

AWARDS AND HONORS OF THE AMERICAN AVALANCHE ASSOCIATION

I. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

- Honorary membership is the highest award bestowed by the American Avalanche Association. It is given annually or less frequently to a person who has distinguished themselves by special achievement in the field of snow avalanches. Although usually given at the Annual Meeting, the award may also be given on special occasions with the approval of the Governing Board. The purpose of the award is to bring honor to the awardees, to provide inspiration to the membership, and to emphasize the programs to which the Association is dedicated. The number of awards will be restricted so as not to include more than 20 living individuals at any one time.

Criteria:

- The Honorary Membership is awarded to persons who have distinguished themselves in North American snow avalanche activity. (The award may also be given occasionally to an individual other than a North American who has contributed significantly to the North American avalanche program.) Outstanding accomplishments of research, avalanche forecasting or control, and avalanche education and safety, are typical criteria for the award. Current membership in the AAA is not a prerequisite for candidacy for this award, though customary.

Nomination Process:

- A call for nomination shall be published in the Spring Issue of the Avalanche Review, and if necessary, again in the annual meeting notice in late summer.
- The nominations form for Honorary Membership, the Kingery Award, and Honorary Fellowship will state basic criteria and serve as petition for nomination.
- Any AAA Professional Member may request a nomination form from the Secretary or Awards Committee Chair. That person or others will prepare a short biographical sketch of the nominee and a suitable citation of no more than 300 words to justify the award.
- Nomination requires a petition of five AAA Professional Members in good standing. Names of the petitioners must appear as a signature on the form or, if nominating by telephone or e-mail their name must be certified by the Secretary by initials.
- Nominations may also be made through special action of the Governing Board in cooperation with the Awards Committee. Unless directed otherwise by the Governing Board, nominations should be submitted to the Awards Committee by September 1. Completed petitions will then be submitted to the Governing Board by the Awards Committee for final approval at annual meetings.
- Current members of the Governing Board shall not be eligible for Honorary Membership.

Award and Privileges:

- The Honorary Membership Award shall consist of a plaque or other engraved symbol, which shall include the name of the recipient and the AAA logo.
- The Honorary Membership shall carry a gratis lifetime Professional Membership.
- A roster of past recipients with citations will be maintained by the Secretary and the Awards Chair.

II. Bernie Kingery Award for Dedicated Professional Practice.

- The Bernie Kingery Award honors individuals who have significantly contributed to the reduction of avalanche hazard through meritorious career accomplishment in safety and education. The award emphasizes the role of the dedicated avalanche field professional in honor of John Bernie Kingery, who from a beginning career of ski patrol and snow safety work, was the Mountain Manager of Alpine Meadows Ski Area at the time of his death in 1982 in the most deadly avalanche in North American ski area history.

Criteria:

- The Bernie Kingery Award, in general, recognizes the sustained career contributions of a dedicated field professional whether engaged in avalanche forecasting, mitigation, research, or education and safety. Only Professional Members of AAA are eligible for this award.

Nomination Process:

- Nominations will follow the procedure for that of Honorary Membership with these exceptions: a. members of the Governing Board are eligible during their term, b. a two thirds majority of the Governing Board Members voting (quorum required) is necessary for the award.

Award and Privileges:

- The Bernie Kingery Award will consist of a suitable plaque or other engraved insignia of achievement (distinguished from the Honorary Membership Award) on which the AAA logo is displayed.
- A roster of past recipients with citation will be maintained by the Secretary and the Awards Chair.

III. Honorary Fellowship Award:

- This award is made from time to time to individuals who have contributed significantly to the quality and success of snow avalanche related programs in countries other than the United States.

Criteria:

- The honoree will be generally recognized by his peers in the AAA for significant contribution and in general, communicating their work to those in the U.S. so that those contributions may be shared for the common benefit. Membership in the AAA is not a prerequisite to candidacy for this award.

Nomination Process:

- Nominations may come from the membership, and often originate with colleagues having connection with the work of the nominee. A citation of up to 200 words may accompany a petition which will be submitted directly to the Governing Board for ratification. A suitable certificate will commemorate the award.

IV. Special Service Award:

- This award is in recognition of specific and outstanding achievement in the service of North American snow avalanche activity. Generally, the Governing Board will initiate nomination and approval process. It is not necessary that the recipient be a member of AAA, but that has generally been the case. A suitable certificate and citation of accomplishment shall accompany this award.

dh 3/03