



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.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Nominees must be a doctor of optometry (may or may not be in active practice) and AOA member in good standing. ****Current AOA employees, AOA paid consultants, AOA members of the Board, and current members of the Awards Committee are NOT eligible for consideration.****
2. Nominations may be made by any member of the AOA; AOA committees, councils, sections, groups; affiliated association and societies; and other optometric organizations.
3. Only one nominee per affiliated association will be considered in any one year. A nominee can be resubmitted in later years due to continued or new service.

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

The nomination must include the following elements:

1. [Online Nomination Form](#)
2. **Individual Nominee's Resume:** Include the nominee's resume or biography describing their background.
3. **Nomination Statement:** A type-written statement of at least 500 words (not to exceed 2,000 words) explaining the primary reason the nominee should be named as award recipient. In addition to noting basic facts (dates, titles, years of service, etc.) about the nominee's professional and volunteer history, briefly describe the key accomplishments achieved by the nominee in these various positions and volunteer posts.
4. **Photo:** A current head and shoulders photograph must be included.
5. **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.

NOMINATION DEADLINE

All nominations for the national award are due by **Monday, February 13** (no exceptions can be made). 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 the health care area
- International health care or other organizations, committees, boards or groups
- Standards, i.e., as a representative of optometry with standards organizations and committees
- Public health, in a leadership role
- The military, in a health care leadership role

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, and honored at Optometry's Meeting. In the event that a suitable nominee is not selected by the panel, no award will be given that year.