

TO: LAW & ORDER AND FIRST RESPONDERS DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS,
COUNTY CHAIRPERSONS AND POST CHAIRPERSONS

FROM: CYNTHIA A. NELSON, DEPARTMENT CHAIRPERSON
DEPARTMENT LAW & ORDER AND FIRST RESPONDERS COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: LAW & ORDER AND FIRST RESPONDERS AWARDS

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK – CRITERIA

Law & Order and First Responders Awards by The American Legion – Department of New York may be awarded each year for the following categories:

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	FIRE FIGHTER
POLICE DEPARTMENT	FIRE DEPARTMENT/COMPANY
CORRECTIONS OFFICER	EMERGENCY SQUAD
911 DISPATCHER	EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)
OUTSTANDING POST, COUNTY, AND/OR DISTRICT	

DISTRICT, COUNTY, POST

The Law & Order and First Responders Committee has previously sent information on programs and reporting to Post, County and District Chairmen, however; we still receive inquiries as to “standards” or “criteria” used in the selection of the “winners”. The following information should be forwarded to the Law & Order and First Responders Chairperson in your County. Any suggestions or comments will be appreciated.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of the Law & Order and First Responders Program is to have The American Legion involvement in various community projects related to the protection and well being of the citizens of the community. Program involvement may be for any length of time, but should be currently active in the reporting year.

Each category should be written up individually other than the Post, County and District Awards. The District Law & Order and First Responders Chairperson should submit their recommendations for the Department Awards in each category. The Post, County and District may submit “notebooks” or a separate “write up(s) for the three (3) awards – Outstanding Post, County and District.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Law Enforcement Officer Eligibility criteria as taken from the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award brochure is as follows:

- 1. Be a citizen of the United States*
- 2. Be a living, active, full-time paid, sworn law enforcement officer, Entrusted with full authority and with powers of arrest*
- 3. Reside or be assigned for duty to a City, County, District, State, or Federal Law Enforcement Agency within the Department of New York*
- 4. Nominees are **not required** to be Veterans or members of The American Legion*
- 5. Military police officers or investigators are **not eligible** to participate*
- 6. The American Legion – Department of New York, selected Law Enforcement Officer of the Year should be available to attend The American Legion National Convention if he is selected as the National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.*

There are many names submitted each year and in order to select one, some “special” activity or action as well as the above criteria can enhance the selection. More than one name may be submitted, and a person may be resubmitted in years to follow if the person was not selected.

CORRECTIONS OFFICER

The Correction Officer eligibility criteria as taken from the New York State Criminal Procedure Law 2.10 (persons designated as Peace Officers) item number 25 is as follows: Officials, as designated by the Commissioner of The Department of Correctional Services pursuant to rules of the department, and Correction Officers of any State correctional facility or any penal correctional institution may be recommended for consideration. They must be:

- 1. A citizen of the United States*
- 2. A living, active full-time paid Correction Officer entrusted with the full authority of the position*
- 3. Reside or be assigned to a City, County, District, State, or Federal Correctional institution within the Department of New York*
- 3. Nominees are **not required** to be veterans or American Legion members.*

Keep in mind that some “special” activity or action in addition to the above criteria can enhance the selection. More than one name may be submitted and a person may be resubmitted in years to follow.

FIREFIGHTER, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT) And 911 DISPATCHER

The guide for National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award may be used for selection of a Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician and 911 Dispatcher candidate of the year for the Department awards although the situation(s) would be different. Again, we must look for special activity or action to pick one from a larger number of names submitted. **Firefighter or firefighter officer includes any living, active, full-time, paid, or volunteer CERTIFIED FIREFIGHTER who is also a MEMBER of a municipal (city) or county fire department.** This includes Emergency Medical Technicians or those serving in some other capacity in the department.

POLICE, FIRE DEPARTMENTS/COMPANIES & EMT SQUADS

The same procedure must be used by The Law & Order and First Responders Committee to select a Police Department, Fire Department/Companies and an EMT Squad. There are many incidents of individuals and organizations involved in life-saving situations and acts of bravery. These situations and acts of bravery alone would leave us with numerous candidates and organizations. The Law & Order and First Responders Committee must look beyond the one incident for exceptional situation(s) to make a decision. When submitting a recommendation for Police Department, Fire Department or Emergency Squads, information is needed on history/call volumes/numbers of members. You can also mention a particular event if it happened in the last couple of years.

OUTSTANDING POST, COUNTY AND DISTRICT AWARDS

OUTSTANDING POST

1. *Description of program, length of time in operation.*
2. *Any recognition of Post program or recognition of Local Post, Fire, EMT, 911 Dispatcher, individuals, and departments.*
3. *Manhours expended on the program*
4. *How the program is presented (Notebooks or write-ups)*

OUTSTANDING COUNTY

1. *Any involvement in Post Programs*
2. *Any County Program or recognition of Police, Fire, EMT, 911 dispatcher, individuals or departments.*
3. *How many County Posts are involved?*
4. *How the Program is submitted for consideration (Notebook or write-ups)*

OUTSTANDING DISTRICT

1. *Any District participation in Post and County Programs*
2. *Number of Posts and Counties involved in the Program(s)*
3. *Number of Posts and Counties reporting*
4. *How District submits its annual report (w/write-ups, notebooks and recommendations)*

REMEMBER!!!

1. ***Must be involved in Law & Order and First Responders Program(s)***
2. ***Must write up your program and candidates (reporting)***
3. ***Recognize people and organizations on a local level***