

Distinguished Service Award

PURPOSE

The American Optometric Association 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

Nominations for the Distinguished Service Award may be made by any member of the American Optometric Association; AOA committees, councils, sections, groups; affiliated associations and societies; and other optometric organizations. Nominees must be optometrists who meet the criteria established for the Award. **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 Distinguished Service Award recipient will be selected by the AOA Awards Committee, comprised of the five most recent available past presidents. The Award, which will be presented at Optometry's Meeting®, may or may not be awarded annually.

RULES

All nominations for the AOA Distinguished Service Award shall conform to the following requirements:

1. Nominations are to be submitted online at www.aoa.org/awards.
2. A type written statement, not to exceed 2,000 words, should accompany the nomination. This statement should amplify and substantiate the reasons why the nominee should be considered for the recognition. It should explain the nature of the individual's contribution based on all previous history, not just the activities accomplished in the last year. A brief typewritten biographical sketch of the nominee and a current head and shoulders photograph must be included.
3. Only doctors of optometry are eligible for nomination. The nominee may or may not be in active practice.
4. A nominee can also be resubmitted in later years due to continued or new service.
5. Nominations are due by **March 1** (no exceptions can be made).

CRITERIA

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

I. 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.

II. SPECIAL SERVICE (20 point maximum)

Involvement on behalf of the profession of optometry, in such areas as:

- Interprofessional health care organizations, 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.

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