

HEALTH LEADER OF THE YEAR

The COA Health Leader of the Year Award was established in 1987 to recognize individuals who have made notable contributions to the health of the Nation. The individual may, but does not have to be, a Commissioned Officer in the USPHS. Contributions can be in research, administration, service delivery or some other area of public health.

CRITERIA (revised in 2008):

1. Scientific and/or clinical research - Research resulting in a significant advancement for human health, including: nutrition, disease eradication, advances in diagnosis or treatment of illness, and advances in the acquisition and/or utilization of information significantly impacting the human condition.
2. Administration - Conceiving and/or implementing a program of action that goes well beyond one's employment expectations and significantly impacts public health in the U.S.
3. Outstanding productivity, or delivery of service, over a career dedicated to the tenets of the entity served by the person.

Note 1: Consideration may be made on the basis of recent work, or work done over time, or a career.

Note 2: In evaluating the contributions of a Commissioned Officer, consideration should also be given to the officer's record, if known, in complying with the PHS uniform policy. While not determinative of an officer's eligibility, COA views the uniform as an important aspect of an officer's public service.

Note 3: While not absolutely determinative of the outcome, primary consideration should be given to the likelihood that the candidate will be able to attend the COA Annual Meeting to receive the award in person.

PROCESS

The full Awards Committee, or a subcommittee appointed by the Committee Chair, shall meet each year to consider candidates for the award. The practice of soliciting formal nominations from the COA membership, Agency Heads, etc. was discontinued previously, but those methods of soliciting nominations may be used at the Committees discretion. While the Committee will meet each year to review candidates, it is not necessary to select a recipient of the award every year. The Committee Chair will solicit all Board members for nominations. The members of the Committee, in addition to providing their own suggestions, may solicit recommendations from colleagues.

HLOY nominations should be limited to a single page outlining the accomplishments and contributions of the individual, and must be received by the stated deadline. The Committee will review and rank all nominations received. Once the Committee has agreed upon the top candidate for the award, the nomination package will then be presented to the COA Board, which will then concur/non-concur with the recommendation of the committee. Should the board non-concur with the committee's recommendation, the number two candidate will be presented for concurrence/non-concurrence, etc.

The award consists of a suitably engraved marble obelisk`. When possible it is presented by the Surgeon General.