

We want your nominations NOW!

The Florida Chapter's award program is one of the largest and most robust awards programs in all of the APWA. It consists of dozens of awards given at the Branch and Chapter level in more than 60 categories each year. Florida chapter members, government agencies, and their consultants and contractors are all eligible to be recognized for the outstanding service and projects they provide to our residents.

The awards program begins at the local level for most awards and progresses through the state level and then they are forwarded to the national APWA awards program for many of the awards. There are slight differences in some of the awards as they are given at the three levels. Some of the Florida Branches have specialized award categories that are not recognized at the Chapter or National levels. The Florida Chapter has some of its own specialized awards, and some of the National awards are only given out at that level.

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 Conference and Exposition (<http://www.floridapublicworksexpo.com>). 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.

Award Groups

There are **three** groups of awards.

Group One Awards

These awards can be awarded at the Chapter *and* National level.

Group Two Awards

These awards are awarded *only* at the Chapter level.

Group Three Awards

These awards are *only* awarded at the National level.

Please check each group of awards carefully and prepare your award submissions accordingly. Each of these groups has their own requirements and submission deadlines. Our Awards Committee members are available to assist you in sorting out the groups and categories within them so your submissions will fit in the best possible category. You are welcome to submit awards in more than one category or group. 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. Also, by submitting directly to National, you may not get an endorsement from our Chapter. All endorsements must be submitted at the same time as the award is submitted.

Group One Award Submissions

The categories of awards at this level can be submitted for both Chapter *and* National recognition. These awards are awarded at both of these levels. If your submission is selected for Chapter level recognition, our Chapter leadership will automatically consider forwarding it 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 Group One 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

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:

http://www.apwa.net/Library/about/awards/2017/17.Helpful_Hints_and_Tips_for_Awards.pdf

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 absolute deadline for National and Florida Chapter award submittals is:

February 1st, 2018

There will be no exceptions! Applications must be delivered and in our hands (or more correctly, to our computers) by close of business on this day.

Group One Awards are the following:

- 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.

Group Two Award Submissions

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, Group Two 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.

- 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 a service provider, vendor, contractor, sponsor, or organization that has significantly promoted and supported the Florida Chapter.
- Florida Chapter Meritorious Services Award. 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 positive way
- Service to the Community
 - Education Outreach Programs – Outside scholarships, partnerships with 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.
- 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 absolute deadline for Group Two award submittals is:

March 1st, 2018

There will be no exceptions! Applications must be delivered and in our hands (or more correctly, to our computers) by close of business on that day. Group Two Award Submissions are to be submitted with Florida Chapter Awards Form found at this link:

Group Three Award Submissions

The awards in this group 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:

http://www.apwa.net/MYAPWA/About/Awards/MyApwa/Apwa_Public/About/Awards.aspx?hkey=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:

http://www.apwa.net/Library/about/awards/2017/17.Helpful_Hints_and_Tips_for_Awards.pdf

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 o Diversity
 - Journalism
 - Chapter Journalism
 - Safety
 - Sustainability
- 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 absolute deadline for Group Three award submittals is:

March 1st, 2018

There will be no exceptions! Applications must be delivered and in National's hands (or more correctly, to their computers) by close of business on that day. If you would like our Florida Awards Committee to review and assist you in submitting an award in the National Award Level, please submit them to the Florida Chapter Awards Committee by February 10th, 2018!

THERE WILL BE NO PAPER SUBMITTALS FOR ANY AWARDS!

The Florida Chapter (and National) will be accepting digital/electronic medium ONLY. CDs, thumb drives, and FTP sites 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 for National competition by the Florida Chapter Awards Committee unless otherwise noted.

For additional information about the Awards Program, please contact the Florida Chapter Awards Chairman Don Jacobovitz at 386-916-7381 (c), e-mail: donjacobovitz@aol.com or at awards@apwafloida.org. You may also contact Bill Vest, the Co-Chairman of the Awards Committee at vestwd@cdmsith.com, or Awards Committee Member Althea Parrish at althea.parrish@sanfordfl.gov if you have any questions about how to submit an award nomination.

Thank you for your participation in this program,

Don Jacobovitz, PE, PWLF

Florida Chapter Awards Chairperson