

The ASA Committee on Fellows invites you to nominate colleagues for the award of “Fellow of the ASA.” Nomination packages must be submitted online by 3 PM on March 1 prior to award at JSM of the same year.

There are many statisticians who are worthy of nomination based on their contributions to the profession, to the association, and to society at large. As impressive as the nominees are, not all can be honored in a given year. Successful nominations are those that are “sufficiently impressive” to the Committee, which is limited to selecting a maximum of about 60 (1/3 of 1% of the membership) of roughly 100 nominations a year. Nominators should not assume that the nominee’s reputation “speaks for itself.” The nomination packet and supporting letters play a critical role in the selection.

If you are planning to nominate someone for this prestigious award, we have a few suggestions to increase the chance of success:

1. Follow the instructions and pay attention to the additional information on the ASA website <http://www.amstat.org/awards/fellows.cfm>.
2. Mind the deadline! A successful nomination package requires a good deal of care and thoughtfulness and takes time. Waiting until shortly before the deadline is a disservice to the nominee and the letter writers. Please do not wait until February 28<sup>th</sup> to start—or even finish—the nomination.
3. Describe only those activities that are adequately documented within the package:
  - Present accomplishments, innovations, and evidence of leadership; documentation of mere presence or of a name on a roster is not impressive.
  - Explain the impact of the contribution; just showing up for work is not sufficient. What has this nominee done that is new? Outstanding? Creative? Unusually influential? Has made some corner of the world a better place? When writing the package recognize that the committee reflects a cross-section of interests within ASA including those outside the nominee’s area of expertise.
  - Academics are supposed to teach and publish papers—that is part of their job. Tell us why their teaching has been particularly noteworthy, or how their papers have changed the theory or practice of statistics. Candidates outside academia may also be “teachers” if they have significant mentoring responsibilities or have particularly noteworthy contributions to continuing education.
  - If someone has worked in an applied area, what has been the importance and impact of their work in terms of contributions to statistics or in possibly contributions to other disciplines?
  - If someone has had an influential administrative position or significant administrative responsibilities as with chairing a statistical unit or department or leading a large consulting unit or government agency, what did they achieve that was particularly noteworthy in that role? For example, has the nominee demonstrated an in-depth understanding of the priorities of the organization they work in, , and how have they have used their position(s) to advance the mission of the organization through high quality statistical work performed by them and the people in their unit. In addition, has the nominee been exceptionally effective in ensuring that their organization has been at the forefront of recruitment, training, professional development and retention of statistical personnel; understands the

importance of statistical work, and allocates resources accordingly; maximizes the value provided by statistical professionals.

- If someone has led in activities that impact more than their own organization, consider describing it.

4. Make it easy on the Committee members to find the strength in the nomination. Section IX is the heart of the nomination, used to describe the nominee's contributions to the profession in 6 broad areas; see <http://www.amstat.org/fellows/nominations/pdfs/PreviewofNominationForm.pdf> for details.

- In Section IX, reference the supporting letters by synthesizing or expanding upon the comments in the letters rather than simply copying text or entering only "see the letter from ..."
- Add ASA contributions (if any) in Section IX.F of the form; do not leave them buried in the CV. While organizing sessions at statistical meetings is noteworthy, keep in mind the competitive nature of the nomination process. What has the nominee contributed to a chapter, a section, a committee, or an ASA-sponsored journal?
- In Section IX.G, when defining contributions to societies other than ASA, think about what activities truly stand out. Being an editor in chief of a journal (not sponsored by ASA), or serving as an officer in a related society such as those that cosponsor the JSM, are worth noting. But as with the other efforts, it isn't just about the title but what the nominee accomplished while holding it.
- Avoid rambling. It is not necessary to complete all parts of Section IX. If some part is not applicable, skip it. If some part deserves mention but not elaboration, make the point briefly. Expounding at length about a modest contribution can detract from the nomination.

5. Use the opportunity to present your nominee to good advantage.

- Line up your supporting letter writers early. An individual can only nominate or support a maximum of 2 nominees a year, so the nominator should obtain the commitment of the strongest supporters before they have made other obligations. The nominator also needs to get the assurance of the letter writers **that they are not participating in more than two nominations that year, including the one you are putting together.**
- Use the space. Besides the discussion in Section IX by the nominator, the packet may include letters from up to four other persons. While it is not essential to fill all the "slots," a nomination that includes comments from the nominator and only 2 other persons may appear relatively weak. Skipping the fields requested on the form, and asking the Fellows committee to look through the letters to find the key elements being requested, is not helpful when the committee is looking at over 100 such packages.
- Make sure that the text is worded as though written by the nominator, and not the nominee. Of course it is reasonable to ask the nominee to provide you with some information to work with, but it is difficult to make a good impression on committee members if the nominee's accomplishments are described in the first person.
- Show the nominee's breadth. The nominator should try to elicit supporting letters from persons who have varying perspective on the nominee to avoid presenting the Committee only with multiple letters emphasizing the same few points. A letter writer that can speak to the significant collaborations that have impacted fields other than statistics may be appropriate for some nominations. A letter that can expand why specific research contributions have impacted the field is better than one that cites items in the CV. It is

convincing when the letter writer can personally testify as to some specific accomplishments of the nominee, rather than just writing a letter that describes the nominee's reputation and gives a list of accomplishments.

- Make sure the letters are written for the ASA Fellow award. Letters that appear to have been written to support a different award make the nomination look sloppy and worse, may be discounted because Committee members are unsure as to whether the author did in fact offer support for this award.
- Have the Nominee tighten up the CV if appropriate. Some CVs have pages of detail that might be necessary for internal review but do not serve the purpose of the nomination and, even worse, may make the CV appear padded. Sometimes adding a brief description of responsibilities for positions held could be helpful.

6. Read the nomination form carefully to note changes from previous years.

We reiterate: the nominee's reputation does not "speak for itself." If you plan to nominate someone, we recommend that you start early and take the time to compile an impressive package that will be convincing to the Committee. We look forward to reviewing the submissions in March.