

## AMS Award Nomination Tips

### TO CONSIDER BEFORE STARTING

- Important to select the correct award category. Carefully read the terms of reference. There have been a few situations where the review committee has forwarded the nomination to another award category that they thought was a better fit. You could lose one year if this happens.
- Is the time right? Should you wait another year or two?

### THE NOMINATION

- Be clear on your relationship to the nominee and why you are more than capable of assessing their worthiness for the award (e.g., I have known the nominee for 20 years and I am a past recipient of the award; I have followed this person's career with great admiration for over 20 years; we have never interacted at the professional level but his/her work has fundamentally changed our field).
- Things to think about: impacts on lives, leadership, role model, and innovation and creativity that will be felt for years to come. Were there challenges that the nominee surmounted?
- Say more than just the candidate is outstanding, prove it. Demonstrate how the achievements actually made the nominee deserving. Specific examples reinforcing your points are important.
- What makes your nominee stand out from the rest of the field. There will be others that may be equally deserving (very important when nominating a Fellow<sup>1</sup> where choosing the deserving individuals is especially challenging since they are all excellent).
- Spend some time selecting the letter writers. Make sure that they cover the breadth of the nominee's field and are well-respected in their discipline or community. I wouldn't tell the same story in 3 letters (e.g., one could focus on service; another on research accomplishments; one could state how the accomplishment impacted their life - appropriate for certain awards categories; etc.).
- Ask whether this award is for lifetime achievements or for a single event. The choice will significantly impact how the nomination and letters are written.
- Remember – A longer letter does not necessarily mean better.

### IF YOU DON'T SUCCEED....

- Strongly consider updating the file if the person is not selected. Review the package and see if the nomination and the letters can be made more compelling.

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<sup>1</sup> Factors to consider when nominating a Fellow can be found at - <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/about-ams/ams-awards-honors/fellows/>