



WSHNA Awards

Presented by Bruce Wind, Director of Communication.

Presented to WSHNA Board on May 11, 2009, Bellingham, Washington.

At our last board meeting I was tasked with developing a WSHNA awards program. However, in my humble opinion awards have become too common. For example, my agency, the Seattle Police Department, has an annual award banquet sponsored by the Seattle Police Foundation. The Foundation is a civilian non-profit organization which was formed by private citizens and corporations who provide grants to various units in the department. Each year the Foundation sponsors a formal banquet where awards, many awards, are given to members of the Seattle Police Department. When you give too many awards, it lessens the value of each award.

For your consideration, I have established two award categories for our organization. I submit the following for your review.

Each award may be given annually and will be presented at our annual conference. Please note that I said may be given and there is no requirement to present the award every year. To avoid our awards from becoming a requirement rather than a true recognition of outstanding behavior it should not be mandatory that each award is given annually. Two awards will be established;

WSHNA Distinguished Service Award

The WSHNA Distinguished Service Award is established to recognize an outstanding event of crisis negotiations. Regardless of the type of incident, i.e. suicide intervention, barricaded subject, or hostage taking, this award is meant to recognize a single event where the negotiator exemplified him/herself by utilizing negotiation skills to resolve an event. This award can be given to any negotiator who is recognized as such by their law enforcement or correction agency. While realizing that a successful negotiation is many times accomplished by a team effort, this award can be given to a team, as well as an individual. (However, keeping in mind our underlying tenet that less is better.)

Recipients of the WSHNA Distinguished Service Award must be past or present members of WSHNA and may be submitted by anyone with sufficient knowledge of the event in question. The nomination must be signed by two people, at least one member in good standing of WSHNA.

WSHNA President's Award

The WSHNA President's Award is established to recognize an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Western States Hostage Negotiators' Association or a significant contribution to the art of police crisis negotiations in general. WSHNA recognizes that in any organization or in any endeavor there are persons who consistently come to the forefront to offer time and energy. Through the President's Award WSHNA will strive to recognize some of those dedicated individuals.

Recipients of the WSHNA President's Award are not limited to members of WSHNA. However, nominations must be submitted by two people and one person must be a member in good standing of WSHNA.

Awards Panel

Nominations for the Distinguished Service Award and for the President's Award must be submitted to the Director of Communications no later than April 1 of any year. The Director of Communications will then convene a meeting of the Executive Board (President, Vice President East, Vice-President West, Vice-President of Events, Secretary/Treasurer, and Director of Communications) to review and discuss any nominations received. If more than one nomination is received for a category, then the Executive Board will vote to establish the award winner. It is not required that Distinguished Service Award or the President's Award be awarded each year.

It will be the decision of the Executive Board what will represent the award and actually be given to recipients, i.e. plaque, certificate, monetary amount, gift certificate, etc.

Approved by WSHNA Board of Directors, May 11, 2009