



**Awards Committee Report
March 25, 2008**

Chair: Ina Cushman

Members: Julie Theriault
Dick Rensch
Camille Hawkins
Phoumy Bounkeua
Suzanne Luebke
Sierra Farris

Past-President Consultants for Eugene Stead Award

Sherrie Borden
Bill Marquardt
Marshall Sinback

PAEA Consultants for the Eugene Stead Award

Dana Sayre-Stanhope and Paul Lombardo

Society for the Preservation of PA History Consultant for the Stead Award

Carl Toney

Board Advisor: Bruce Fichandler

Staff Advisor: Nancy Hughes

Policy for five year review:

HA-2500.2.5 – AAPA shall continue to honor the historic foundation of the profession in rural health care by recognizing members who exemplify excellence in rural health care delivery.

The process and rationale for five year review of AAPA policies was explained. The relevant policy was adopted in 2003. The committee discussed the history of the policy.

Ms. Theriault made a motion to the House of Delegates to recommend reaffirmation of the policy. Ms. Hawkins seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

The Deadline for all Paragon Award applications and the Eugene Stead Award was January 15, 2008. Over the last three years we have seen a steady increase in numbers of total applications – both initial inquiries/partial applications as well as completed

applications. There were a total of 37 complete applications this year. A significant effort was made to educate all members and constituencies in the Paragon Awards. The attempts have indeed paid off. Not only have we seen an increase in awards applications over the last three years, but we have multiple Federal Services award applications this year.

Application breakdown:

- Outstanding PA – 11 applications
- Humanitarian PA – 8 applications
- Service to the Underserved – 9 applications
- Physician-PA Partnership – 5 applications
- Federal Services PA – 4 applications
- Eugene Stead Award – 8 applications

Along with engaging three past presidents in judging the Eugene Stead applications, input was obtained from PAEA and the PA History Society on each of the applicants for the Stead Award. Each of the two organizations was left to decide how they would like to gather their input and get it to us.

I would like to call particular attention to our efforts with the Federal Services constituencies. We recognized that awards are not likely on the top of their list of important issues at this time. Therefore, Camille Hawkins, myself and staff took the lead to reach out aggressively to these groups. Each time a service PA was featured in AAPA News or a service newsletter, contact was made with the president of the specific service chapter either by letter generated for me by staff, or a direct call from Camille or me. Each time a variant of the following question was posed: “Congratulations to this specific PA. Would this particular PA be appropriate to be nominated for the Federal Services Paragon Award?” A time intensive approach, but well worth the effort in the increased applications. Additionally, the letter was copied to the chief PA of the service.

The Awards Committee discussed whether the requirement that the award applications come only from the AAPA-recognized federal service organizations should be changed. Ms. Hawkins and Ms. Cushman will attend the Federal Service Congress meeting at the AAPA Annual Conference in May to discuss the Federal Service PA of the Year Award and that specific requirement. After receiving input from the Federal Service Congress, the committee will regroup to look at this issue again.

Discuss awards process

Ms. Cushman reviewed the process of judging the entries. Due to the volume of nominations, committee members do not read every application. The nominations are divided up between the judges based on their expertise; each category was judged by four out of the seven judges. However, Ms. Cushman, as chair, looked at all of the nominations. She commented on the consistency of scoring; scoring for four out of the five awards was unanimous. Due to the close scores for the Humanitarian PA of the Year

Award, applications were sent to others on committee who were not involved in the initial judging for their input.

Discuss applications for Stead Award

Ms. Cushman went over the history of the creation of the Eugene Stead Award of Achievement and reviewed the process for utilizing the outside consultants – representatives from PAEA and the PA History Society, and three past presidents. The committee discussed the pros and cons of the nominations and the importance of the application – does a poorly worded or incomplete application weigh against the candidate? The process, as laid out by the AAPA Board of Directors, is that the Awards Committee recommends a recipient and the Board finalizes the decision. After much discussion, Mr. Rensch made a motion to put forward a name, but also inform the Board that members of the committee and some of the consultants felt that the award should not be given this year. Ms. Theriault seconded the motion. It was approved. Ms. Cushman and Ms. Hughes were tasked with writing the memo to the AAPA Executive Committee with the committee's selection and dissenting comments.

It has been a pleasure to serve as chair of the Awards Committee. Each year that I have the privilege of reading the applications for the PARagon Awards I am more awestruck by the contributions of our colleagues on a daily basis. I feel humbled to be in their presence.

Respectfully submitted,

Ina Cushman, PA-C
Chair, Awards Committee