



American Water Works Association Awards

AWWA has many awards. See the AWWA website for a complete listing (www.awwa.org; awards are listed under "AWWA officers and committee directory"). For some of them, the CA-NV Section provides nominations. The following are Association awards open to CA-NV Section nominations. Unless noted otherwise, nominations for any of these awards are due by June to the Section office. These awards are given at the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition in the year following nomination.

Abel Wolman Award of Excellence

One of the two highest AWWA awards, it is to recognize those whose careers in the water works industry exemplify vision, creativity, and excellent professional performance characteristic of Abel Wolman's long and productive career.

To qualify for the award the nominee must be an individual member or a duly appointed representative of an organization member of the American Water Works Association. To be eligible for consideration the nominee must have established himself/herself in the water works profession through career performance spanning a minimum of 20 years. The nominee's work must exemplify vision, creativity, and excellence and must have had recognizable impact on the professionalism of the industry.

Academic Achievement Award

To encourage academic excellence and to give recognition to those graduate students who have made outstanding contributions to the field of public water supply through their work at a university. Four awards, consisting of a plaque and money, are given annually:

First Place Doctoral Dissertation Category \$3,000

Second Place Doctoral Dissertation Category \$1,500

First Place Masters Thesis Category \$3,000

Second Place Masters Thesis Category \$1,500

Recognition will also be given to the major advisor of each of the recipients of the award.

Any university graduate student working toward a Masters or Doctorate degree who has written a Masters thesis or a Doctoral dissertation of significant value to the water supply industry is eligible. The manuscript must reflect the work of a single author and be submitted during the competition year in which it was submitted for the degree.

A.P. Black Research Award

This award was established in 1967 in honor of Dr. A. P. Black to recognize outstanding research contributions to water science and water supply rendered over an appreciable period of time.

American/Canadian/Mexican Water :Landmarks Award

This award recognizes an American, Canadian, or Mexican Water Landmark at least 50 years old that has had a direct and significant relationship with water supply, treatment, distribution, or technological development. It is given as deserved. There are three principle criteria for selection:

1. An American, Canadian, or Mexican Water Landmark must be a tangible, physical property that has or has had a direct and significant relationship with water's supply, treatment, distribution, or technological development. It should be of a permanent and nonexpendable nature, such as a building, dam, reservoir, tower, etc., and not machinery or a natural water resource.
2. A water landmark must be at least 50 years old and be recognized within its own community or region as a popular, valued, or historically significant property. (Evidence of this recognition must be provided.)
3. It must be apparent that the Landmark candidate has been and will continue to be maintained in a manner appropriate to the status of an American, Canadian, or Mexican Water Landmark. (A clear, current, original photo of the candidate should be provided to demonstrate its condition.) The Landmark may be utilized in a manner other than its original purpose.

Award of Merit

This is an award of achievement to those outside the water profession who have demonstrated outstanding service in support of the principles of AWWA in providing better water for people. It is intended for any individual, group, or organization that has made a notable and outstanding contribution to the water profession. The nominee cannot be employed in the water profession.

Courageous Service Award

This award is to recognize individuals who may not exactly fit the requirements of the Heroism Award, but are deserving of some type of recognition. These individuals may be credited with risking their own life by "staying at their post" in an effort to save their water supply. While these individuals may not have saved someone else, they certainly went "above and beyond" the call of duty.

Distinguished Public Service Award

The award for Distinguished Public Service, established in 1951 in honor of Harry E. Jordan who served as Secretary of the Association from 1936 to 1959, is presented in recognition of distinguished public service outside the line of duty by an AWWA member. It is open to all members of AWWA who have made outstanding contributions in public service, in addition to achieving recognition as professionals in the industry. Public service is considered to be exceptional, long-term voluntary service in a leadership capacity in or with community-based activities such as church, fraternal, youth, or service-oriented organizations and/or exceptional volunteer service to federal, state, provincial, municipal, or other governmental entities.

Diversity Award

This award recognizes the individual or organization that has created, promoted, and maintained diversity within an organization by establishing an environment that recognizes, encourages, and effectively utilizes each individual's talents. The recipient of this award will have demonstrated, through their activities, the establishment of an environment that recognizes, encourages, and effectively utilizes each individual's talents and will have shown major contributions to the cause of diversity. Minority recruitment and hiring is but one element in the establishment of a diverse work

force and should not be weighed too heavily when selecting a diversity award recipient. The diversity award is not given to an individual or organization on the basis of who they are, but because of their achievements and accomplishments. Examples of achievements or accomplishments that exemplify the traits of an appropriate award recipient might include, but are not limited to, the establishment and fostering of diversity programs. Some examples of diversity programs include mentoring, support networks, internship programs, coop programs, work-study, and diversity training. Commitment to diversity can be demonstrated by some form of management accountability/tracking as a means of enumerating the impact on the part of the individual or organization to increase and maintain diversity.

Exemplary Source Water Protection Award

This award recognizes organizations in North America who have developed and are implementing exemplary source water protection programs. It is given at both the Section and Association level: A maximum of three awards per Section per year, distributed among small, medium, and large systems. A maximum of three awards by the Association per year, distributed among small, medium, and large systems. The winners of the CA-NV Section awards will be automatically submitted to AWWA for consideration for the Association award. ([Exemplary Source Water Protection form](#))

The awardee must meet all of the following criteria:

1. The water system or authority must be regulated by the state/province.
2. The source water protection plan/program must:
 - have been developed by a planning/development team which is representative of the community in the source water protection area,
 - have a completed source water assessment which satisfies the applicable state/provincial requirements, and includes at a minimum:
 - the location of all current or planned water sources,
 - delineation of the source water protection area(s),
 - identification of the types and locations of existing and potential sources of contamination,
 - identification of the distance and/or contaminant travel time between known or potential sources of contamination and the public water supply intakes or wells, and
 - identification of the likelihood of potential contamination sources affecting source water quality (i.e., a vulnerability/susceptibility assessment).
 - have a management program which effectively controls potential sources of contamination in the source water protection area,
 - have a management program which controls introduction of new potential sources of contamination into the source water protection area,
 - have an emergency plan, infrastructure, and equipment available to deal with accidents which may threaten the water supply within the source water protection area,
 - have an ongoing stakeholder education and involvement program,
 - have been coordinated with local, state/provincial, (and where applicable) regional and/or national authorities who regulate potential sources of contamination within the source water protection area(s).
 - have a monitoring program to measure the effectiveness of the source water protection efforts, and
 - have a watershed monitoring program that measures upgradient water quality for surface water supplies.

3. The source water protection plan/program must have a person(s) responsible for carrying out the effort (e.g., a Source Water Protection Program Manager).

George Warren Fuller Award

George Warren Fuller Awards are presented annually by the American Water Works Association to the Sections' respective selected members for their distinguished service to the water supply field in commemoration of the sound engineering skill . . . the brilliant diplomatic talent . . . and the constructive leadership which characterized the life of George Warren Fuller. Awardees become members of the George Warren Fuller Society. To qualify for the award the person must be an Individual Member or a duly appointed representative of an organization member of the American Water Works Association. In the case of a posthumous award, the recipient must have been an AWWA member at the time of his/her death. Each Section may make annual Fuller Award presentations equal to its number of Directors on the Association Board of Directors. The CA-NV Section is allowed two awards per year. ([Fuller form](#))

Gimmicks and Gadgets Award

This competitive award recognizes inventive creativity by individuals. It consists of cash prizes of \$500 (first place), \$300 (second place), and \$200 (third place), plus commemorative plaques to each of the three winners.

An entry should be a novel and relatively simple mechanical device or procedure designed to provide a more efficient, safer, and/or simplified means of performing routine tasks or functions in the maintenance, operation, or construction of a water utility system. Commercially available products are not eligible as gadgets, but a unique use of a commercial product may be entered as a gimmick. Entries are mailed directly to the editor of Opflow, typically consisting of a photo or drawing and a written description. Each entry will be screened by AWWA staff engineers and, if not found dangerous or otherwise unacceptable, will be approved for entry into the annual competition and for possible publication.

Heroism Award

This award shall constitute official recognition of an act of heroism on the part of an employee in the water utility profession wherein the rescuer, in the process of aiding some other person or persons, must have placed himself/herself at great personal risk. To be eligible for this award the rescuer must, within the past 12 months, have performed a significant rescue act either on or off the job toward saving another person or persons from loss of life or extreme injury, and in the process, must have placed himself/herself at great personal risk. The award may be presented to an employee of any water utility, whether or not that utility holds membership in AWWA. This award is given as deserved and has no nomination deadline.

Honorary Member Award

This award is presented each year to individuals "whose knowledge and accomplishments in the field of water supply entitle him/her to special recognition." An Honorary Member shall have all the rights and privileges of an Active Member and shall be exempt from paying dues. All members of AWWA and others "whose knowledge and accomplishments in the field of water supply entitle him/her to special recognition" are eligible for this award. ([Honorary Member Form](#))

Jack W. Hoffbuhr Award

To honor the legacy of Jack W. Hoffbuhr (retired Executive Director, AWWA) by recognizing outstanding performance and accomplishments by a Section staff member of AWWA. To qualify for the award the nominee must have shown continuous dedication above and beyond normal duties to Section business of AWWA by demonstrating loyalty, reliability, responsibility, leadership, and excellent service to the membership of the Section and Association. In addition, the successful candidate must be viewed as a team player and a good communicator.

The section staff eligible for this award includes paid staff plus contract staff, part-time staff or staff that works for an Association Management Company employed by the section. Since this is an award to recognize Section staff, AWWA staff members are ineligible for the award.

Outstanding Service to AWWA Award

This award is to recognize and honor a member of the American Water Works Association who has demonstrated outstanding service to the Association through leadership and active participation in AWWA programs. A nominee must have maintained AWWA membership and given outstanding service to AWWA for a period of at least 10 years.

Public Communications Achievement Award

This award is for excellence in the field of communicating information about water industry issues to the public. It is to recognize AWWA members and/or organizations for significant accomplishments in communication-educating the public, promoting awareness and understanding of water issues, establishing media relations, implementing community involvement programs, and inspiring others to model behavior with the public that builds trust and credibility.

The award recognizes individual AWWA members and/or member organizations for fostering and supporting the development of public outreach programs and integrating public affairs as a core element of utility planning and management. The award is intended to encourage utilities to incorporate public outreach into their operating plans, as well as to provide examples of successful public outreach programs and best practices.

Both individual and organizational awards are divided into three categories: A) those serving fewer than 5,000 service connections; B) those serving between 5,000 and 25,000 service connections; and C) those serving more than 25,000 service connections. A maximum of two awards per year will be given in each of the six categories; however, awards will be based solely upon merit and may not necessarily be issued in all categories. The program for which the individual/organization is nominated may be either ongoing or a large, focused initiative completed within the 24-month period prior to the application date, but which demonstrates a strong, broad-based commitment to public outreach and communications.

Because the individual award is intended to recognize directors and managers outside the public affairs field who foster and support public outreach as an integral part of the organization's management strategy, nominees must meet the following criteria:

1. Individual nominated must be a member of AWWA.
2. It is preferred that individual award nominees be a manager outside the public information, community relations or government affairs divisions who has demonstrated a commitment to communications and public outreach. Nominations of individuals in public affairs or outreach must clearly define why the application is for a single person rather than a group, department or organization.
3. Nominee's career in the water works profession must span a minimum of three years. If the nominee is no longer employed by the member utility represented in the program or body of work, the period

of separation must be less than 12 months prior to the application date.

4. Individuals may not nominate themselves; however, they may be nominated by a member of the same organization, another member organization or an AWWA section.

5. Service and contributions cited in the nomination must be related to operational goals and demonstrate outstanding efforts in terms of scope, creativity, excellence, impact, and/or success in communicating water issues.

Applications for organizational awards will be judged primarily on ability to demonstrate the utility's ongoing commitment to public outreach, commitment of resources to public communications, the linkage between communications efforts and the organization's operational goals, establishment of communication objectives, thoroughness of planning, execution of activities and documentation of results.

1. Organization nominated must be an AWWA member utility.

2. Nominee's work must exemplify professional excellence, demonstrate the utility's long-term commitment to public outreach and communications, and provide evidence of efforts to integrate public affairs as a core element of utility planning and management.

3. Service and contributions cited in the nomination demonstrate outstanding efforts in terms of scope, creativity, excellence, impact, and/or success in communicating water issues.

4. The nomination should not reflect a short-term (crisis management plan) program unless addressing the issue required the development and implementation of a sustained, long-term outreach program.

5. Communication efforts cited must have had a documented positive impact on operational objectives, improving organizational performance, gaining support or mitigating issues within the community, and/or becoming an industry leader.

Nominations will be evaluated on the following criteria. Programs/individuals that do not qualify for the award based on scores may qualify for a Certificate of Merit at the judges' discretion.

1. Documented achievements in public affairs, including projects or programs that promote awareness and understanding of water issues.

2. Exceptional efforts that demonstrate the nominee's skills and commitment to overcome challenges and/or fully integrate communications and public affairs as a core element of management strategies.

3. Embracing public affairs in day-to-day management and operations with demonstrated commitment to skills transfer and mentoring others in this practice.

Other factors that may be considered include:

1. Documentation of efforts to assess best practices for outreach, plan outreach activities, and post-program evaluation of effectiveness.

2. Volunteer service and leadership (individual or organizational) to the Section or International AWWA organization.

Recognition by AWWA for Service to the Water Profession

This award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations who may be members or nonmembers of AWWA and have made significant contributions to the water supply profession. It is given as deemed appropriate by the AWWA officers.

Wendell LaDue Utility Safety Award

This award, established in honor of Wendell R. LaDue, is presented to recognize distinguished safety programs by water utilities. One award will be given annually in each of four classes: (I) Utilities with fewer than 10 employees; (II) 10-100 employees; (III) 100-500 employees and (IV) over 500 employees. Nomination is by the Section in which the utility is located. As noted above, winners of the CA-NV Section Larry C. Larson Safety Award are eligible for nomination.

Water Industry Hall of Fame

The Water Industry Hall of Fame, one of the two highest awards in AWWA, was established in 1970 to perpetuate the memory of those living and deceased who have made the most significant contributions to the field of public water supply. The names of the members of the Hall of Fame are engraved on a bronze plaque at AWWA headquarters, and a plaque signifying membership is presented for mounting. If deceased, the plaque is presented to the institution or organization with whom the member is identified. To be eligible for the award, a candidate should be substantially retired, with achievements, character, and professionalism well established, be beyond the age of 60, and have been an AWWA member for 15 years. The award may be awarded posthumously at any age. The candidate's influence upon the water supply profession must still be felt in the practices, inventions, or literature for which he/she was responsible. Contributions to the water supply profession may have been in any of the many facets of disciplines of the field as long as they are significant and have stood the test of time.