

Judith Block Professional Excellence Award

On October 27, 2007, the ZRA Board presented the first Judith Block Professional Excellence Award to Judith Block, a Registrar Emeritus member of the Association, in order to establish the recognition of those members with long-standing tenure who have consistently demonstrated the means to provide for the professional development and mentorship of other members. This award recognizes those professionals that have demonstrated unwavering commitment to the vision, mission and goals of the Association through mentorship and other notable efforts, and that have consistently represented ZRA in a manner that enhances the professional profile, recognition and awareness of its member's value to the zoo and aquarium profession.

Eligibility

1. Candidates must have been Professional category members in good standing during the five years previous to being nominated and at the time of nomination. Retirees who were Professional category members in good standing during their last five years in ZRA, are eligible within the first five years after their retirement date, and thus do not have to be active members at the time of consideration.
2. Current members of the ZRA Board of Directors or Nominations and Elections Committee are not eligible for consideration for this award while serving terms on either.
3. The candidate must be nominated by at least three Professional Category members of ZRA who are in good standing.
4. Nominee must currently perform or be able to demonstrate past experience in those duties regularly associated with the registrar function, regardless of actual title, in a zoo, aquarium or related facility and must have been employed in that capacity for a minimum of five years (collective years of experience may be acquired at more than one institution).

Award Criteria

1. Nominee must have demonstrated long-standing commitment and efforts towards the professional development and mentorship of other members through outstanding and documented leadership, performance and behavior.
2. Testimonials from ZRA members evidencing the fact that the nominee's mentorship activities have resulted in other's professional achievements must be documented.

Call for Nominations

1. A Call for Nominations will be posted to the ZRA website with an email notice to the membership no less than sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Conference. The specific date shall be determined by the current ZRA Board of Directors in conjunction with the deadline for the Call for Award Nominations.

Nomination Procedure

Nominations must list:

1. The nominee's name, place of employment and years of registrar experience.
2. The name and place of employment of each Professional category member providing a nomination.
3. Nominations must describe the accomplishments of the nominee which meet the criteria for the award, including the written testimonial of at least three ZRA members that have been mentored by the award candidate, in such a way that has provided for their own professional achievement.
4. The deadline for submission of award nominations to the ZRA President shall be determined by the current ZRA Board of Directors in conjunction with the deadline for the Call for Award Nominations.

Selection Procedure

1. Nominations are submitted to the Board of Directors for review.
2. One award will be given each year based on merit.
3. Final decisions will be determined by a majority vote of the entire Board of Directors.

Award Notification

1. The ZRA President shall notify the recipient prior to the presentation of the award at the Annual Conference. The employer of the recipient will receive a letter from the ZRA President indicating that their employee will receive an award at the Annual Conference.

Presentation of the Award

1. The award will be presented during the Recognition Ceremony at the Annual Conference. The Judith Block Professional Excellence Award consists of an appropriate plaque and a letter from the ZRA President.

Board Approved October 3, 2007; Rev March 21, 2008; Rev June 30, 2009; Rev 21 August 2013; Rev January 2024