

The John H. Stitzer Lifetime Achievement Award

Award Background

The John H. Stitzer Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 2002 by then APLS Chairman, David Preisch, to honor John for his lifetime commitment to the land surveying profession. John began his career in 1941 as a Mining Engineer at the copper mine in Ray, Arizona. He had attended the School of Mines in Platteville, Wisconsin. The school did not offer a degree, so John completed his schooling at the New Mexico School of Mines in Socorro, New Mexico. John was interested in both photogrammetry and land surveying. During a 1956 trip to California, he met Bill Pafford. The two collaborated and bought the Tucson firm of T.N. Stevens in 1957; Stitzer, Pafford & Associates was born. The Arizona BTR allowed Mining Engineers to survey at that time, but frowned upon it. In 1958, John tested for and received his surveying license. John eventually bought Pafford's interest and renamed his firm Stitzer & Associates. During this time John developed a co-op style relationship with Andy Marum. Marum's offices were upstairs in the Reproductions building on 6th street in Tucson, and John had a space on the ground floor. Through his relationship with Marum, John met Dwight Lind and formed a new firm; Stitzer, Lind & Associates. Later, Lind left and Bill Johnson joined forces to form Stitzer-Johnson. They brought Bill Vahl in and formed the firm of Stitzer, Johnson, Vahl. In 1985, John was planning on retiring at the age of 72, but instead, teamed up with his son J.D., to form S&S Surveys. John worked with J.D. until his passing in 2007, at the age of 92.

John was registered as a Mining Engineer, Civil Engineer, and Land Surveyor. He held registrations in Arizona, Minnesota, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and was also a Deputy U.S. Mineral Surveyor. John taught State Plane Coordinate Seminars during the Philip Newlin workshops at the U of A. He published various articles for those workshops, including one advocating the benefits and procedures of traversing using three tripods with tribachs. John was also one of the early proponents of using computers for coordinate geometry. He bought a time-share interest in the mid 70's on the U of A's CalComp mainframe, calculating the position for every point needed on a construction site. John's career was certainly a lifetime achievement, spanning seven decades.

Award Criteria

The John H. Stitzer Award is to recognize and honor an individual who is judged to have contributed substantially and continuously to the professional status of the Land Surveying profession in Arizona. As such, it may be awarded to not only Land Surveyors of the present, but those of past historical significance. Criteria may include 1) exemplary professional conduct; 2) an established reputation for professional service; 3) lasting achievement in improving the ability of the survey profession to serve the public; 4) meritorious service in professional

education and development; and, 5) other evidence of merit which in the judgment of the Awards Committee shall advance APLS's professional objectives.

Award Guidelines

1. The APLS Awards Committee shall evaluate nominations and select the recipient(s).
2. The individual's technical achievements and contributions to the profession must be made clear on the nomination form itself. The Awards Committee reserves the right to conduct further investigations of the nominees as warranted.
3. This award will be given to an individual once and once only.
4. The nomination process is continuously open. The award committee will collect and consider all nominations submitted by the end of each calendar year. All award recipients shall be notified by the last day of the following February.
5. It is not mandatory that this award be presented annually.
6. The award may be given to more than one member.
7. Nominations can be made by any APLS member or APLS committee; however, the Awards Committee is limited to nominating only individuals who have passed away.
8. Any and all APLS members are eligible for this award. The award may also honor deceased surveyors who performed work within the state of Arizona, whether or not affiliated with APLS. More than one deceased individual may be honored in any given year.
9. The award, if approved by the Awards Committee (see number 5 above), will be presented in the Spring of each year at either the General Membership meeting, the Annual Convention, or a special meeting as determined by the APLS Board of Directors. In the case of historical recipients, an effort will be made to contact a close relative or other appropriate person to accept the award on their behalf.

The Gordon McLain Outstanding Achievement Award

Award Background

The Gordon McLain Outstanding Achievement Award was established in 2003 by then APLS Chairman, Stuart Lane, to honor Gordon for his lifetime commitment to the land surveying profession. Gordon began his surveying career with the Arizona Highway Department in 1956. He was licensed in Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico, and was also a Deputy U.S. Mineral Surveyor. He taught the Boundary Control and Legal Principals class at Phoenix College and prior to 1982, worked extensively with Philip Borgo, ASU Land Survey Instructor, in the writing of test questions for the Professional portion of the Arizona surveyor exam. Before the formation of APLS, Gordon was active in the Arizona chapter of ACSM, serving as Vice Chairman under Chairman Paul Ramey in 1971. Gordon, along with others (including Ron Werhan, John Stitzer, and Wally Settlemyer), was instrumental in the passage of legislation that established the Statutes for recording land surveys in Arizona. In 1977, Gordon moved to Tucson and collaborated with John Stitzer in an aerial mapping business. Gordon operated the business under 3 different names, until his passing in August, 2002. Regarded by many of his peers as the consummate boundary surveyor, Gordon held a high standard in all aspects of his life.

Award Criteria

The nominee should exhibit an innovative, unique, or special accomplishment which separates them from the routine or average. Nominees are not limited to the technical aspects of their actions or work, and may include innovations in marketing, scoping, billing, client relations, etc. Exemplary and singular professional conduct must be shown.

The Award can be granted to any professional Land Surveyor member of APLS who has displayed a commitment of the highest degree to the practice, advancement, or promotion of the land surveying profession.

Award Guidelines

1. The APLS Awards Committee shall evaluate all nominations and select the recipient(s).
2. The individual's technical achievements and contributions to the profession must be made clear on the nomination form itself. The Awards Committee reserves the right to conduct further investigations of the nominees as warranted.
3. This award will be given to an individual once and once only.

4. The nomination process is continuously open. The award committee will collect and consider all nominations submitted by the end of each calendar year. All award recipients shall be notified by the last day of the following February.
5. It is not mandatory that this award be presented annually.
6. The award may be given to more than one member.
7. Nominations can be made by any APLS member or APLS committee (except the Awards Committee).
8. APLS Board members and members of the Awards Committee are ineligible for the award while currently serving in office.
9. The award, if approved by the Awards Committee (see number 5 above), will be presented in the Spring of each year at either the General Membership meeting, the Annual Convention, or a special meeting as determined by the APLS Board of Directors..

The Rudy J. Stricklan Outstanding Geospatial Achievement Award

Award Background

The Rudy J. Stricklan Outstanding Geospatial Achievement Award was established by APLS in recognition of Charter Member Rudy J. Stricklan. Combining the unique skills of a Professional Land Surveyor and Geospatial Professional, Rudy has, from the inception of his career, shown an unwavering advocacy for geodetic control as the essential component for Geographic Information System development. Advancing surveyed PLSS for use in GIS database control, development of parcel boundaries based on actual parcel geometry from legal descriptions, field verification of as-built improvements, and other Land Survey dependant features, Rudy's work has established strong parcel layers as a foundation of the GIS he worked on. An example of the practical application of this conviction was his groundbreaking work in 1982 on what is now the City of Tempe Geographical Information System (TGIS). His public service efforts are exemplified by his early and long time leadership of the Arizona Geographic Council (AGIC). Due to Rudy's many such pioneering accomplishments, the Outstanding Geospatial Achievement Award bears his name.

Award Criteria

Nominees (whether a person or a project) should exhibit an innovative, unique, or special accomplishment which separates them from the routine or average. Nominees are not limited to the technical aspects of their actions or work, and may include innovations in marketing, scoping, billing, client relations, etc.. Exemplary and singular professional conduct must be shown.

The Award can be granted to any person or project which has substantially contributed to the acquisition, storage, processing, modeling, analysis, management, production, or delivery of spatially referenced data.

Award Guidelines

1. The APLS Awards Committee shall evaluate all nominations and select the recipient..
2. The individual's technical achievements and contributions to the profession must be made clear on the nomination form itself. The Awards Committee reserves the right to conduct further investigations of the nominees as warranted.
3. This award will be presented to an individual once and once only.

4. The nomination process is continuously open. The award committee will collect and consider all nominations submitted by the end of each calendar year. All award recipients shall be notified by the last day of the following February.

5. It is not mandatory that this award be presented annually.

6. Nominations can be made by any APLS member or APLS committee (except the Awards Committee).

7. APLS Board members and members of the Awards Committee are ineligible for the award while currently serving in office.

8. The award, if approved by the Awards Committee (see number 5 above), will be presented in the Spring of each year at either the General Membership meeting, the Annual Convention, or a special meeting as determined by the APLS Board of Directors..

The Survey Technician Outstanding Achievement Award

Award Background

APLS has created this award to recognize and honor an APLS member who is not a regular (RLS) member of the association but who has made significant contributions to the profession, the public, his or her employer or his or her personal professional development.

Award Criteria

This award will be presented to a member who demonstrates a deep commitment to professionalism and career advancement in land surveying. The award is open to any non-registered member of APLS. Examples include students currently enrolled in a land surveying curriculum, members of field parties, survey office support staff, and employees of an educational institution.

The nominees should show diligence in their work, innovation in their methods and approaches, and a devotion to enhancing the professional image of Land Surveying.

Award Guidelines

1. The APLS Awards Committee shall evaluate all nominations and select the recipient.
2. The individual's technical achievements and contributions to the profession must be made clear on the nomination form itself. The Awards Committee reserves the right to conduct further investigations of the nominees as warranted.
3. This award will be presented to an individual once and once only.
4. The nomination process is continuously open. The award committee will collect and consider all nominations available at the end of each calendar year. All award recipients shall be notified by the last day of the following February.
5. It is not mandatory that this award be presented annually.
6. Nominations can be made by any APLS member or APLS committee (except the Awards Committee).
7. APLS Board members and members of the Awards Committee are ineligible for the award while currently serving in office.
8. The award, if approved by the Awards Committee (see number 5 above), will be presented in the Spring of each year at either the General Membership meeting, the Annual Convention, or a special meeting as determined by the APLS Board of Directors.

The Outstanding Project Award

Award Background

The APLS Outstanding Project of the Year Award was established to promote excellence in the management, administration, and execution of land survey projects. In terms of this award, “project” shall mean any survey work product-- large or small, public or private. Representative examples include construction staking, boundary surveys, historical research, title investigation, data manipulation, innovative programming, GIS data collection or database development, and so forth.

Award Criteria

Any aspect of a project which is out of the ordinary, above average, and non-routine will be positively considered by the Committee. Technical complexity, safety performance, management techniques, community relations, unusual accomplishments under adverse conditions, quality control, project funding, inter-agency cooperation, unique marketing approaches, and other less obvious components of a project are representative aspects for consideration. While the exceptional execution of any element of a project may be sufficient to merit selection, a project that exhibits excellence in many factors may be given preference.

Award Guidelines

1. The evaluation of nominations and selection of any project shall be made by the APLS Awards Committee.
2. The project’s conformance to the above criteria must be made clear on the nomination form itself. The Awards Committee reserves the right to conduct further investigations of the nominees as warranted.
3. This award will be given to a project and accepted by the project designee once and once only.
4. To be eligible for nomination, a project must have been substantially completed and available for public and/or agency use within two calendar years prior to nomination. If a project has multiple phases or segments, then “substantially completed” will be defined as that point when the final phase or segment is 90% complete and available for public and/or agency use.
5. Projects that are nominated but do not win in a given year may be re-submitted if they conform to item number 4 above.

6. Nominations must be received by the committee no later than January 15. The award recipient shall be notified by the last day in February of the same year.

7. It is not mandatory that this award be presented annually.

8. Nominations can be made by any APLS member or APLS committee (except the Awards Committee).

9. APLS Board members and members of the Awards Committee are ineligible for the award while currently serving in office.