

# AWARDS



International  
Association of

**Insurance  
Professionals**™



**REGION VII**

# Why Apply?

- Winning a professional award looks good on your resume.
- Impresses your employer and your local association.
- Boosts your self-esteem.
- Distinguishes yourself when requesting promotions.
- Putting together an application helps you reflect on your skills and career progress and to engage in personal and professional self-assessment.
- A scholarship is free money to further your education.

# What if I don't win?

Of course, should you emerge from the process with an award in hand, all the better. But even if you don't win, competing for an award is often a worthwhile effort that will help you further your professional development.

# Award Category-International

- Claims Professional of the Year
- Client Service Professional of the Year
- Insurance Professional of the Year
- Professional Underwriter of the Year
- Risk Management Professional of the Year
- Rookie of the Year
- Young/New Professional of the Year
- The award winners are announced at the Regional Conference with the winners competing on the International level. The International winners are announced at the annual International convention.
- [www.internationalinsuranceprofessionals.org](http://www.internationalinsuranceprofessionals.org)



# Award

## Category-Regional

- Member of the Year
- Hall of Fame
- Jeffrey Nordhaus Memorial Award for Education
- Roy Pasini Memorial Award for Public Relations
- E.C. Smith Jr. Memorial award for Community Action
- Association of the Year

[iaipregion7.org](http://iaipregion7.org)



# DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

- International: Due to the RVP by 11/15 – no exceptions
- Regional: Due to the Regional Awards Chair by 2/1 unless otherwise stated

THE ULTIMATE  
**INSPIRATION**  
IS THE  
**DEADLINE**  
NOLAN BUSHNELL

# The Application

Studying the award criteria and looking at past winners may help you get a sense of what you want to strive for and identify skill gaps. Trying to fill these gaps will not only increase your chances of getting the award, but also put you in a stronger position for your future career planning and progression.

# Essays

- Are essays holding you back?





# Tips on writing an essay

- Follow the award criteria step by step and it will make the process easier.
- Outline your essay.
- Write your essay.
- Edit your writing to check spelling and grammar.

Keep your professional resume and your IAIP resume up to date!



# Your essay

- “Why do you deserve this award?”. Your essay must stand out from the competition while still being humble and appreciative.
- Focus on the purpose of the award. While writing your essay, keep in mind what the award is for and tailor your response so it resonates with the judges.
- Don't be afraid to promote yourself. This is your chance to tell the committee about your achievements and successes.

# Essays

- Avoid generalizations. Generic statements like “I deserve this because I am a hard worker” aren’t enough. Every applicant is a hard worker, and a team player,’ etc. What makes you different, special and memorable? That should be the topic of your essay.
- Support your statements with examples. Instead of saying, “I’m a hard worker,” say, “I upheld a full time job while attending classes to obtain my CPCU designation. This is no longer a generalization. It is an achievement specific to you.

# Essays

- Use positive language. Avoid words like 'very' and 'really.' You can typically find a one-word substitute that sounds more professional. Very hard turns into difficult. Very good becomes exceptional.
- Take a one-day break before you edit. Once you have a solid draft written, do not jump straight into editing. Wait a day before looking over your essay. This will let you read the essay with fresh eyes so you can catch inconsistencies, grammar mistakes, and more.

# Essays

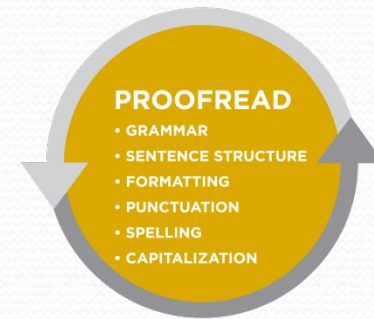
- Drafting an award submission might be time consuming but submitting your application for an award is a great way to showcase your achievements, gain recognition for your hard work and allows you to be seen as a leader in your industry. Both of which are highly valued by prospective employers. Even if you don't win, it can be beneficial for your career. Preparing an essay can provide you with a better insight into your achievements and values.

# Essays

- Allocate enough time to complete the application so you don't have to rush to complete it the night before. Take a quick look through the application to determine how long it will take you to complete. This will also give you a good indication of what type of information you will need to complete the submission.
- Make sure you answer all of the questions on the application because an incomplete form may not be accepted. By answering every question you are also giving yourself a better chance of winning the award.
- Stick to the word limit.

# Proofread your essay

- **Proofread, then proofread again!**
- Reviewing is critical to composing a great essay. Some judges won't even finish reading essays if they're not grammatically sound or riddled with spelling errors. Here are a few ways to make your essay is acceptable and better overall.
- Spell Check is your friend! Have friends or colleagues read it. A second set of eyes can catch any mistakes you missed.
- Read it out loud. This will help with grammar mistakes. If it sounds wrong, it probably is.



# Applications and Procedures

- Regional: [iaipregion7.org](http://iaipregion7.org)
- International:  
[www.internationalinsuranceprofessionals.org](http://www.internationalinsuranceprofessionals.org)
- Please use the most current applications found on the websites.
- Membership Achievement Record:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1veRnKobi8npWmSVo5niTmfVudc4ijUQi/view?usp=sharing>



# Be Prepared in Advance

- The Regional Awards Committee Chair shall send notification and provide awards procedures, entry forms and applications in the form of attachments or document links to all members. The notification letter shall also include the names and addresses of the three (3) committee members that will judge the entries. The local association shall return one set of the completed entry, essay and all required documentation to the chairman and each of the committee members listed, not later than set deadline.
- The presiding RVP shall send notification to all members to submit for International Award Categories.

# Ready to Submit

- Submit to Regional Awards Chair or as instructed.
- Awards are for the prior term. Most categories are points based.
- Documentation for the points system awards is required. All submissions will require an essay or specific nomination form.


# LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS SUBMISSION PREPARATION

- Assign a committee – A chairperson and 2 or 3 members.
- Documentation – Flyers, photos, bulletins, newspaper clippings ( Start Early).
- An essay – Be sure to be specific and highlight the award you want to achieve.
- The award submission form if required- signed by the current president of the association. Member at Large submissions for Region VII Member of the Year must be signed by the presiding Regional Vice President.

# Key Points - Local Associations and Individuals

- Prepare a basic essay and bio to have ready to edit when needed.
- Keep an updated resume of IAIP and industry involvement, education courses taken and your community service activities.
- You can't win if you don't submit. Celebrate you and your association!





Respectfully Prepared by:  
Regina Lemanowicz, CLP  
Region VII Marketing Director