

American Academy of Sanitarians Davis Calvin Wagner Award

Background

The Davis Calvin Wagner Award represents the highest honor the American Academy of Sanitarians bestows upon a Diplomate. The Award is conferred for exceptional leadership ability, professional commitment, outstanding resourcefulness, dedication and accomplishments in advancing the Sanitarian profession and public health programs. The recipient is presented with a plaque and a \$500 honorarium. The Davis Calvin Wagner Award is presented at the Academy reception that is held at the Annual Educational Conference of the National Environmental Health Association.

The Davis Calvin Wagner Award was established by the American Academy of Sanitarians in 1980 as a result of a \$10,000 bequest from the late Carruth J. Wagner, M.D. (1918 – 2002) in memory of his deceased brother, Davis Calvin Wagner. Dr. Wagner contributed an additional \$1,000 in 1999 to ensure the perpetuity of this award fund. Dr. Wagner had a long and distinguished career in preventive medicine and public health. He served as Assistant Surgeon General and Director of the Indian Health Service. He also held the position of Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Throughout his career, he championed and advanced the Sanitarian profession as being a leading and vital member of the public health team. He was noted for his appointments of exceptionally qualified Sanitarians to key positions in federal public health programs. Dr. Wagner was also dedicated to the education and training of health professionals and established numerous scholarships for medical and nursing students. His legacy of providing scholarships is continued through the Carruth J. Wagner, M.D. Foundation.

Nominations and Eligibility

Professional environmental and public health associations at the local, state, or federal level, supervisors, or individual Diplomates of the Academy may nominate candidates. Nominators are responsible for submitting **three copies** of the nomination to the Award Manager by April 15th. Nomination packages should be mailed to the following address:

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SANITARIANS
c/o Gary P. Noonan
1568 Le Grand Circle
Lawrenceville, GA 30043-8191**

Nomination packages received after April 15th or packages not containing three complete copies of the nomination will not be considered.

To be eligible for the Wagner Award a nominee must:

- Be a Diplomate in good standing of the American Academy of Sanitarians;
- Be actively engaged in the field of environmental or public health;
- Have performed professional duties in the field of environmental or public health above and beyond the usual employment requirements so as to elevate the professional status of the Sanitarian;
- Not be an incumbent of one of the Academy Offices: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, or Secretary/Treasurer.

Nomination Package

1. The following format is to be used for submission of all nominations. Information should be organized in the order presented.

- a. General

The first item in the package must be a letter from the individual or organization making the formal nomination. The letter should no more than three pages long and should provide a few personal facts about the nominee and give a general overview of the reason for his/her nomination.

- b. Education

Provide a listing of formal education as well as special training and experience. Special training should include only training that results in a credential, such as registration or certification. Do not list individual courses or continuing education units.

- c. Employment History

Provide a record of places of employment including scope of responsibilities. A well-written curriculum vita would be helpful here, but is not required.

- d. Professional Association Activities

Provide a description of organizational affiliations, detailing length of membership, offices held and committee responsibilities, etc.

e. Publications

Provide a listing of publications and major oral presentations. For written material, include the dates when they were written and where the article was published. Unpublished work may also be listed, provided sufficient information is given for the Committee to determine the document's relevance and importance to the practice of environmental or public health. Also provide the dates and audience to which the oral presentation was made.

f. Other Information

Discuss significant contributions to the professional development of Sanitarians and/or community service that are not covered above. Such contributions might include civic, church, school or other activities or affiliations.

g. Letters of Reference, Recommendation and Endorsement

Provide a minimum of three letters of reference, to include a letter from the nominee's immediate supervisor and at least two individuals who are well acquainted with the nominee's work. Any other significant support documents that will be of assistance in rating the individual should also be included, such as letters of appreciation/commendation and awards received.

2. Those who prepare a nomination package should keep the following points in mind:

a. The Committee, when making the decision as to whom will receive the award is limited to the contents of the support documents as its sole source of information. The information provided should accurately describe the nominee's contributions as measured against the listed criteria, and should be provided in accordance with the established format so the Committee will not have to search for relevant information.

b. It takes a carefully prepared and completed document to effectively portray a positive image of the nominee. It can reflect how colleagues view him or her.

c. The judges, all former Wagner winners, look for quality, information on how the nominee impacts those around him or her, and how he or she contributes in valuable ways to improving environmental or public health.

- d. Weight and volume by itself is not necessarily persuasive.

Evaluation

The Davis Calvin Wagner Award Selection Committee shall consist of three voting members and the Award Manager. Voting members of the Selection Committee will consist of the previous three Award Recipients, with the Award Manager being appointed by the Academy Chairperson. The Award Manager will manage the Committee operation but will not be a voting member of the Committee. The following timetable will govern the selection process:

Publication of the call for nominations and application procedures in the Journal of Environmental Health November-December issue

Deadline for receiving nominations April 15th

Final selection of Award winner and notification of the Academy Chairperson May 15th

Obtain plaque, write appropriate letters, and complete arrangements for presenting the Award June 1st

Official presentation of the Award at the Wagner Award Reception NEHA Annual Educational Conference (June or July)

Based on the majority vote of the Committee one individual will be selected to receive the Award from among the nominations presented. Each Committee member will rate the nominees separately and rank each candidate on the basis on the scores received. If one name appears on the top of two or more lists of the three Committee members, that individual is named the winner. If no one person has been selected by this initial process as the clear winner, then the Award Manager will ask for a re-rating of each of the three individuals appearing at the top of each of the rating sheets, and continue this process until one nominee has been selected by two of the Committee participants. In the event of a tie concerning nominees, the Committee must determine only one individual as the Award Winner. Duplicate awards should not be given.

The Award Manager or Academy Chairperson will make the Award presentation at the Wagner Award Reception held in conjunction with the NEHA Annual Education Conference.