

SWAAAE AWARDS

Description of Qualifications

Airport Executive of the Year: The goal of the “Airport Executive of the Year” award is to commend an airport executive who has demonstrated superior performance in the following areas:

1. Providing public service to the community in the form of an efficient air transportation facility.
2. Public relations accomplishments in the areas of “Good neighbor relations”.
3. Environmental achievements in the areas of aesthetics, noise or pollution reduction or control.
4. Good business management in budget control, utilization of airport revenue, development of new sources of revenue and control of expenses.
5. Efficient handling of the administrative complexities of state and federal grant programs.
6. Management functions and good labor relations with employees and tenants.
7. Personal integrity and professional reputation, both in the public community and among peers in the airport management field.

Aviation Excellence Award: Since 1990, the SWAAAE has been presenting one “Aviation Excellence Award” annually. The award is presented during the Awards Banquet and the annual summer conference. The “Aviation Excellence Award” is intended to recognize those airport management professionals, other than the person having primary responsibility for the airport, which have gone out of their way and given substantial extra effort to ensure the promotion, operation, maintenance or development of aviation and/or the airport. The award recipient is a person of exceptional qualities who may perform management, supervisory, engineering, planning, or maintenance functions in the second or other level of the airport organization. SWAAAE members nominate candidates for the award. The Awards Committee reviews the nominations, and one recipient is selected.

Wanamaker Award: the California Association of Airport Executives, the forerunner organization to the SWAAAE, to honor the memory of Robert Wanamaker, a long-time member of the association and Executive Emeritus, established The Robert Wanamaker Award. Robert Wanamaker was the owner of the airport in El Monte, Los Angeles County, from 1954 through 1971. He joined the CAAE in 1958 and served on numerous committees and as President in 1964. As an attorney, Robert Wanamaker gave generously of his time to the solving of legal matters for the CAAE. In January 1972, after selling his airport to the County of Los Angeles, Robert Wanamaker moved his residence to Incline Village, Nevada. The Wanamaker Award may be presented to one award recipient each year at the annual Summer Conference. The award is intended for persons who are not currently exercising active responsibility for the management, general supervision, or administration of a public-use airport. The goal of the award is to recognize individuals who have provided leadership for the betterment of airports or aviation in its entirety.

Corporate Award of Excellence: First awarded in 1996, the “Corporate Award of Excellence” is presented to a company whose professionalism and recent contributions to the association and the airport industry have made a significant difference in fostering aviation. One award is given annually and is presented during the Awards Banquet at the annual Summer Conference. Members of the association nominate candidates for the award. The Awards Committee reviews the nominations and selects a single recipient.

Award of Distinction: The SWAAAE “Award of Distinction” was created in 1994 to recognize those few members of the association who have served the association and/or promoted aviation with uncommon dedication. Although this award criterion is not specific, the accomplishments of previous recipients should be considered in comparison to those of future candidates for the award.

Young Professional Award: The SWAAAE “Young Professional Award” is to recognize young airport industry professionals who are 40 years of age or younger and are judged to have attained significant professional achievement, by the degree to which the candidates have shown:

1. Evidence of leadership, high character and integrity;
2. Evidence of technical competence. Examples include obtaining A.A.E., C.M., C.A.E., A.C.E., PE, AICP, PMP, licensed architect, or masters/doctoral degree; developing new approaches and efficiencies to operating an airport, airport operations/maintenance, airport administration, airport planning, and/or airport environmental management; business management skills;
3. Advocate for the airport industry;
4. Service to the advancement of the airports profession;
5. Other evidence of merit, which in the judgment of the Awards Committee, in advancing the objectives of SWAAAE.

The recipients of this award represent the future of the industry and will set new standards for the support and growth of the airport industry, as well as the SWAAAE brand. They are valuable assets in their organization, communities, and are moving the airport industry forward. By developing and recognizing future leaders, SWAAAE is laying the foundation for the industry to continue to innovate, grow, and inspire future generations of SWAAAE members. This award is open to all current SWAAAE member types.