demonstrated on issues of concern to the social work profession
 - Short and long-term effect of his or her leadership
 - How the social work profession and those served are affected
- Curriculum vita
- Three (3) letters of support (including one from the NASW chapter in the state where the nominee resides)

To ensure the nominee's eligibility, please adhere to the nomination guidelines. Use clear, concise, descriptive examples of activities and accomplishments. The nomination packet must include the nomination form, summary sheet, vita, and support letters. Incomplete packages will not be accepted. The National Awards Committee selects and makes recommendations to the National Board of Directors, which approves the award recipient.