

APWA Florida Chapter Awards Program

We want your nominations

The Florida Chapter's Award Program offers an excellent opportunity to recognize projects, individuals, and firms for a job well done!

Each year the Florida Chapter recognizes the awardees at our Annual Expo. Applicants of parallel National Award categories may also be eligible for submittal with Chapter endorsement for National Awards.

Self-nominations for Florida Awards are permitted.

Individual Awards shall be sent to parrisha1a@gmail.com

Project, Contractor and Consultant award nominations shall be submitted to Kyle Scott at: KScott@baxterwoodman.com!

Award Levels

There are three (3) levels of awards, i.e., awards that can be awarded at the Chapter *and* National level, awards that are awarded at the Chapter level only, and awards that are awarded at the National level only. Please check each level carefully and prepare your award submissions accordingly. Each of these levels has their own requirements and submission deadlines. Our Awards Committee members are available to assist you in sorting out the levels and categories within those levels so your submissions will fit in the best possible category. You are welcome to submit awards in more than one category or level. You can submit awards directly to the National office; however, we *highly recommend* that you contact our Awards Committee before doing so. There is a complexity in doing that, and we can assist you in preparing more competitive submissions.

Award Submission Deadlines

Group 1, National and Florida Chapter Award: **February 9th, 2024.**

Group 2, Florida Chapter Award: **February 9th, 2024.**

Group 3, National Award*: **March 4th, 2024**

*For awards that are **not** considered for Florida Chapter awards. Florida and National have varying categories that don't always align.

APWA Florida Chapter Awards Program

Group One: National and Florida Chapter Award

Submission Date: February 9th, 2024

The categories of awards at this level can be submitted for *both* Chapter and National recognition. These awards are awarded at both levels. If your submission is selected for Chapter level recognition, our Chapter leadership will automatically consider forwarding for the National competition. It is not necessary to have a Florida endorsement to submit to National, but Florida Chapter endorsement is highly recommended. If you submit an award to the National APWA offices before obtaining a Florida Chapter endorsement, we cannot add it to your submittal. The files become locked once they are submitted. That's why we need to endorse your award *before* it's submitted for National consideration.

For information concerning the submission of **National and Florida Chapter Awards**, please check the National APWA website at:

http://www.apwa.net/MYAPWA/About/Awards/MyApwa/Apwa_Public/About/Awards.aspx?hkey=fc7361ea-1f80-492f-a41a-98620053a187

Cut and paste the link in your browser if it does not work.

There is a link on that page that will take you to each individual award for the Forms and Criteria you will need to use. Awards in this Group are to be submitted using the National forms *and* the National award submission criteria! **NOTE:** Submit the National forms to our Florida Chapter Awards Committee for consideration. **DO NOT SUBMIT GROUP ONE AWARDS TO NATIONAL IF YOU WANT THEM TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FLORIDA CHAPTER AWARDS.**

Also note that some of the requirements have changed for some of these awards. Helpful hints in submitting these awards can be found at:

https://clr.apwa.net/MYAPWA/About/Awards/Hints_and_Tips/MyApwa/Apwa_Public/About/Hints_and_Tips.aspx?hkey=f1c825b4-8e55-4f66-9eee-516d197703e3

Cut and paste the link in your browser if it does not work.

Your award submissions will be much more competitive if you carefully read the individual award criteria and deliberately and sufficiently respond to each of the criteria requirements. It would be very helpful if you made titles in your submission for each of the criteria you describe. For project nominations, please attach detailed information on the project results, any unique aspects of the project, including budget information and funding sources, grants, partnerships, schedule data, and high-resolution photos. Attachments such as photos, charts, graphics, are strongly encouraged. See the National award criteria for more information.

For individual nominations, describe the reason why the nominee should be considered. Include accomplishments, recommendations, results of a specific action or project, or any information to help the Committee make the decision.

Please keep in mind the deadline is absolute and there will be no exceptions. Applications must be delivered by End of Day.

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Awards that can be submitted at the **National *and* Florida Chapter Level** are:

- All Project of the Year Award cost ranges in these categories:
 - Structures
 - Transportation
 - Environment
 - Historical Resolution/Preservation
 - Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair
- Community Involvement Award
- Diversity Exemplary Practices Awards
- Young Leader Award
- Technical Innovation Awards
- Management Innovation Awards
- Professional Manager of the Year Award for Administrative Management

Please see the National website at the link above for more information about what is needed for each of these awards.

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Group Two: Florida Chapter Awards

Submission Date: February 9th, 2024

The awards in this category can *only* be submitted for Florida Chapter awards. These awards do not have a National counterpart. There is no specific format in which to submit these awards, but limit your submittal to the descriptions listed for these awards. Also, include contact information about the nominee and the submitter / contact person, i.e., Name, Address, Agency, Phone Numbers, email address, etc.

We strongly encourage nominations in all of the following Florida Chapter Award Level awards that can *only* be awarded from our Chapter:

- Florida Chapter "Contractor" of the Year Award in these categories:
 - Building and Grounds
 - Roads and Highways
 - Solid Waste
 - Wastewater / Water
 - Stormwater
- Florida Chapter "Consultant" of the Year Award in these categories:
 - Building and Grounds
 - Roads and Highways
 - Solid Waste
 - Wastewater / Water
 - Stormwater
- Florida Chapter Award of Excellence
- Florida Chapter Meritorious Services Award
- Presidential Award for Branch Excellence
- Mac Ulsch Award
- Ben Pratt Award
- Anthony W. Leffin Lifetime Achievement Award
- Legislator of the Year Award
- Orange Heart Medal
- The President's Award

Group Two Award Descriptions:

Contractor of the Year. These prestigious awards are presented to the Contractor of the Year in one of the following categories:

- Building and Grounds
- Roads and Highways
- Solid Waste
- Wastewater/Water
- Stormwater

Documented project successes as well as client/customer/public agency endorsements are required.

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Consultant of the Year. These notable awards are presented to the Consultant of the Year in one of the following categories:

- Building and Grounds
- Roads and Highways
- Solid Waste
- Wastewater/Water
- Stormwater

Documented project successes as well as client/customer/public agency endorsements are required.

Florida Chapter Award of Excellence. This award is presented to individual(s) who have volunteered services or assistance under special conditions as representative(s) of the Florida Chapter.

President's Award for Branch Excellence. This award recognizes Florida Chapter Branches for contributions made to positively impact their membership, profession, and community. There are four categories in which the branch is evaluated. Each category has specific goals that are used to evaluate the branch's programs and services to the membership and community. All branches, regardless of size, are strongly encouraged to submit for this award.

The criteria for this award are as follows:

- Membership:
 - Document net Membership gain/retention
 - Outline membership recruitment events
 - Evidences of innovative membership development and retention efforts regardless of whether net growth has occurred
- Service to Chapter Members:
 - Number of members attending meetings/events
 - Member-to-Member Outreach - Defined as member surveys, newsletters, meeting notices, member welcome packages, annual meetings, educational opportunities, leadership training, etc.
 - Evidence that the branch is successfully meeting APWA Chapter
- Best Practices:
 - Branch to Branch Outreach - Defined as ranging from combined meetings with other Branches to successful programs that can be applied to other Branches
 - Diversity/Inclusiveness programs or activities
- Advancement of Public Works:
 - Awards/recognition programs - Defined as branch/chapter/national awards recognizing members/nonmembers
 - Public Works Promotion - Defined as National Public Works Week, educational outreach, and other programs geared to promote the profession
 - Professional Development - Defined as branches that promoted the development of its members through educational and scholarship opportunities
 - Creative Innovation - Definition has been left open to allow for any innovative programs and opportunities that call attention to public works in a positiveway

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- Service to the Community
 - Education Outreach Programs - Outside scholarships, partnerships schools/universities, mentoring programs, shadow-days, etc.
 - Community Service Programs - Participation in the community as a branch of APWA, including partnering with other service organizations such as Harvesters, Red Cross, United Way, Habitat for Humanity, etc.
 - Environmental Enhancement – Adopt-a-Highway programs, environmental cleanup, participation in Earth Day, recycling education, etc.

Any number of deserving Branches can receive the PABE each year while only one Branch will receive the "Branch of the Year" Award.

- Mac Ulsch Award. Mr. Mac Ulsch, better known as Uncle Mac, was instrumental in getting the Florida Chapter their "Charter" from National APWA back in 1961. Mac was extremely active on the Chapter and National level. He was honored by National for his 41 consecutive meetings without an absence and for his untiring efforts on behalf of the Membership Committee he chaired.

One story told was, Mac would sit in the lobby of the hotel and greet every member as they would come in to register for the state convention. He would do the same for the Executive Meetings. He knew everyone involved by their first and last name and even went as far as knowing their wife's and children's names. For thirty-some odd years he worked tirelessly for Dempsey Dumpster as a sales representative before retiring. Back in the late 60's and early 70's he was asked if he would consider being Florida President but felt "he could do more with his time moving through the shadows". This award named in his memory and honor and is one of the longest running awards for the Florida Chapter. It is presented to a member who has shown long term, outstanding, on-going, dedication, and excellent service to the Florida Chapter.

- Ben Pratt Award. Ben Pratt was a long-time member of the West Coast Branch where he served the branch in each of the officer's positions. He then moved on to the Florida Chapter where he served on many committees either as a committee member or committee chair. In 1984-85 he served as District Representative for Region IX, later moved on to be Vice President of the Chapter in 1986-87, then served as President of the Chapter in 1987-88. After serving as President he then became Secretary of the Chapter. APWA has recognized Ben for several prestigious Chapter awards and several national awards most notably in 1982 as Top Ten Public Works Leader, in 1983 as Florida Member of the Year, and in 1991 for the Swearingen Award for Chapter Excellence. Ben was very active with the Boy Scouts of America and many other youth programs. Ben was a friend to many and a gentleman to all who had the pleasure of knowing him. This award named in his memory and honor and given to an individual in recognition of their support of APWA's national, state, and professional goals. Applications for this award should indicate membership activities, branch activities, attendance at chapter events, and support for public works.

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- Anthony W. Leffin Lifetime Achievement Award. Tony Leffin was a long-time member of APWA, who during his tenure had excelled to the top of the APWA ranks in every fashion possible. He was a leader in his field, in his community, and in his life. Having held practically every position within the Branch and the Chapter, being the Florida Chapter Past President, rising to the top as the Chair for the House of Delegates on the National level, being a multi-award winner in the Florida Chapter and being a Top Ten Public Works Leader, Tony was the exemplary model of what an APWA champion should be. In honor of his memory, this award is given each year to the most deserving of long term members having met the following most stringent criteria.

This award seeks to inspire excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing the outstanding career service achievements of an individual public works professional. The primary focus of the award is on career service to the public works profession rather than on any one single event or project. It is the intent of this award to recognize the career service accomplishments of a public works professional. The candidate must be an active member in the year he or she is considered. This award is restricted to the most elite of those who have illustrated public works leadership throughout their career. Candidates should have 20 years or more of service in the public works field as well as 20 years or more membership in APWA; they should have been an active member, a strong or key sponsor of APWA during their tenure, and should have held key positions in the branch, chapter, or national offices; they should have made significant contributions to all levels of APWA on branch, chapter, and national efforts; being a prior award winner of other awards, although not required, will be considered in the evaluation; they should have exhibited other community service activities; and branch endorsement is strongly recommended.

- Legislator of the Year Award. This award is given annually to the Florida legislator who best supports the programs and activities of Public Works in Florida. The candidate for this award does not have to be a member of APWA, but this person must show legislative leadership for Public Works through legislative actions, personal guidance or support, championship, or otherwise active involvement in Public Works.
- Orange Heart Medal. This medal is awarded to public works employees who show meritorious service in emergency situations. Typically, this may include extraordinary or life-saving actions on behalf of the recipient.
- The President's Award. This special award is selected solely at the discretion of the Florida Chapter President. It is to be presented to individual(s) or organization who have supported the president before or during his/her tenure, who were instrumental in his/her successes or the successes of the Chapter during the past year. This award does not have to be issued to an APWA member. This recipient of this award will be kept in confidence and announced at the annual award ceremony.

Please keep in mind the deadline is absolute and there will be no exceptions. Applications must be delivered by End of Day. Group Two Award Submissions are to be submitted with Florida Chapter Awards Form. ***Refer to the form attached to this document.***

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Group Three: National Award

Submission Date: March 4th, 2024

*For awards that are **not** considered for Florida Chapter awards. Submit directly to National.

The awards in this category can *only* be submitted for National consideration. There is no Florida Chapter Level award equivalent for these categories. Check the National APWA website for information about submitting these awards at:

https://www.apwa.net/MYAPWA/About/Awards/MyApwa/Apwa_Public/About/Awards.aspx?%20hkey=fc7361ea-1f80-492f-a41a-98620053a187

There is a link on that page that will take you to each individual award for the Forms and Criteria you will need to use. **Note:** Awards at this level are to be submitted using the National forms *and* the National award submission criteria! Although you do not have to submit the National Award Level Submissions to our Florida Chapter Awards Committee for consideration, we can give you constructive advice before they are submitted Nationally. Also note that some of the requirements have changed for some of these awards.

Helpful hints in submitting these awards can be found at:

https://clr.apwa.net/MYAPWA/About/Awards/Hints_and_Tips/MyApwa/Apwa_Public/About/Hints_and_Tips.aspx?hkey=f1c825b4-8e55-4f66-9eee-516d197703e3

Your award submissions will be much more competitive if you carefully read the individual award criteria and deliberately and sufficiently respond to each of the criteria requirements. It would be very helpful if you made titles in your submission for each of the criteria you describe.

Awards that can *only* be submitted at the **National Award Level** are:

- Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year
- Sustainability Practices Award
- Public Works Project of the year for Small Cities/Rural Communities
- Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence
- Commendation for Exemplary Service to Public Works
- Exceptional Performance Award in:
 - Adversity or Diversity
 - Journalism
 - Chapter Journalism
 - Safety
 - Sustainability

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- Professional Manager of the Year Award for:
 - Engineering and Technology
 - Facilities and Grounds
 - Public Fleet
 - Public Right-of-Way
 - Public Works Emergency Management
 - Solid Waste
 - Transportation
 - Water Resources
- Charles Walter Nichols Award for Environmental Excellence
- Distinguished Service to Public Works Award
- Donald C. Stone Award for Excellence in Education
- Harry S. Swearingen Award for Outstanding Chapter Achievement and Excellence in Chapter Service
- International Service Award

Please keep in mind the deadline is absolute and there will be no exceptions. Applications must be delivered by End of Day.

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The Florida Chapter (and National) will be accepting digital/electronic medium **ONLY**. FTP sites, e-mails and OneDrive links are acceptable methods for file transfer. Materials will not be returned and may be used in APWA newsletters, websites, or other marketing and promotional APWA uses. Your submittal provides implied and expressed permission for said use by APWA. All decisions by the Florida Chapter and National Awards Committees are final and not subject to appeal. Any awards that are suitable for National submittals may be forwarded unless otherwise noted.

For additional information about the Awards Program and questions about how to submit an award nomination, please contact the Florida Chapter Awards Committee member Kyle Scott at KScott@baxterwoodman.com, or at awards@apwaflorida.org. You may also contact Awards Committee Member Althea Parrish at parrisha1a@gmail.com.

Thank you for your participation in this program and good luck.