
Annual Awards

of the

AMERICAN

ASSOCIATION

FOR

STATE and LOCAL

HISTORY



*Instituted to pay tribute to those
individuals and organizations pro-
moting a better understanding of
our national heritage at a local
level.*

ELIGIBILITY

Any person, group, or organization of any kind, whether publicly or privately financed, is eligible for these awards.

HOW THE AWARDS ARE MADE

For the purposes of screening nominations for these awards, the two nations are divided into a total of ten regions, as follows:

Region 1—EASTERN CANADA: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario.

Region 2—WESTERN CANADA: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon, Northwest Territories.

Region 3—NEW ENGLAND: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island.

Region 4—MIDDLE ATLANTIC AREA: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware.

Region 5—SOUTH ATLANTIC AREA: Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico.

Region 6—NORTH CENTRAL AREA: Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin.

Region 7—SOUTH CENTRAL AREA: Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas.

Region 8—MISSOURI VALLEY AREA: Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas.

Region 9—MOUNTAIN AREA: Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona.

Region 10—PACIFIC COAST AREA: Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii.

For each region, the Association appoints a chairman, who is also automatically a member of the Awards Committee. The state-wide or provincial historical society or agency (or agencies) in each state and province nominates to the regional chairman in its region, the candidates from that state or province deemed worthy of an award *by reason of outstanding achievement or significant new project in the field of state and local history* in each category for which an award is offered. Each nomination must be accompanied by sufficient evidence to enable the regional chairman to make adequate and equitable comparison with other nominations submitted in the same category from the other states or provinces in his region.

The regional chairman weeds out the nominations submitted to him, rates those he believes worthy of award and forwards his recommendations for his region to the Chairman of the Awards Committee. The Chairman in turn will mimeograph these and send the nominations submitted to the members of the Committee. With these nominations in hand the Awards Committee meets and votes on the recommendations. The awards are customarily announced at the annual banquet of the Association during the convention. Winners of awards receive a printed certificate together with a citation outlining the nature of the contribution to state and local history which justified the award.

CATEGORIES OF AWARDS

Awards will be made in each region in each of the following categories where the work nominated for the award is in the opinion of the Awards Committee sufficiently outstanding. More than one nomination may be made in each category in each

region, if the work of the nominees is so important that to name only one would be an obvious injustice to the others.

Category A—State or provincial historical societies and agencies, publicly or privately supported.

Category B—Regional, county and local historical societies (including specializing societies in such related fields as genealogy, folklore, archaeology, business history, railroad history, postal history, etc.)

Category C—Junior Historical Societies and other groups of young people engaged in local historical activities.

Category D—The book in each of the following classes which made the most important contribution to state and local history in each region during the past year.

Class 1—The serious history which has made the most important contribution to scholarly knowledge of the area, or a part thereof.

Class 2—The popular history which has made the greatest contribution to popular knowledge of the area, or a part thereof.

Class 3—The biography of greatest importance to the history of the region.

Category E—Newspapers.

Class 1—Daily newspapers in cities of over 300,000 population.

Class 2—Daily newspapers in cities of under 300,000 population.

Class 3—Weekly newspapers and other non-dailies.

Category F—Individuals contributing most significantly to the understanding and development of local history or local historical programs.

Category G—Organizations contributing most significantly to the understanding and development of local history or historical programs. For example: Business firms, labor unions, patriotic societies, privately owned restorations, museums, foundations.

GOVERNING CRITERIA

IMPORTANT—No nomination should be made except in the case of unusually meritorious work. The mere fulfillment of routine functions (in the case of a historical society, for instance) is not justification for an award, unless such fulfillment involves a radical change in policy for that society.

Action over and above the ordinary call of duty is the usual prerequisite for an award. A newspaper, for instance, running a "Twenty-five Years Ago Today" column would not ordinarily be eligible for an award. A paper which gave space to a series of outstanding feature articles in the historical field; ran a series of historical cartoons; or lent consistent, frequent and effective editorial support to historical causes, to teaching state and local history in the schools, to preserving historic shrines, etc., would be.

An occasional award may be given for notable programs extending over more than the immediate year under consideration. Such awards must be particularly carefully considered and screened.

A person who for many years has given effective leadership to historical work in his or her area, who has consistently proposed

and pushed to success historical projects, etc., even though no single outstanding milestone had been reached in the particular year under consideration, would be eligible for an award. Very few such awards are given.

In making nominations at the state or provincial level, in the recommendations of the regional chairmen and in the final selections of the Awards Committee, quality and distinctiveness of the achievement will be given over-riding importance. New and promising ideas, approaches, and innovations in a significant sector of the field of state and local history will also be given special consideration.

Except for the occasional award for cumulative contribution over a series of years, awards will be made only for special accomplishment in the fiscal year ending nearest the date of the annual convention of the American Association for State and Local History.

Further information may be secured from

LOUIS C. JONES, Chairman

ANNUAL AWARDS COMMITTEE—AASLH

Cooperstown, New York