

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
Chicago, IL**
Awards Committee: Request to Revise Charge
(Prepared by: Audra Eagle Yun, Senior Co-Chair)

Year: 2025 - 2026

Council Liaison: Bryan Whitledge

SUMMARY

The SAA Awards Committee is the largest appointed group of the Society with over 60 appointed members on its roster. For years, Awards have been unable to recruit and retain members due to a lack of volunteers and an unrealistic representative appointment model.

To streamline and make the Awards Committee more efficient, we humbly request Council's consideration of a revision of the Committee's charge (along with specific award descriptions, as needed) in the SAA Governance Manual. We respectfully recommend that Awards subcommittees be grouped into 4 categories, down from the current 20 representing each individual award.

JUSTIFICATION

The Appointments Committee struggles to identify a sufficient number of volunteers to be appointed to the Awards Committee. Several awards require appointments of specific members and/or affinity group leaders, such as section chairs, and these members are often surprised that this is expected of them and/or do not participate.

Additionally, Awards struggle to recruit and retain members who identify as underrepresented and marginalized in the field, who are often overextended to provide leadership across multiple areas of the organization at the same time. This extra labor replicates historic harms of the profession and counters the purpose of awards and scholarships intended to foster a more inclusive profession.

Some regular appointed members are unwilling to volunteer for more than one year, do not respond to committee requests or allow their SAA membership to lapse. The mid-term appointments process is too late for the Awards calendar, creating gaps in subcommittee membership that impact the promotion of the nominations process.

Finally, SAA staff conducted a thorough review of operational files, historical documentation,

archived committee materials, and the shared staff drive, and did not find any MOUs or binding agreements with the Society of Southwest Archivists, United Methodist Church, nor other organization(s)/individual(s) that would preclude SAA from making these changes to the Awards program.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

Attached, please find the following proposed revisions to the Governance Manual with tracked changes for Council consideration:

1. Awards Committee Charge
2. Coker Award description
3. Diversity Award description
4. Forman Scholarship description
5. Ham Scholarship description
6. Jameson Award description
7. Lane Award description
8. Mosaic Scholarship description
9. Pease Award description
10. Pinkett Award description
11. Posner Award description
12. Preservation Award description