



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

Distinguished Service Award

The American Optometric Association (AOA) Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual doctor of optometry who has distinguished themselves within the profession for unusually significant contributions and outstanding achievements contributing to the advancement of the profession of optometry. It recognizes long-term dedication rather than any single contribution.

NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

- Nominees must be an AOA member in good standing and a doctor of optometry, retired or active.
- Current AOA employees, AOA paid consultants, AOA members of the Board, and current members of the Awards Committee are **NOT** eligible for consideration.

WHO CAN NOMINATE?

State associations, AOA members and AOA committees, councils, sections, groups, affiliated association and societies, and other optometric organizations may submit nominations.

NOMINATION CHECKLIST ✓

- Online Nomination Form**, which includes:
 - Individual Nominee's Resume:** Include the nominee's resume or biography describing their background.
 - Nomination Statement:** A written statement of 500 -2,000 words explaining the primary reason the nominee should be named as award recipient. In addition to noting basic dates, titles, years of service, etc., briefly describe the key accomplishments achieved by the nominee in various positions and volunteer posts.
 - Photo:** A current photograph must be included.
 - Supplements:** Supporting documentation, such as letters of recommendation or a curricula vitae, may be attached to the nomination statement; however, these are not a substitute for the content of the nomination statement which must clearly and thoroughly detail the nominee's accomplishments.

DEADLINE

All nominations for the national award are due by **Monday, February 12.**

JUDGING AND SELECTION

The Distinguished Service Award recipient will be selected by the AOA Awards Committee, comprised of the five most recent available past presidents. Only one nominee per state will be considered in any one year.

A nominee can be resubmitted later if the candidate continues or demonstrates new service. If a suitable nominee is not selected by the panel, no award will be given that year.

The recipient will be honored at Optometry's Meeting.

Any questions can be directed to Yakesha Cooper, AOA Associate Director of Public Relations at ycooper@aoa.org.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Nominees will be evaluated for long-term or lifetime achievement according to a point system allocated to two principal areas:

- **SERVICE TO OPTOMETRY** (80 point maximum) Contributions of personal effort and time on behalf of the profession's advancement, in such areas as:
 - Leadership roles within the profession
 - Organized optometry at national, state and local levels
 - Continuing education, as a writer and/or lecturer
 - Education as a teacher or administrator
 - Legislation furthering the advancement of optometry
 - Research
- **SPECIAL SERVICE** (20 point maximum) Involvement on behalf of the profession, in such areas as:
 - Interprofessional health care organization, committees, boards or groups
 - Interprofessional organizations, committees, boards or groups outside of health care
 - International health care or other organizations, committees, boards or groups
 - Standards, as a representative of optometry with standards organizations and committees
 - Public health, in a leadership role
 - The military, in a health care leadership role