

Number: III-D

Adopted: 11/09/02; Amended 11/05/16

Authority: ARTICLE V OF THE BYLAWS - BOARD RESOLUTION

SUBJECT: LIFE MEMBER SELECTION AND APPROVAL CRITERIA

A. PURPOSE

To establish criteria for the selection of Life Members to the United States Lifesaving Association.

B. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for Life Membership in USLA an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. The candidate shall have completed twenty years of service as a professional lifeguard and/or lifeguard administrator; and
2. been an active member of the USLA or its predecessors for at least ten years; and
3. served as a member of the Board of Directors, Executive Board or as an elected officer of the USLA or its predecessors; and
4. demonstrated significant contributions made in the furtherance of the goals and objectives of USLA in a resume submitted by the Region.
5. The applicant must have demonstrated an exemplary, positive and productive contribution to their agency as an employee and to both the regional and national organization in order to be approved.

C. PROCEDURE

1. The nomination and voting process for Life Membership of the USLA including voting results and any discussions related thereto shall remain confidential and not to be communicated to any person or entity without the express written permission of the Board of Directors.
2. Application must be signed by the applicant's Regional President or Region's designee.
3. An application form (Attachment A) and all pertinent written justification for the application shall be submitted confidentially to the USLA Secretary no less than seven (7) days prior to a Board of Directors meeting.
4. At any Board of Directors meeting, prior to which an application for Life Membership has been submitted to the Secretary as described above, a committee will be convened on the final day of the meeting to consider the application or applications. The committee shall be composed of one member of the Board of Directors from each Region. Each Region shall be responsible for selecting their representative and a proxy vote shall not be permitted. The meeting shall be chaired by the Membership Chair or a Membership Vice Chair selected by the President of USLA or presiding officer of the Board of Directors meeting.



5. The regional president or the region's designee shall be afforded an opportunity to address the committee in support of an application. After review of the application(s) and any discussion, ballots shall be distributed by the chairperson and a secret ballot vote shall be taken. The votes shall be counted by the chairperson in the presence of the Secretary.
6. A nominee may receive no more than one (1) vote in opposition to confirm each Life Membership application. Once the vote has been counted, the chairperson shall inform the President of same, but shall not discuss results with anyone. The ballots shall then be destroyed.

D. AWARD PRESENTATION

The President of USLA shall choose the appropriate time and place to announce the conference of Life Membership, but shall do so prior to the conclusion of the Board of Director's Meeting. Subsequently, a suitable Life Member certificate shall be created and presented to the nominee at the next USLA Board of Director's meeting if possible.



Number: III-E
Adopted: 10/26/92; Amended 04/20/13
Authority: BOARD RESOLUTION

SUBJECT: AWARD of MERIT – RECOGNITION CRITERIA AND APPROVAL PROCEDURE

A. PURPOSE

To recognize those persons who have made a significant contribution to the humanitarian goals of the USLA.

B. CRITERIA

Each applicant must be an active member of the USLA or individual who has made a significant contribution to USLA and the field of marine safety and ocean/open water lifesaving.

The nominee's name, address and resume must be submitted in writing by their Chapter and Regional President along with a brief synopsis of the achievements and accomplishments for which they are being recognized.

C. PROCEDURE

1. Applications must be submitted to the USLA Secretary prior to a scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors.
2. The USLA Secretary will be responsible for transmitting said application to the Chairperson of the Heroic Acts Committee.
3. At the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors, the Chairperson will convene a special meeting of the Heroic Acts Committee, which shall consist of the Regional Presidents or their designated representatives from each region in attendance, and a secret ballot will be taken.
4. The submitting regional representative will be given the opportunity to make a brief verbal presentation on behalf of the applicant.
5. A simple majority vote is required for approval.



Number: III-F
Adopted: 11/07/87; Amended 04/27/24
Authority: BOARD RESOLUTION

SUBJECT: HEROIC ACTS CRITERIA AND APPROVAL PROCEDURE

A. PURPOSE

The USLA is comprised of dedicated men and women in the open water lifeguard profession who wish to present awards in recognition of heroic acts performed within the scope of the United States.

Incredible feats of shoreline heroism have been performed. Men and women in the lifeguard profession are not always present to perform these acts, but in many cases the saving of life can be attributed to a stranger passing by a distress scene.

The USLA's primary purpose for creating this award system is to give due recognition to an individual performing a heroic act, who voluntarily risks their life to an extraordinary degree in saving, or attempting to save, another person, or sacrificed themselves for the benefit of others.

B. SCOPE OF RECOGNITION FOR HEROIC ACTS

USLA recognition is restricted to acts which show conclusive evidence that the person performing the act voluntarily risked their own life to an extraordinary degree in saving, or attempting to save, the life of another person, or voluntarily sacrificing themselves in a heroic manner for the benefit of others. It is restricted to acts in which no primary family relationship exists between the rescuer and the rescued party(s).

Heroic acts must be reported within one year of the date they occurred. Usually, only those acts performed in areas within the scope of the USLA's activities will be considered for awards.

C. PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNITION

Any member or non-member may initiate a request for heroic acts recognition, as long as that person initiating the request is not a direct family relation to the person that performed the act.

To bring an act to the attention of the Heroic Acts Committee, a written account of the incident accompanied by supporting material such as newspaper clipping, or witness statements should accompany the required Heroic Acts Application form and be forwarded to the appropriate Region's Heroic Act Chairperson for review. If approved at the Regional Heroic Acts Committee level, the application shall be signed by the Heroic Acts Chair or the Regional President before submission to the USLA Heroic Acts Committee.

Once the application is submitted, the Heroic Acts Committee Chair brings the matter to the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors. At that meeting a special meeting of the Committee is held to review the application to insure it's properly depicted in one of the categories defined in Section D.

Applications are to be submitted through the USLA website. (Amended November 5, 2020)



D. RECOGNITION CATEGORIES

1. ***Lifeguard Medal of Valor***

- a. Created to give due recognition to an individual or group of lifeguards for performing a heroic act, who voluntarily risked their life, to an extraordinary degree, in saving, or attempting to save another person, or who sacrificed themselves for the benefit of others.
- b. Restricted to acts in which no primary family relationship exists between the rescuer and the rescued party(s).
- c. Heroic acts must be reported within one year of the date they occurred. Usually, only those acts performed in open water within the confines of the USLA's membership base will be considered for the award.
- d. This award will be presented as the USLA Medal of Valor with attached ribbon, a framed certificate citing the heroic action, and the official USLA approved uniform ribbon.

2. ***Heroic Act***

- a. Created to give due recognition to a lifeguard(s) or non-lifeguard(s) that has performed an open water rescue and/or performed a lifesaving act in an extraordinary manner. (Amended 11/7/09)
- b. This award will be presented as a framed certificate citing the account of the heroic action.

3. ***Meritorious Act Award***

- a. Created to give due recognition to the person or persons, lifeguard or non-lifeguard, member or non-member, who have performed any act of lifesaving which did not place the individual in jeopardy, but which brings credit to lifesaving or resulted in the saving of a life.
- b. This award will be presented in a framed letter citing the act.

4. ***Award of Merit***

- a. Created to give due recognition to those persons (USLA members or non-members) who have contributed substantially to USLA.
- b. This award will be presented as a framed certificate citing their service.

5. ***National Lifesaving Award***

- a. Created to give due recognition to a lifeguard agency or group of lifeguards for exemplary actions involving multiple rescuers responding to a rescue in extremely difficult, dangerous and/or hazardous conditions.
- b. This award will be presented as a framed certificate citing their service.

6. ***Letter of Commendation***

- a. Created to give due recognition to a non-lifeguard who voluntarily risked their life to an extraordinary degree in assisting a lifeguard in an open water rescue.
- b. This award will be a framed letter, citing the heroic action.



Number: III-G
Adopted: 11/03/07; Amended 11/05/16
Authority: BOARD RESOLUTION

SUBJECT: OPEN WATER LIFEGUARD AGENCY NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

A. PURPOSE

To recognize agencies who exceed in training, safety standards, community leadership, and corroboration with other multi-disciplinary agencies to promote education, beach and open water safety, and the USLA.

B. RECOGNITION CATAGORIES

1. *National Award for Readiness & Incident Response*

An agency has presented evidence that demonstrates its ability in providing high levels of lifeguard readiness and preparedness, and/or has presented an example of a high level of readiness and preparedness during a response to a major incident, mutual aid call, or mass casualty that brings great credit to the agency and to the profession.

2. *National Award for Commitment & Dedication to Public Safety & Education*

An agency has presented evidence that demonstrates a measurable accomplishment in providing commitment and dedication to public safety and education through a variety of ways that brings great credit to the agency and to the profession.

3. *National Award for Training & Development*

An agency has presented evidence that demonstrates professional growth and information sharing by providing high levels of lifeguard training and staff development that brings great credit to the agency and to the profession.

4. *National Award for Drowning Prevention Achievement*

An agency has presented evidence of measurable statistical records including documentation of relative categories and conditions demonstrating a remarkable achievement in drowning prevention that brings great credit to the agency and to the profession.

5. *National Award for Open Water Safety Achievement*

An agency has presented evidence of measurable statistical records including documentation of relative categories and conditions demonstrating a remarkable achievement in open-water safety that brings great credit to the agency and to the profession.

6. *National Award for Professional Achievement*

An agency has presented evidence demonstrating a variety of achievements which may include advancing its image, equipment, certifications, relations, standards,



regulations or other related area that enhances the lifesaving profession and brings great credit to the agency and to the profession.

7. *Joe Pecoraro National Award for Distinguished Safety Service*

An agency has presented evidence demonstrating that it has accumulated three or more of the six nationally recognized awards in a variety of achievements that brings great credit to the agency and to the profession. This is the USLA's second highest achievement award.

8. *USLA Chief Bob Burnside Award for Excellence in Lifesaving*

An agency has presented evidence demonstrating that it has accumulated all six of the nationally recognized awards in a variety of remarkable achievements that brings extraordinary credit to the agency and to the profession. This is the USLA's highest and most prestigious achievement award.

