



2026 NEA-RETIRED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

NOMINATION OVERVIEW

The NEA-Retired Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor presented to a NEA-Retired member. This award is presented in recognition of contributions to public education while serving as a **NEA-Retired member in one's Retired and Active local, state, and national associations.**

Nominees for this prestigious award must have been a NEA-Retired member for five (5) consecutive years as of January 15 of the award year. Nominees must embody outstanding service through their involvement in their retired and active local, state, and national associations while enhancing the image of public education and helping meet educator needs through their voluntary service in the areas of organizing, mentoring, and political action.

For nominations to be considered, the following submission requirements must be met:

- NEA-Retired state locals may submit one nominee application to their retired state association for consideration as the state's nominee.
- NEA-Retired state affiliates may submit one nominee application per year.
- Nomination packets must be submitted online and received by 5:00 pm on April 15 of the award year.

The application form must be submitted online, and is found on this website:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a36b96e115f449fb9bf406b048189c1b>

- All nomination materials must be 12-point font, including all letters of recommendation.
- Each nomination may include no more than three (3) letters of support, which include:

*One letter completed and signed by the NEA-Retired state association president.

*One letter from the local retired association president. If there is no established local for the nominee, a retired member may write a letter of recommendation.



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*One letter from another retired member in recognition of the nominee's voluntary work to promote public education and/or retired educators.

- Each letter should be no more than two pages in length and should describe how the nominee has:
 - *Enhanced the image of NEA-Retired as a retired member through association involvement at the retired local, state, and national levels
 - *Promoted public education and/or helped meet the needs of retired educators and active public educators through voluntary service
 - *Enhanced the image of public education as an active member through association involvement and activities on the local, state and national levels

Each nomination will be checked to ensure that it meets eligibility requirements. Qualifying nomination packets will be reviewed and scored by the Distinguished Service Award Committee as anonymous nominations. Once all scoring has been tabulated, the awardee will be kept secret until the winner is announced at the NEA-Retired Annual Meeting prior to the NEA RA. The awardee may also be recognized at the NEA RA each year.

Adopted 2022

Amended 2026