



AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

Optometrist of the Year Award

The American Optometric Association (AOA) 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.

NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY

- Nominees must be appropriately recognized by the person's affiliated organization as their representative Optometrist of the Year. Nominees need to have been in practice 11 years or more but can be retired.
- Nominees must be an 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.

WHO CAN NOMINATE?

State associations and AOA members 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 these various positions and volunteer posts.
 - Photo:** A 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.

NOMINATION DEADLINE

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

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. 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 according to a point system allocated to four principal areas:

- **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
- **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
- **SERVICE TO OPTOMETRY** (30 point maximum)
 - Contributions of personal effort and time on behalf of the profession's advancement
- **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