



Law & Order of the Year Awards Program

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 Law & Order Committee 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, 2017 and April 6, 2018, the deadline for all award nominees to be submitted to the Department Law & Order Committee for judging. The same overall criteria apply to those individuals 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 Law & Order Committee to judge the nomination package of any Law Officer, Firefighter, or Civilian life saver:

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

Failure to follow the criteria guidelines will automatically disqualify any applicant and District's nominee.



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, Capital 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 agency should be included and documented. Additional pages may include supporting citations and other documentation to include press articles. The list of Citations/Awards for community service, heroism, or meritorious service received. Citations and Awards may include those presented in a 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, if selected for this award, will be available for its presentation at the department or national convention.

Failure to follow the criteria guidelines will automatically disqualify any applicant and District's nominee.



Firefighter of the Year

Definition

For the purposes of 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 member of municipal or county fire department. Emergency Medical Technicians, who those 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 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 agency should be included and documented. The list of Citations/Awards for community service, heroism, or meritorious service received. Citations and Awards may include those presented in a previous year
5. Include 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, if selected for this award, will be available for its presentation at the department or national convention.



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 recognized to include press articles.