

Law & Order of the Year Awards Program

MUST BE INTO DEPARTMENT BY SEPTEMBER 15

Objective

The objective of the American Legion Department of Ohio Public Service Awards is to select well-rounded public service candidates who have exceeded above and beyond the expected duties of their position for public recognition.

Nominees per District Guidelines

Annually, each District in the Department may only nominate one (1) individual per category:

**Law Officer
Firefighter
Civilian Life Saver**

If there is more than one nominee in a category within a District, that District, using any method of their choice, must judge each nominee in that category to determine the one (1) nominee in that category to be forwarded by that District to the Department for Department judging.

Posthumous Nominee Eligibility Criteria – Department Award Only

The Department National Security Commission will consider any Law Officer, Firefighter, or Civilian Life Saver to receive an award posthumously if the death in the line of duty occurred between July 1, 2023, and April 6, 2024, the deadline for all award nominees to be submitted to the Department National Security Commission for judging. The same overall criteria apply to those who have lost their lives in the line of duty as applies to all other Department nominees.

AWARDS POINT SYSTEM

The following Point System shall be used by the Department National Security Commission to judge the nomination package of any Law Officer, Firefighter, or Civilian lifesaver:

I.	Community Service	35 Points
II.	Professional Career	40 Points
III.	Heroism	20 Points
IV.	Letters of Recognition, press articles, and supporting documentation	5 Points

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Definition

1. Be a citizen of the United States, male or female;
2. Be a living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officer entrusted with full authority and the powers of arrest
 - a. Consideration for a posthumous award will be acceptable only if the nominee's death as occurred after the Department's selection and within the dates for with the award is being presented;
3. Be assigned to, or fully recognized by, Municipal, County, District, State Police, Highway Patrol, Sheriff's office, or as a sworn Federal law enforcement officer such as FBI, Secret Service Agent, United States Federal Marshal, National Park Police, Capitol Police.
 - a. Military police officers or investigators are eligible for participation in this award provided they are state law enforcement certified.

Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Eligibility Criteria

1. A completed application form,
2. A 5" x 7" photograph of the nominee,
3. A maximum of 18 one-sided pages 8 1/2" x 11."
 - a. The cover page shall not count as part of the maximum 18 pages of service documentation.
 - b. The first six or seven pages should contain the individual's service narrative
 - c. Specific acts of community service, heroism, and meritorious performance recognized by the agency should be included and documented. Additional pages may consist of supporting citations and other documentation to have press articles. The list of Citations/Awards for community service, heroism, or meritorious service received. Citations and Awards may consist of those presented in the previous year.
4. The nominee must be recommended by his/her Commanding Officer or Supervisor for the award.
 - a. The commanding officer or supervisor should also state that the law enforcement officer will be available for its presentation at the Department or national convention if selected for this award.

Firefighter of the Year

Definition

For this award, the use of the word “Firefighter” or “firefighter officer” includes any living, active, full-time, paid, or certified volunteer firefighter who is also a municipal or county fire department member. Emergency Medical Technicians, who are serving in some other capacity in the municipal or county fire departments, are also eligible for this award.

1. Be a citizen of the United States, male or female;
2. Be a certified, living, active, full-time, paid, or volunteer firefighter;
3. Be assigned to, or fully recognized by, Municipal, County, District, State or Federal firefighter officer;
4. Include a copy of state or federal certification as well as copies of pertinent training and education certificates as appropriate

Eligibility Criteria

1. A completed application form,
2. A 5” x 7” photograph of the nominee,
3. A maximum of 18 one-sided pages 8 1/2” x 11.”
 - a. The cover page shall not count as part of the maximum 18 pages of service documentation.
 - b. The first six or seven pages should contain the individual’s service narrative;
4. Specific acts of community service, heroism, and meritorious performance recognized by the agency should be included and documented. The list of Citations/Awards for community service, heroism, or meritorious service received. Citations and Awards may consist of those presented in a previous year
5. Include a copy of state or federal certification as well as copies of pertinent training and education certificates as appropriate
6. The nominee must be recommended by his/her Commanding Officer or Supervisor for the award.
 - a. The commanding officer or supervisor should also state that the law enforcement officer will be available for its presentation at the Department or national convention if selected for this award.

Civilian Life Saver of the Year

Civilian Life Saver Nominee Eligibility Criteria

1. A completed application form,
2. A 5" x 7" photograph of the nominee,
3. A maximum of 18 one-sided pages 8 1/2" x 11."
 - a. The cover page shall not count as part of the maximum 18 pages of documentation.
 - b. A list of Citations/Awards (not copies) presented by any City, County, and State authorities, citizens, and civic groups to the individual for the lifesaving event or circumstance for which they are being nominated
 - c. Specific acts of community service, heroism, and meritorious performance are recognized to include press articles.

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF



NOMINATION FOR LAW AND ORDER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Awards are given to one deserving individual in each category as determined by the Department's Law & Order Commission that has performed above and beyond the call of duty.

Post Submitting

Nomination: _____

District: _____

Nominations Included with This Submission

Only one entry per category please

Law Officer of the Year

Awarded to any professionally paid police, sheriff, highway patrol, etc.

Firefighter of the Year

Awarded to any professionally paid firefighter, volunteer firefighter, paramedic, EMT, EMS, etc.

Civilian Life Saver of the Year

Awarded to any nonpaid or professional person who has saved a life

Eligibility Requirements

1. American Legion Department of Ohio Nomination Form must be submitted
2. Please be sure to designate each nomination packet as either *Law Officer*, *Firefighter* or *Civilian Life Saver* nomination.
3. An official 5" x 7" head and shoulder color photo must be included.
4. Each nominee's submission should be **no more than eighteen (18), single-sided pages**. The nomination packet should include the individuals' service narrative, supporting citations, media coverage, etc.

Failure to adhere to submission criteria could result in disqualification.

Additional Information for Civilian Life Saver Award

The narrative for this nominee should include the contact information (names and addresses) of any individual or group of witnesses to the feat/incident.

Law Officer of the year Nominee Information:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Firefighter of the year Nominee Information:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Civilian Life Saver of the year Nominee Information:

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

*Nomination must be signed by the Post **AND** District Commander to be eligible for judging. All nomination materials must be into Department Headquarters no later than September 15*

Signature of Post Commander

Date

Signature of District Commander

Date