

Tim Kurkowski Horizon Award

Tim Kurkowski, trusted colleague and ZRA member since 2001, died on July 8, 2008 from stomach cancer. In honor of the spirit, energy and support Tim demonstrated for the Association early on and throughout his membership, and as evidenced by his broad committee involvement, insatiable desire to learn, emphasis on continuing education, pursuit of ethics and the advancement of the registrar profession; the Tim Kurkowski Horizon Award was established and will be awarded for the first time in 2009.

This award recognizes those professionals that have been a member of ZRA for five (5) years or less and during that time demonstrated outstanding early initiative and commitment to the vision, mission and goals of the Association, and through their involvement in ZRA leadership or programs and/or other achievements, been inspirational to fellow members of the organization. The ZRA professional selected for the Tim Kurkowski Horizon Award will be an individual who stands out among his or her peers, demonstrates early achievement in leadership, and is known for actively promoting the mission and value of the Association and encouraging others to participate and grow in their professional development and to contribute to the advancement of the profession.

Eligibility

1. Candidates must have been Professional Category members in good standing within the five (5) years previous to being nominated and at the time of nomination.
2. Current members of the ZRA Board of Directors who are eligible to receive the award must abstain from voting if nominated.
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 during the same time period required for the award (collective years of experience may be acquired at more than one institution).

Award Criteria

1. First and foremost the Nominee must have demonstrated early and consistent involvement or participation in ZRA leadership and/or programs aside from other achievements that may be notable and were proven to be inspirational to other new members.
2. Testimonials from at least three ZRA members documenting the nominee's activities have resulted in the advancement of ZRA goals and objectives.

Call for Nominations

1. A Call for Nominations will be posted to the ZRA website by the Board of Directors, with an email notice sent to the membership, by August 1.

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 Professional Category members who were inspired by the award candidate, in such a way that has provided for their own professional achievement or leadership development.
4. Nominations must be transmitted to the ZRA President by September 1.

Selection Procedure

1. Nominations will be submitted to the Board of Directors for review.
The number of awards given each year will be based on merit, and final decisions will be determined by a majority vote of the entire Board of Directors.

Award Notification

1. The ZRA President shall notify recipients prior to the presentation of the award at the Annual Conference. The employers of recipients 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. Awards will be presented during the Recognition Ceremony at the Annual Conference. The Tim Kurkowski Horizon Award consists of an appropriate plaque, and a letter from the ZRA President.

Board Approved June 30, 2009