

**THE WASHINGTON AWARD COMMISSION
RULES FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF THE
COMMISSION OF AWARD FOR THE WASHINGTON AWARD
FOUNDED BY JOHN W. ALVORD AND ADMINISTERED BY
THE WESTERN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS**

1. The title of the award shall be the Washington Award, founded by John W. Alvord and administered by the Western Society of Engineers.
2. The token of the award shall be in the form of a bronze medal, or other work of art, which shall symbolize the ideals of the award and which shall bear an appropriate inscription. The design of the token and the text of inscription shall be determined by a special committee acting with the advice of one or more artists skilled in this class of work
3. The award may at the option of the Commission of Award be accompanied by an engrossed certificate which shall recite the object of the award and shall state the nature of the services rendered by the recipient for which the award is made. There may accompany the certificate and the award a printed statement giving the considerable detail the object of the award, and giving the name of the founder of the award and each person who has donated to the fund. The certificate shall be signed by the President of the Western Society of Engineers and the Chairman of the Washington Award Commission.
4. The scope of this award is so broad that the Commission of Award should be guided by the spirit of the letter of the founder, and not by specific rule. Mr. Alvord's letter is attached hereto as an appendix. In the selection of the recipient of the award, there should be no limitation as to the education, membership in any society or organization, or the circumstances of employment or official position. The only qualification necessary shall be that the recipient be an engineer of some reasonable degree of professional skill or administrative attainment. It is the intent that this award shall be an honor conferred upon an engineer by his/ or her fellow engineers on account of accomplishments which preeminently promote the happiness, comfort and well-being of humanity.

The Washington Award Commission of 1977-78 interprets the intent of the award to require that a nominee be a person who has received an Engineering Degree or who has practiced Engineering or has administered significant Engineering activities.

It is suggested that for the earlier awards only citizens or residents of the United States be considered.

5. The Commission of Award shall be made up as follows: By thirteen members of the Western Society of Engineers and by two members each of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical and Petroleum Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers and the American Nuclear Society.

Four members of this Commission of Award shall be elected each year by the Western Society of Engineers, one to be a Past President of the Society, one to be a member of the Board of Direction, They shall serve for three years.

The two members at large shall be nominated and elected in the same manner and at the same time as the officers of the Western Society of Engineers. The member from the Board of Direction shall be elected by the Board of Direction at the June Board meeting.

One additional member, who is neither a Past President nor at the time of election a member of the Board nor a candidate therefor, shall be elected every third year to serve for three years.

One member of each of the six other societies shall be elected each year, to serve for no more than a three year term.

The new members of the Commission of Award shall take office before September 1, coinciding with the date of the first Commission meeting.

6. The Chairman of the Commission of Award shall be the immediate past president of the Western Society of Engineers.
7. The Secretary of the Western Society of Engineers shall be the Secretary of the Commission of Award and when necessary may use the employees of the Western Society of Engineers
8. The recipient of the Washington Award shall be selected by the Commission of Award from an Eligible List which is determined by the action of the preceding Commissions as set forth in Section 9.

The Secretary shall send to each member of the Commission a first ballot containing the names of those on the Eligible List, together with the qualifications of the candidates in the form established for this purpose. On this first ballot, each member will vote for three candidates on the list indicating the order of his choice by the letters A, B and C, respectively. In compiling the poll of first ballot, the Secretary shall send a report of the balloting to the members of the Commission. The Commission shall meet within 10 days of the Secretary's Report to canvass, review and discuss the results of the first ballot. Following the meeting of the Commission, the Secretary shall send a second ballot which shall contain the names of not less than two candidates selected for the ballot at the meeting of the Commission. If on the second ballot no candidate received the votes of two-thirds of the members of the Commission, the Secretary shall then send a third ballot containing the names of the candidates receiving the two highest number of votes. On the third ballot, members of the Commission shall vote for one of the two candidates on the ballot, but may, however, if they choose, indicate their acceptance of the other candidate as an alternate. A candidate to be elected as recipient of the Award shall receive the votes of two-thirds of the members of the Commission. If on the third ballot, a recipient is not elected, the Award will be omitted for the year.

9. The effect of the actions of the Commission of Award in any year on the Eligible List to be used by the succeeding Commission is as follows:
 - Each fiscal year, the Commission of Award shall consider names brought to its attention as possible recipients of the Award. The qualifications of these candidates shall be submitted to the members of the Commission on the approved nomination for by the end of June. The information thus submitted shall not exceed three typewritten pages in length. The nominations will be deemed eligible by an affirmative vote of a majority of members of the Commission of Award. Voting for eligibility will take place in July. At that time, the Commission will also vote whether to remove existing nominations from eligibility or place prior candidates back on the eligibility list.
10. The Commission of Award shall present its report to the Board of Direction of the Western Society of Engineers at the regular meeting of the Board in December, which report shall be final as to the award and shall be accepted by the Board of Direction for the Western Society of Engineers.

The report of the Commission of Award shall include the suggestions by the Commission as to the proper text to be used in the Certificate of Award in setting forth the nature of the services rendered by the recipient for which the award is made.

11. The Board of Direction of the Western Society of Engineers, in cooperation with the Chairman of the Commission making the Award, will arrange for the preparation of an appropriate certificate and of the token of Award.
12. The formal presentation of the Award shall be a joint meeting of the engineering societies represented of the Commission to be held at a date convenient to the recipient of the Award and adjacent to Washington's birthday. It shall be understood, however, that as a condition of the Award, the presence of the recipient at the formal presentation is required.

At this meeting the findings of the Commission of Award will be formally reported by the Chairman of the Commission making the Award and the Certificate and the Token of the Award will be presented to the recipient by the President of the Western Society of Engineers. The program of this meeting will include other addresses appropriate to the occasion.

13. The Commission of Award may, by a two-thirds vote, recommend to the Board of Direction of the Western Society of Engineers any modification of these rules, that is not inconsistent with the purpose of this Award.

Adopted- December 13, 1916

Amended- November 19, 1919
June 4, 1920
June 1, 1925
January 29, 1933
November 5, 1936
July 26, 1937
December 17, 1948
September 8, 1954
December 29, 1955
January 19, 1976
December 2, 1976
December 11, 1979
June 2000

"The President and Board of Direction, Western Society of Engineers
Gentlemen:

"It has long been my observation that there are numerous instances where the engineer serves the public amid many difficulties, and often in inconspicuous ways, but with such ability that he accomplishes some particularly valuable results for the benefit of the community. Such achievements are only known, and not always properly acknowledged even by the profession to which he belongs. And they not infrequently entirely escape public notice.

"Further, it is well known that great benefits often accrue to the public at large through valuable improvements in the arts and their adaptation to the public use and need, and that these improvements are at times given by engineers to the public use without personal reward or gain.

"Finally, there is a class of engineers who, although substantially rewarded in a material way by the success of their work, nevertheless have accomplished so much for the world about them in vitally important and far-reaching ways that they are deserving further of special honor for their accomplishments. It is not always clearly perceived that almost all engineers serve the public directly or indirectly, and the field for useful public service is therefore about as wide as the profession. And it would appear that it is one of the important duties of engineering societies to point out their membership and to the public such instances of engineering and administrative skill as seem to have unusual merit in order that honor may properly be accorded where it is due.

"Being desirous of promoting a better appreciation by the public of able work accomplished by engineers for the public welfare, and further, of encouraging among engineers themselves a broader understanding of their opportunities for public usefulness, I desire to see established by the Western Society of Engineers an honor award by medal or other tribute to be annually presented to that engineer whose particular work in some special instance, or whose services in general have been noteworthy for their merit in promoting the public good. I should be pleased if the recipient of this honor be not limited by Western Society membership, or, in fact, be restricted by any society or locality requirements. The only qualifications suggested are that he be an engineer of some reasonable degree of professional skill or administrative attainment. It would appear that the award will serve its purpose wisely if at times it was worthily bestowed upon comparatively little-known instances of public and professional devotion, as well as at other times upon more conspicuous services.

"I trust, therefore, that the Western Society of Engineers through its Board of Direction, may be willing and enabled to administer some program of this kind in such manner and in such instances as from time to time may seem to the Board of Direction best and most fitting. And for the purpose of enabling the Society to have an income sufficient to at least make a beginning, I take pleasure in donating to it unreservedly the sum of one thousand dollars in securities.

"Respectfully submitted,
John W. Alvord"