

Optometrist of the Year Award

PURPOSE

The American Optometric Association Optometrist of the Year Award recognizes the deserving individual doctor of optometry for performance of outstanding services on behalf of the profession and to the visual welfare of the public.

ELIGIBILITY

Each of the nominees must be appropriately recognized by the person's affiliated organization as that affiliated association's representative Optometrist of the Year, and in practice 11 years or more. **Current AOA employees, AOA paid consultants, AOA members of the Board, and current members of the Awards Committee are NOT eligible for consideration.***

JUDGING AND SELECTION

The Optometrist of the Year Award recipient will be selected by the AOA Awards Committee, comprised of the five most recent available past presidents, and honored at Optometry's Meeting.

RULES

All nominations for AOA Optometrist of the Year Award shall conform to the following requirements:

1. Nominees must be an AOA member in good standing.
2. Nominations are to be submitted online at www.aoa.org/awards.
3. A type written statement, not to exceed 2,000 words, should accompany the nomination explaining the primary reason the nominee should be named as award recipient (see Criteria section). The statement should explain the nature of the individual's contribution based on all previous history, not just activities accomplished in the last year.
4. Only affiliated association nominees are eligible and only one nominee per affiliated association will be considered in any one year.
5. The nominee may or may not be in active practice provided he or she has been designated and recognized as the affiliated association Optometrist of the Year nominee.
6. A current head and shoulders photograph must be included.
7. A nominee can also be resubmitted in later years if the association has honored the nominee as an Optometrist of the Year and wishes to submit this nominee as its candidate due to continued or new service.
8. All nominations for the national award are due by **February 19** (no exceptions can be made).

CRITERIA

Nominees will be evaluated according to a point system allocated to four principal areas:

I. PUBLIC SERVICE TO (30 point maximum)

- The country, state, or other political subdivision in any capacity.
- Education.
- The community.
- Religious or service institutions.
- Charitable causes.

II. SERVICE TO THE VISUAL WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC (20 point maximum)

- With sight-saving groups.
- Legislative activities beneficial to the visual welfare of the public.
- Participation in governmental health care programs.
- Participation in public service programs such as visual screening projects, etc.

III. SERVICE TO OPTOMETRY (30 point maximum)

- Contributions of personal effort and time on behalf of the profession's advancement.

IV. SERVICE TO AOA OR AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION (20 point maximum)

- Service as an officer, committee chair or member, etc.
- Promotion of the association's goals and programs.
- Activity in support of association's projects.
- Involvement in public information activities.

*Approved change by AOA Board of Trustees March 5, 2020.