

Joseph P. Collins Award

The Joseph P. Collins Award was established by the National Council of Social Security Management Associations at the Annual Meeting in 1978 in memory of the first President of the Council, Joseph P. Collins. The resolution establishing the award stated that it will be given each year at the National Council meeting to the member who, during the preceding year, has done the most to further the objectives of the National Council. It is the highest award presented by the National Council.

Eligibility: To be eligible an individual must be a member in good standing of a regional association which in turn is a member of the National Council.

Criteria: The award will be made for a single act during the preceding year or sustained performance over a period of time extending into the year preceding the award. The act or performance must have had a substantial effect in furthering one or more of the objectives of the National Council. The objectives are:

1. To cooperate constructively with all responsible officials of the Social Security Administration in the furtherance of the Social Security Program.
2. To give real meaning and effectiveness to the concept of consultation with associations of supervisors.
3. To further the best interests and general welfare of all district personnel.
4. To foster the highest standards of professionalism.
5. To encourage the formation of district management organizations and to coordinate their activities in order to achieve the aforementioned purposes.

Some examples of the type of performance that might be considered are: Demonstrated leadership ability and effectiveness as a member of a National Council committee. Superior contributions to the publication of MASS Media or extraordinary service to or within a Regional Association which reflect favorably upon the National Council. These are only some examples; there are many ways that an individual could foster the objectives of the Council.

Nomination Procedure:

Nominations can be accepted from:

1. Any Regional Association that is a member of the Council. Such an Association could establish internal procedures and/or solicit proposed nominations from its members.
2. The National Council Executive committee, acting as a body, may submit nominations.
3. Any group of ten members involving at least three Regional Associations may, acting as a body, submit a nomination.

Nominations should be in the form of a letter to the Vice President of the National Council. The letter should state at the outset (a) that it is a nomination for the Joseph P. Collins Award; (b) the name and affiliation of the nominee; and (c) the objective(s) that are involved. The balance of the letter should state in narrative format how the activity of the nominee advanced the objective(s). The letter should not exceed two typewritten pages and should be signed. It should also indicate the person's eligibility to make a nomination. Deadline for receipt is August 15.

Publicity: The Vice President of the National Council will be responsible for suitable publicity for the award and its criteria, using M.A.S.S. Media and other suitable methods. Each Regional Association representative on the National Council shares responsibility for publicizing the award in his/her own regional association, and encouraging suitable nominations from within the regional association.

In addition, following the presentation of an award, the Vice President will be responsible for publicizing the receipt of the award, not only through M.A.S.S. Media, but, with the consent of the awardee, through other SSA Media channels and the recipient's hometown newspaper.

Selection Procedure: The Vice President of the National Council will serve as a nonvoting chairman of the committee. The committee will be composed of not more than 5 past Presidents of the Council. In the event anyone on the committee is a nominee for the award, the President of the Council will appoint a replacement, if an additional Past President is available who is not serving on the committee. Both Active and Retired Past Presidents will serve on the Committee. If there are more than 5, usually the 5 most recent active Past Presidents will serve.

Each member of the committee will independently review the nominations and grade them based solely upon their merit. In grading the nominees, the one considered most worthy will receive a numerical grade equal to the number of nominations with rankings going down from that point (that is, if nine nominations are received, the one the committee member feels most worthy could receive a ranking of 9, second most worthy a ranking of 8, etc.)

The chairperson will add up the gradings assigned to each nominee. To be considered for the award the nominee must place in the top third of the majority of the rankings. The nominee with the highest total score of those in the group to be considered will be the recipient. In the event of a tie, the chairperson will submit the nomination that tied back to the committee for further consideration. Should there still be a tie, the chairperson may consider them co-winners. A nonaward year would be possible.

Award: The Joseph P. Collins Award will be a suitably inscribed silver reverse bowl. The award will be presented at the Annual Banquet. In addition, the National Council will pay necessary expenses, as determined by the Executive Committee, for the awardee's presence at the presentation. In the event the awardee would be at the National Council meeting in an official capacity, the Executive Committee, in its discretion, could offer to pay necessary

expenses for the attendance of an individual designated by the awardee, e.g. spouse, parent, child, or friend at the presentation.