



# The American Legion 2018 Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award



## WHAT, WHY and HOW -

1. **SCOPE:** Americans in recent years have been experiencing an unprecedented crime wave which has permeated all States and neighborhoods in our country, and crime is rapidly becoming America's foremost domestic problem. The Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion includes as one of its objectives....."to maintain Law and Order". As concerned citizens and veterans, Legionnaires have always fostered a strong sense of law and order and have upheld the protection of American citizens and the American way of life. They have always held law enforcement agencies in the highest regard and many Posts and Departments already recognize outstanding law enforcement officers of various jurisdictions who daily serve our communities and frequently lay their lives on the line.

2. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this instruction is to specify the guidelines, eligibility criteria and application requirements for selection and presentation of a National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. The major purpose of this award, is to encourage the further development of Department and Post Law and Order Committees in all Divisions in recognition of law enforcement officers by Posts, Divisions and the Department Headquarters of The American Legion.

3. **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:** To be eligible for consideration, Department nominees must meet the following criteria:

- a: Be a citizen of the United States, male or female.
- b: Be a living, active, full-time and paid, sworn law enforcement officer entrusted with the authority and powers of arrest.
- c: Consideration for a posthumous award will be acceptable only if the nominees death has occurred after the Department's selection and within the dates for which the award is being presented.
- d: Be assigned to a Municipal (City), County, District or State Police or Highway Patrol, Sheriff's office, or as a sworn Federal law enforcement officer (e.g., FBI or Secret Service Agent, United States Federal Marshal, National Park Police, etc.
- e: Department nominees need not be a veteran nor a member of The American Legion.
- f: Reside and be assigned or attached for duty in the Department from which they are selected.

- g: Federal agents serving in overseas Departments may be nominated by the overseas Department.
- h: Nominees selected for this award shall be available to receive this award at The American Legion Department Convention.
- i: Military police officers or investigators are not eligible for participation in this award.
- j: Department nominees who have been previously submitted for this national award may be resubmitted if they have been re-selected by the Department.

4. **DEPARTMENT APPLICATION PACKETS:** Department application packets for their nominee should not exceed 10 typewritten, legible pages, on 8 1/2" x 11" bond paper and should consist of the following documentation:

- a: Application form--Complete the attached application form and use it as the first page or cover page of the application.
- b: The goal of the National Law and Order Committee is to select a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded, above and beyond, the duty requirements of his/her position and who exemplifies the virtues of professionalism and dedication and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service to his/her community, State or Nation; and also has proven his/her personal dedication to societal security and protection. The law enforcement officer must be recommended by



**Officer**  
**Sean Lewakowski**  
*Wauconda Police Department*



**2017**  
**Department**  
**Law**  
**Enforcement**  
**Officer**  
**of the Year**  
**Award Winner**

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*Wauconda Post 911*

“... to maintain Law and Order.”

his/her Commanding Officer or Supervisor for this award. The Commanding Officer or Supervisor should also state that the law enforcement officer, if selected for this award, will be available for its presentation at Department Convention. Specific acts of heroism and meritorious citations presented by his/her law enforcement agency should be included and documented. The application packet should be subdivided into the following categories:

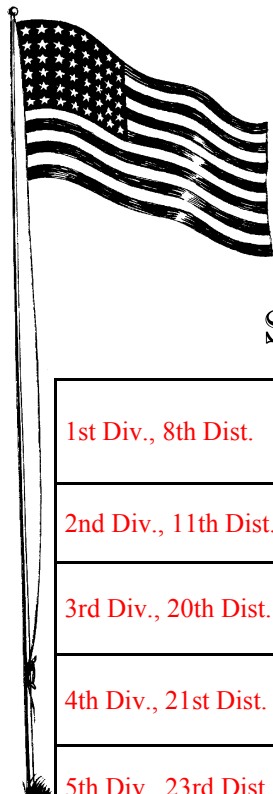
- Section I Professional Career
- Section II Community Service
- Section III Heroism
- Section IV Letters of Recognition
- Section V News Clippings

- c: Community Service: Outstanding service to the Community, State or Nation by the officer, in both on-duty and off-duty activities, should be explained for the past year and may include previous years. Cite, for example, awards and/or supporting letters from City or County Commissioners, letters from State officials and letters from The American Legion Department or Posts, or from citizens attesting to and commending the officer for his/her community service contributions.
- d: Citations for heroism or meritorious performance of duty should be explained for the past year and may include previous years. Include citations and any supporting letters from the officer's chain of command as well as other documentation from City, County, State authorities and American Legion officials as further evidence of heroic and/or meritorious performance of duty by the officer.

- e: Include a copy of your nominee's State or Federal certification as a law enforcement officer as well as copies of pertinent training and education certificates as appropriate.
- f: Include a full-length color or black and white photo of the nominee.
- g: The Department which submits the winning nominee will be notified by certified mail as expeditiously as possible.
- h: Remember to let your nominee know what The American Legion Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award is, and receive assurance from the officer's chain of command that if your nominee is selected as the winner that he/she will be available for the award presentation at the Department Convention. The winning officer is requested to appear in full uniform at The Department Convention at the time of presentation.

All efforts have been expended, and will continue to be expended, to assure fairness and impartiality to all Department nominees. We strongly believe that the presentation of the Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award will reflect great credit on law enforcement officers and agencies, communities and states, our Nation and The American Legion. It is our underlying hope that this award program will also further encourage such recognition of "America's Finest" at the Post and Department levels.

**Delmar Buske, Chairman  
Safety, Law & Order Committee**



**APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO  
DIVISION CHAIRMEN  
NO LATER THAN MAY 29, 2018**



*Scan here to visit our website*



**Safety, Law & Order Division Chairmen**

1st Div., 8th Dist.	<i>Ricky N. Serrano</i>	3727 W. 216th St.	Matteson, IL 60443	(708) 822-4935 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:Ricky.Serrano@carriageservices.com">Ricky.Serrano@carriageservices.com</a>
2nd Div., 11th Dist.	<i>Charles Coffey</i>	40W015 Seavey Rd.	Batavia, IL 60510	(630) 508-8142 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:cfcoff@yahoo.com">cfcoff@yahoo.com</a>
3rd Div., 20th Dist.	<i>Ronald A. Payne, Vice Chairman</i>	919 995 N. Ave.	Mt. Sterling, IL 62353	(217) 370-0638 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:paynetech@hotmail.com">paynetech@hotmail.com</a>
4th Div., 21st Dist.	<i>Delmar R. Buske, Chairman</i>	904 N. Van Buren St.	Litchfield, IL 62056	(217) 556-9555 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:delmarbuske@yahoo.com">delmarbuske@yahoo.com</a>
5th Div., 23rd Dist.	<i>David K. Harris</i>	350 E 2500 Ave.	Bingham, IL 62011	(618) 292-2248 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:harrispolice52@yahoo.com">harrispolice52@yahoo.com</a>

# The American Legion Department Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Application Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Service as Law Enforcement Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Law Enforcement Officers Title \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Director \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Post Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Division \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Post Commander's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Local radio/TV station serving area

Local newspaper serving area

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Division Chairman

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Post Commander

Date

Application Deadline: **May 29, 2018** (Return to Division Chairmen)

