

Call for Nominations for 2010 Hudson Valley Division Awards

NASW-NYS Hudson Valley Division is searching for nominees for the Social Worker of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award, Public Citizen of the Year, Social Work Student of the Year, and Agency of the Year Award. We need your help to celebrate and honor individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the community of the Hudson Valley region.

The recipients of the awards will be personally notified and the announcement of the award winners will be posted in the Hudson Valley Update April 2010. The awards will be presented to the winners at the Social Work Month Dinner on March 19, 2010.

Please consider the following nominee criteria in making your nomination.

Social Worker of the Year

This award recognizes the commitment and achievement of an outstanding member of the profession. An individual considered for honor should demonstrate exceptional professional qualities that make her or him stand out beyond the expectations of his/her job. The candidate must:

- Be a member in good standing of the NASW-NYS
- Demonstrate leadership qualities of an exceptional nature
- Effectively integrates experience with education in an outstanding effort to help people
- Show a willingness to take risks for improved social services
- Enlist public support for improved social services
- Contribute to the public's knowledge of social work
- Represent the professional ethics of social work as defined in the NASW Code of Ethics

Public Citizen of the Year

This award honors a non-social worker who, through her or his business, professional, and/or community activities, best exemplifies the goals and ideals of the social work profession. An individual considered for this award should have made an outstanding contribution to the area of human services, which go beyond the expectations of his/her job.

The candidate must have:

- Demonstrated leadership qualities
- Made an important contribution to the social work profession
- Advocated for or taken risks on behalf of one or more of social work client's group
- Contributed to a positive public image of professional social work
- Contributed to the amelioration of a pressing social problem
- Acted in concert with the professional ethics and values of the social work profession
- Helped improve the quality of life in the community

Lifetime Achievement Award

In addition to meeting all the criteria for Social Worker of the Year, this candidate must also demonstrate:

- Repeated outstanding achievements
- Recognition beyond the social work profession
- Contributions with a lasting impact
- Outstanding creativity and courage

Social Work Student of the Year

This award honors a current BSW or MSW student who demonstrates commitment to the community, the social work profession, and academic study. The candidate should:

- Demonstrate commitment to NASW Code of Ethics
- Demonstrate strong commitment to social work education and to the profession
- Demonstrate commitment to community service above and beyond the basic requirements of the BSW or MSW
- Helped improve the quality of life in the community

Agency of the Year

This award honors an agency, department, organization, or government entity within the Hudson Valley region that demonstrates a strong commitment to the community and exemplifies social work values in the field.

The agency should:

- Improve the quality of life in the community
- Develop/implement innovative approaches for the provisions of more effective services
- Make a significant contribution to an area or population of concern to the social work profession such as advocacy for consumer, impact on social policy, exceptional practice, program creation, administrative development, and/or innovative research
- Has diverse employees that reflects their clientele and/or has policies that implements culturally competent practice

