

Overview of the
Pennsylvania Water Rescue Instructors Association's
Steven M. Ketterer Water Rescue Excellence Award

The Pennsylvania Water Rescue Instructors Association's Steven M. Ketterer Water Rescue Excellence Award is for individuals that go beyond the program guidelines in perform in water rescues according to the standards established through the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's Water Rescue Program. Steven M. Ketterer serves as Commissioner with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, and has been a strong support over the years though teaching the water rescue curriculums and his work with various water rescue organizations.

The award acknowledges individuals who have utilized the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's Water Rescue Program in real life rescue operations. This individual goes above and beyond the call of duty to save lives. This could be in one rescue operation or several over the course of the past calendar year.

In order to be nominated for the Steven M. Ketterer Water Rescue Excellence Award, an individual must meet a variety of eligibility criteria. Nominations will undergo a competitive selection process conducted by the Pennsylvania Water Rescue Instructors Association's Award Committee.

The criteria for award selection are designed to reflect the consensus of the PWRIA's Award Committee regarding what constitutes receiving the Steven M. Ketterer Water Rescue Excellence Award. The criteria focus on all areas of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's Water Rescue Program. The individual selected for receiving the award will be recognized at the PWRIA spring meeting and receives a Steven M. Ketterer Water Rescue Excellence Award plaque.

Timeline

- Call for nominations – December 2nd of each year.
- Close of nominations – January 2nd the following year.
- Selection by committee – February 2nd
- Award presentation – spring meeting of the PWRIA in March.

Selection Criteria

- The nominee must be trained in the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's Water Rescue Program.
- The nominee must be a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The rescue operation(s) did not need to occur in the state. These cases will be when a team is deployed across state lines.
- The nominee is recognized by his or her peers as contributing above and beyond median performance.

- The nominee must be an individual and not an organization. Personal and professional affiliations with water safety organizations will be considered as part of the application evaluation process.
- Any news media, reports, pictures, etc. will be beneficial to explaining the course of events that took place during the rescue operation but are not required if nothing else is submitted other the written statements.

Application

The Pennsylvania Water Rescue Instructors Association will open the nomination process on December 2nd. Nominations shall be submitted to Awards@pawaterrescue.com. Nominations will be compiled and coordinated for review by the PWRIA's Award Committee. Nominations will not be considered if submitted after the deadline.

The nominations must include the following:

- The nomination year and award.
- Name, mailing address, telephone numbers, e-mail address, department/team (if applicable), and title of the nominee and the person submitting the nomination.
- Names and contact information of others that support your nomination (Not more than 4).
- Description of the nominee's qualifications for the award.
- Name and summary of the incident/event/program.
- Additional information to support the nomination.

Evaluation of Applications

The Award Committee shall be established by the PWRIA Chairman and shall consist of 5 members. Evaluators will individually read and rank the qualifying applications. The committee will make the final determination. However, if the committee determines that no application meets the stringent criteria, no award will be presented that year. If any member of the committee is nominated for any award they will remove themselves and be replaced by another member of the association.

Announcement to Media and Presentation of Awards

The PWRIA Chairman will make the final determination and announcement of award recipients. When the PWRIA's Awards Committee has decided to award a recipient the Steven M. Ketterer Water Rescue Excellence Award, the presentation of the award will be at the spring meeting and will be announced to the public at that time. The award recipient will receive a Steven M. Ketterer Water Rescue Excellence Award plaque. Award recipient will have their picture receiving their award on the PWRIA Website www.pawaterrescue.com.