



AMC SEM

Yearly

Distinguished Service Award (DSA)

History

In 2001 Bob Bentley proposed the establishment of a “Distinguished Service Award” to be presented at the SEM Annual Meeting to a member of the Chapter who had shown ‘Distinguished Service’ over the years. He proposed the award, a gold plated Sierra Cup, engraved with the recipient’s name, the award, and the year. The first Award was presented that year, to Bruce Dunham. In the first years the recipient was determined by the Board, based on input from Bob Bentley and other long time members. After the award had been in place for several years, it was determined that the new recipients should be chosen by those past award winners with whom we still have contact.

Definition

The DSA is given to someone who has “distinguished service”—above and beyond the usual SEM high level of volunteer service. There have been various detailed criteria suggested for determining the award winner. The bottom line is that a high level of service to the Chapter be provided for an extended time. Note: It may be that in some years no one satisfies the criteria.

Selection Process

The selection process should be handled by a small (≤ 5) appointed DSA Nominating Committee (appointed by the Chapter Chair, or Executive Board in the absence of the Chapter Chair) and not one person. The DSA Nominating Committee proposes possible recipients and/or solicits the names of possible recipients from the membership, collects the credentials of the possible recipients, compares the recipients, and then votes on the choices to choose the recipient.

The DSA Nominating Committee is typically made up of past DSA recipients, or as many as can be contacted. However, if this is not practical, the DSA Nominating Committee can be named at the Chapter Chair’s discretion (but ideally should not be current executive board members, unless they are also past DSA recipients). The Chapter Chair should start this process in the early part of the calendar year, so the DSA Nominating Committee has at least 3 members appointed by July 1.

The decision of the nominating committee is final.

Award Criteria

The DSA is awarded to someone who:

- has been an AMC SEM chapter member for more than 5 years
 - verified by the SEM Membership Chair

- is alive, a current member, and is currently actively contributing to the chapter
- has been actively involved in and served the chapter for more than 5 years
- has ‘distinguished’ service (above and beyond the usual SEM high level of volunteer service)
- has significantly contributed to different committees within the chapter (not just one committee)
- has contributed to some club-wide capacity in addition to their committee work

Note: It may be that in some years no one satisfies the criteria.

Note: These DSA criteria reside on the chapter website in a public area.

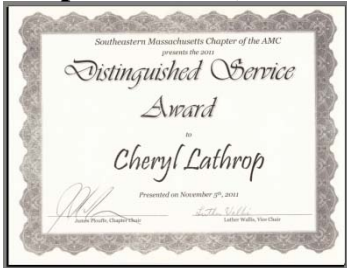
Carry-over Nominees

Those not selected for the Award in one year should have their names carried forward for re-consideration in following years.

Chapter Award (plaque)

Prior to 2013, the DSA has been represented by a wooden plaque with engraved names, that was held by each recipient for a year. Prior to the Annual Meeting, the plaque was obtained from the current DSA recipient, and the new recipient’s name was engraved on the plaque. This process was typically handled by the Chapter Chair. The last year engraved on the plaque is 2012. Starting in 2013, the chapter changed from a physical plaque to an electronic plaque (e-plaque). This e-plaque resides on the AMC SEM website.

Chapter Award (certificate)



The chosen recipient will receive a paper certificate signed by the Chapter Chair and Chapter Vice Chair (or designated Executive Board officers). The template for this certificate resides on the chapter website.

If possible, the most significant contributions of the recipient can be listed on the certificate.

Individual Award

Each award recipient also receives an engraved “Sierra cup” to keep.



Suggested engraving:

**2012 AMC SEM
Distinguished Service Award
Firstname Lastname**

Information on “Sierra cups” can be found at:

- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sierra_cup
- www.amazon.com/Stainless-Steel-Sierra-Camping-Emergency/dp/B000Y9EZNA
- www.rei.com/product/765762/rei-campware-sierra-cup

Notifying the Recipient

In past years, the award has usually been a surprise to the recipient; although this is desirable, this sometimes presents logistical problems getting them to the Annual Meeting. If necessary, the recipient can be told before the meeting; this is left to the discretion of the Chapter Chair and/or the DSA Nominating Committee.

Presentation of the Award

The award is presented at the AMC SEM Annual Meeting/Dinner (typically by the Chapter Chair). The recipient need not be present (e.g., age, infirmity, travel, etc.), but the award is still presented/mentioned as part of the Annual Meeting agenda, and noted in the minutes of the meeting. If the recipient cannot attend the Annual Meeting, then another suitable occasion is found to award them their certificate and cup.

The presenter will describe several of the major contributions of the recipient.

Refusal of the Award

Should the proposed recipient refuse the award, the second most-qualified nominee shall receive the award.

Plaque

This is the physical plaque that was presented to each recipient (on a rotating basis) from 2001-2012. It was replaced by an e-plaque in 2013.



Close-up of first 12 recipients:



Past recipients of the AMC SEM DSA:

2012 Carolyn Crowell
2011 Cheryl Lathrop
2010 Walter Morin
2009 Steve Tulip
2008 Bob Vogel
2007 Lou Sikorsky
2006 Dexter Robinson
2005 Pamela Carter
2004 Bob Bentley
2003 John Smart
2002 Elsie Laverty
2001 Bruce Dunham