

NEA-ALASKA AWARD POLICY
SECTION IV: PROGRAM

G. AWARDS

1. General Procedures

- a. Nomination forms will be available from any NEA-Alaska office and on the NEA-Alaska website.
- b. Nominations for all awards except ESP of the Year (see G, 2 D, Procedures) must be received by the NEA-Alaska president by October 15.
- c. Selection committees, appointed by the president, shall be composed of at least three members of the Board of Directors. Wherever possible, the selection committee should be comprised of members of the Board's relevant DA cognate committee; whenever feasible the selection committee shall include past recipient(s) of the award. Selection committees may meet electronically. Committees will present their recommended award winners to the Board of Directors for action at the November Board meeting.
- d. The Board of Directors may choose not to select a recipient for any award from the nominations received in any given year.
- e. All individual award recipients who are NEA-Alaska members shall receive a plaque and an honorarium of \$500, with the exception of the ESP and the Teacher of the Year who shall each receive \$2,500. Recipients of external awards shall receive a plaque. The Outstanding Local Association award shall receive a certificate.
- f. All award recipients shall be invited to attend DA, either in person or electronically. If an award recipient who is an NEA-Alaska member has no plans to attend DA, NEA-Alaska shall pay expenses and travel and one night's hotel accommodation unless other funds are available. (See Exemplary Student Award for exception.)
- g. When an award named for a particular person is presented, a brief description of that person's contributions to NEA-Alaska should be read.
- h. When each award is presented, the president should ask previous recipients of that award who are present to stand and be recognized.
- i. A perpetual plaque listing the names and locals of the recipients of each award will be displayed in each NEA-Alaska office.

2. Awards

A. Hall of Fame Award

1. Hall of Fame Award

Purpose: To honor those people who have made major contributions over their careers to NEA-Alaska as an organization.

Criteria:

- a) The nominee shall be/have been a member of NEA-Alaska during his/her career or made a significant contribution to NEA-Alaska as an organization.

- b) As a result of the nominee's commitment and effort, a significant change in education should have occurred which has had a positive and lasting effect on the teachers of Alaska.

Procedures:

- a) Not more than one recipient per year will be selected for the Hall of Fame. However, under extenuating circumstances, the Board of Directors may approve more than one request.
- b) Whenever a new person is inducted into the Hall of Fame, the entire list of Hall of Fame members shall be displayed and/or read and those present will stand and be recognized.

B. Human Relations and Civil Rights Awards

1. Emily Ivanoff Ticasuk Brown Award for Human Rights

Emily Ivanoff Ticasuk Brown (1904-1982) was an outstanding Alaskan Native educator, poet, and writer. She recorded and published her people's history, worked in developing a curriculum guide for teaching in Inupiaq Eskimo language in the elementary schools, organized the Alaska Heritage Writers Association, and worked to improve communication among her people and increase general appreciation of Native cultures by initiating a project to produce an Eskimo encyclopedia.

Purpose: To recognize distinguished Alaskan ethnic minorities who have made outstanding contributions to education in Alaska.

Criteria: To be eligible for this award, one or more of the following criteria must be met. The nominee must have worked to achieve one or more of the following goals:

- a) Preservation of the Alaskan Native culture.
- b) Understanding and appreciation of the heritage of Alaskan Natives.
- c) Classroom and/or community achievement.
- d) Improved intergroup relations and understanding between Native and non-Native students through school and community program.
- e) Equal educational opportunity for Native students.
- f) Development of effective multicultural learning materials.
- g) Increased funding for Native educational programs.
- h) Elimination of the misuse of federal funds set aside for Alaska Native students and Native education programs.

National Nominee: The winner of the Emily Ivanoff Ticasuk Brown Memorial Award will be NEA-Alaska's nominee for the NEA Leo Reano Award.

2. Vide Bartlett Memorial Award for Women's Rights

Vide Bartlett (1904-1976) was an Alaskan educator. She served on the University of Alaska Board of Regents, vigorously seeking legislative funding for educational programs. She was very active in Alaskan politics and was married to the late US Senator Bob Bartlett.

Purpose: To recognize NEA-Alaska members who have demonstrated leadership and creativity in advancing the rights of women in Alaska.

Criteria: To be eligible for this award, an individual member must have worked to achieve one or more of the following goals:

- a) Equal hiring and promotional practices for women.
- b) Elimination of gender stereotyping in the classroom, in materials used, and in teacher and student attitudes.
- c) Compensatory programs for girls in non-traditional fields of study and careers.
- d) Increase public awareness of the status of women.
- e) Equal opportunities for girls in school expenditures, athletics, and all types of training.

National Nominee: The winner of the Vide Bartlett Award will be NEA-Alaska's nominee for the NEA award for creative leadership in Women's Rights.

3. Willard Bowman Memorial Award for Human Rights

Willard Bowman was a legislator from Anchorage who helped draft the Human Rights Bill that created the State Human Rights Commission and served as its first Executive Director. He was legislative chairman for the NAACP and he introduced and worked for legislation that promoted human rights.

Purpose: To recognize NEA-Alaska members who have demonstrated leadership in advancing the cause of human rights.

Criteria: To be eligible for this award, an individual member must have worked to achieve one or more of the following goals.

- a) Protection and advancement of the civil and human rights and responsibilities of educators.
- b) Elimination of discrimination in the hiring, displacement and all personnel practices of school boards.
- c) Equitable salaries and working conditions.
- d) Eradication of racial inequities in the education profession.
- e) Improved intergroup relations and understanding.
- f) Pride on the part of members of minority groups in their own cultures.
- g) Development of programs that will inform teachers about human rights and how they can be carried out.

- h) Development or implementation of programs that will inform teachers about human rights and how they can be carried out.
- i) Curriculum which promotes the concept of cultural pluralism.

National Nominee: The winner of the Willard Bowman Award will be NEA-Alaska's nominee for the NEA H. Council Trenholm Award.

C. Association Leadership Awards

1. Bettye Fahrenkamp Political Action Award

Bettye Fahrenkamp (1923-1991) was an educator, a member of the Fairbanks Education Association and NEA-Alaska, and an Alaskan legislator. At the local level, Bettye was PACE chair and an active education advocate. During her fourteen years as a member of the Alaskan senate, she was an outspoken and vigorous proponent for education issues, employees, and the children of Alaska. She introduced and worked diligently for bills that promoted education.

Purpose: To recognize an NEA-Alaska member who has made outstanding contributions in the areas of political action and legislative action which benefits the organization.

Criteria: To be eligible for this award, the NEA-Alaska member must have worked in three or more of the following areas:

- a) Served on a local or state PACE committee;
- b) Served as a member of the legislative contact structure;
- c) Worked on political fund-raising;
- d) Worked on local or statewide elections;
- e) Lobbied legislators;
- f) Helped to recruit candidates.

2. MacManus/Belts Award for Organizing and Advocacy

Peter MacManus (1936-1983) taught in Shugnuk from 1972 to 1976 then transferred to Ambler where he taught until his death in an air crash. He was active as an association advocate and organizer in rural Alaska. He was a pioneer of the bilingual "integrated" approach to curriculum and he actively worked to get state funding for bilingual education. During his professional career, he was constantly raising the issue of teacher rights – both individually and collectively. Peter had a strong desire to enhance the education, rights and benefits for teacher aides in bush Alaska. He was a strong proponent of organizing ESP as members of NEA-Alaska.

Frank Belts (1936-1993) was a teacher and coach in Montana before joining the Montana Education Association staff. In 1978, he moved to Fairbanks to become the business agent for the classified employees union in Fairbanks. In 1991, he joined NEA-Alaska as a UniServ Director. Frank was a "union man" in

the best sense. As a result of his aggressive leadership and determination to overcome adversity, the lives and working conditions of Alaska's school employees were greatly enhanced. He believed in people and their causes, and he was a tireless and committed fighter against injustice and inequality.

Purpose: To recognize a member of NEA-Alaska in the fields of Employee Rights and/or Association Advocacy.

Criteria: A nominee must be a recognized leader in local association activity and meet one or more of the following:

- a) Have been an outstanding advocate for due process rights;
- b) Possess an excellent record in maintaining rights and in policing the contract;
- c) Have worked diligently to include employee rights language in bargaining agreements.

3. Alan Dill Award for Strong Local Organizing

Alan Dill (1944-1988) taught English and government at Sitka High School from 1967 to 1987. As a local leader, Region I Director and then president of NEA-Alaska (1976-77), Alan believed local organizing was the key to a successful state association; a fiscal conservative, Alan helped put NEA-Alaska on a firm financial footing.

Purpose: To recognize a local leader whose active and passionate advocacy and understanding of the elements of an effective organization have resulted in a strong or strengthened local association.

Criteria: A nominee must be a recognized leader in local association activity and meet one or more of the following:

- a) Demonstrates innovation in a local which results in greater membership involvement.
- b) Strives to strengthen bargained agreements.
- c) Promotes significant change in a local which has positive impact in the community, as well as in locals across the state.

4. New Association Leader Award

Purpose: To recognize a new leader whose contributions to the local and/or state association are exemplary.

Criteria: A nominee must be a recognized leader in local association activity and meet the following criteria.

- a) Is an early-career educator with five or fewer years of experience.
- b) Demonstrates leadership within their own local or the state association.
- c) Advances the NEA-Alaska Mission.
- d) Is committed to being an advocate for public education in Alaska.

5. Susan Stitham Leading the Profession Award

Susan Stitham ('Sty-thumb') taught English and history in Fairbanks from 1969 to 2003, twice serving as president of the Fairbanks Education Association, and on its Board of Directors from 1973-2003, and as both president of NEA-Alaska and NEA Director for Alaska. She was on the steering committee to institute the Alaska Writing Project, served on the Alaska 2000 Blue Ribbon Committee, and co-chaired the English Language Arts Alaska Standards committee. In 1987 Susan was appointed to the new National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and in 1991 received a Milken National Educator Award. She served eight years on the University of Alaska Board of Regents, chairing the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, and eight years on the Alaska State School Board, serving as president the last three years. Over her career she was involved in innumerable local and state professional development initiatives. After her retirement she represented Region R on the NEA-Alaska Board for six years and served on the Leading the Professions Committee.

Purpose: To recognize an Association leader who has made exemplary contributions to the teaching profession as well as to the local, state and national Association.

Criteria: A nominee must be or have been a recognized leader in local association activity whose career demonstrates the following:

- 1) Exemplifying and advocating standards of excellence in the classroom.
- 2) Instructional leadership in the building, district and state.
- 3) Union advocacy at local, state, and/or national level.
- 4) Encouragement and support for new professionals and new Association leaders.
- 5) Involvement in the development of public educational policy.

6. Outstanding Local Association Award

Purpose: To recognize locals which have made significant achievements in membership, negotiations, grievances, minority membership and involvement, contributions to PACE or the Defense Fund, human rights or innovative practices.

Criteria: The local association must meet one or more of the following criteria by demonstrating:

- 1) Significant activities and/or programs for organizational development.
- 2) Significant gains in the membership/involvement of minority members.
- 3) A significant record in maintaining advocacy issues.
- 4) Involvement in public affairs.

- 5) Initiative and creativity in implementing progressive Association activities.

D. NEA-Alaska Education Support Professional of the Year

1. Education Support Professional (ESP) of the Year Award

Purpose: To recognize excellence in the educational support profession in Alaska.

Criteria: The NEA-Alaska ESP of the Year must be an active member of the association who has worked in the same district for five (5) years preceding nomination. The candidate shall be articulate and have enthusiasm for duties associated with being the NEA-Alaska ESP of the Year and demonstrate the following criteria:

- a) Exceptionally skilled and dedicated worker.
- b) The ability to inspire colleagues and others to perform their work well.
- c) The respect and admiration of students and/or colleagues.
- d) An active and useful participant in the community as well as the school.

Procedures:

- a) Nominations must be received by the Anchorage office on or before **June 1st** of each year. The Board shall select the ESP of the Year at the September meeting.
- b) NEA-Alaska will coordinate with the newly selected Education Support Professional's school or site supervisor to have a school-wide assembly at which the recipient is present for the official announcement of the recipient's selection. NEA-Alaska will contact the local media to be present for this announcement and publish a press release with the information.
- c) The ESP of the Year shall speak at Delegate Assembly.
- d) The ESP of the Year will be featured in the NEA-Aktivist

National Nominee: The Alaska ESP of the Year will be NEA-Alaska's nominee for the NEA ESP of the Year.

E. Teacher of the Year

1. Teacher of the Year (TOY) Award

Purpose: To recognize excellence in the teaching profession in Alaska.

Procedures: NEA-Alaska will work with the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development in developing procedures and selecting the Alaska Teacher

of the Year. NEA-Alaska will promote state and local association involvement in the selection process.

If the Teacher of the Year is a member of NEA-Alaska, the following procedures will be applied:

- a) The Teacher of the Year will speak at Delegate Assembly.
- b) The Teacher of the Year will be featured in the NEA-Aktivist.
- c) NEA-Alaska will coordinate with the newly selected Teacher of the Year's school or site supervisor and the state DEED to have a school-wide assembly at which the recipient is present for the official announcement of the recipient's selection. NEA-Alaska will contact the local media to be present for this announcement and publish a press release with the information.

If the Teacher of the Year is not a member of NEA-Alaska, the NEA-Alaska President shall acknowledge the winner with a letter of congratulations.

F. External Awards

1. Outstanding District Practice Award

Purpose: To recognize school districts for innovative practices which significantly contribute to the quality of education provided in the District.

Criteria: The District's practice nominated for the award must meet the following criteria:

- a) There must have been teacher and/or Association involvement in developing the practice.
- b) The practice must provide meaningful support to teachers in their work.

Procedures:

- a) The School Board President and Superintendent of the District receiving the award will be invited to Delegate Assembly to accept the award.
- b) A description of the practices receiving the award will be disseminated to local association presidents and local school districts, and featured on the NEA-Alaska website with electronic links provided for further information.

2. School Bell Award

Purpose: To recognize the media for significant contributions to the promotion of school and community welfare.

Criteria: The nominee must meet one or more of the following:

- a) Demonstrated strong and comprehensive 12-month coverage of public education.
- b) Presented outstanding features and/or editorials on specific school problems, educational trends, innovations in school programs, etc.
- c) Sought to broaden the public's understanding of education and educational issues through positive radio broadcasts, TV programming, or newspaper articles.
- d) Made positive contributions in reporting and interpreting issues facing public schools in order to advance community understanding of education.

Procedures:

- a) Nominations may be made in the following categories:
 - 1) Radio
 - 2) Television
 - 3) Newspaper/Magazines
 - 4) Electronic Media
- b) Nominations must be accompanied by supportive documentation from the previous year. Entries for radio and TV stations should include evidence such as tape recordings and/or scripts of programs or series along with a comprehensive statement regarding the scope, significance, and value of the broadcast/program, etc. to education. Entries for newspapers should include clippings, along with a statement summarizing the significance of the continuing coverage, features or editorials. One complete copy of the newspaper/magazine should accompany the issue. The clippings should be mounted in a neat, well-organized scrapbook.

Audio or video clips and/or screen shots should be included for the electronic media category.

A link to the documentation supporting the winner(s) receiving the award will be disseminated to local association presidents and local school districts and featured on the NEA-Alaska website.

National Nominee(s): Winners of the School Bell Award will be submitted as NEA-Alaska's nominee(s) for national media recognition awards.

3. **Champions of Children Award**

Purpose: To recognize Alaska businesses and business leaders for significant contributions to schools and public education.

Criteria: The nominee must meet one or more of the following:

- a) Provide positive support for a school or schools through contributions of time, talent and/or resources.
- b) Encourage employees to help in classrooms through policies such as flextime.
- c) Participate and provide leadership in the public debate about education.
- d) Provide support for elementary and/or secondary students to help them succeed in school and prepare more fully for jobs or higher education.

4. Bettye Fahrenkamp Outstanding Legislator Award

Bettye Fahrenkamp (1923-1991) was an educator, a member of the Fairbanks Education Association and NEA-Alaska, and an Alaskan legislator. At the local level, Bettye was PACE chair and an active education advocate. During her fourteen years as a member of the Alaskan senate, she was an outspoken and vigorous proponent for education issues, employees, and the children of Alaska. She introduced and worked diligently for bills that promoted education.

Purpose: To recognize an Alaska legislator who has shown outstanding support for public schools and for NEA-Alaska's legislative program.

Criteria: To receive this award, the legislator must meet the following criteria:

- a) Consistent votes and organizing support for public education and NEA-Alaska's Legislative agenda over a number of Legislative sessions.
- b) Introducing and working for the passage of NEA-Alaska legislation.

5. Exemplary Student Recognition Award

Purpose: To celebrate Alaska's student leadership, initiative, character and extraordinary performance.

Criteria: A nominee shall be a graduating student of an Alaska public high school who has contributed to the quality of student life and who has been exemplary in his/her performance as a student.

Procedures:

- a) The award recipient will be invited to attend Delegate Assembly, and NEA-Alaska shall pay expenses and travel and one night's hotel accommodation unless other funds are available.
- b) The recipient will be invited to briefly address Delegate Assembly.

6. Renowned Alaskan Award

Purpose: To recognize Alaskans who have made significant contributions in public education, business, government, civil rights, or labor relations.

Criteria: The nominee must meet the following criteria:

- a) The nominee must be a recognized leader and contributor to public education, business, government, civil rights, or labor relations.
- b) The nominee shall have demonstrated positive support for Alaska's public schools.
- c) The nominee must have had a significant positive impact on education in Alaska.