Nominate a peer for an award to be presented at the NAI National Conference.

Through its awards program, NAI recognizes outstanding achievements and showcases the successes of NAI members and others working to advance the profession of interpretation. As a member of NAI, you are exposed to outstanding and inspiring programs and professionals.

Please nominate someone you know and respect.

Nominations must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2017.
Submission Information

To submit a nomination, you must:

- Be an NAI member.
- Submit the information requested for the chosen award category.
- Submit nomination electronically or by mail (Faxes will not be accepted).
- Ensure that the nomination is received or emailed by May 31, 2017.
- Include a cover sheet with the following information:
  - Award category
  - Nominee’s name
  - Nominee’s title / agency or organization
  - Nominee’s day phone / fax / e-mail
  - NAI member category of nominee
  - Nominee’s address
  - Your name
  - Your NAI membership category
  - Your address
  - Your title / organization or agency
  - Your day phone / fax / e-mail

To send an electronic nomination, submit the nomination and all letters of support as a Microsoft Word or PDF file to Howard.Aprill@milwaukeecountywi.gov.

To send a paper nomination, submit ONE clean paper nomination to:

NAI Professional Awards
Attention: Howard Aprill
9701 West College Avenue
Franklin, WI 53132

Note: NAI’s president and members of the current Professional Awards Committee are ineligible for awards during their terms.

2017 Professional Awards Committee

Chair
Howard Aprill

NAI Board Representative
Todd Bridgewater, NAI VP Programs

Committee Members
Ron Zimmerman, Past NAI Fellow
John Miller, Past Master Interpretive Manager
Trent Redfield, Past Master Frontline Interpreter
Kylie Starck, Past Outstanding New Interpreter
Kelli English, Member at Large

Recipients must be prepared to provide the committee a head shot photo, several slides of them during their careers, and a camera-ready organization or agency logo.

Fellow

one awarded each year

Our highest honor for an individual member exemplifying career achievement in guiding the interpretive profession through training, mentoring, writing, front-line interpretation, and management, and who provides strong support for NAI.

Submit the following information:

1) List evidence of the nominee’s contributions to the field of interpretation in any of the areas listed above.
2) List activity in NAI at chapter, unit, national, or international level. Include offices held, committee work, and workshop involvement. List other professional memberships.
3) List awards, recognitions, and honors from NAI or other professional organizations.
4) List relevant newsletter, magazine and/or journal articles, books, and other publications, when they were authored, and support information such as where an article appeared.
5) Indicate consultant activities, instructional activities, and front-line interpretive experience.
6) Attach no more than three letters of support.

Nomination must not exceed 10 pages, including letters of support, excluding cover page.

Meritorious Service Award

no limit of quantity awarded

Presented to NAI members who have performed extensive and invaluable service to NAI, especially on the national level.

Submit the following information:

1) Describe the nominee’s NAI-related projects and/or overall commitment to NAI.

Nomination must not exceed two pages, excluding cover page.

Questions?

Answers to frequently asked questions are available on NAI’s website at www.interpnet.com. Contact NAI Awards Chair Howard Aprill at Howard.Aprill@milwaukeecountywi.gov.
**Outstanding New Interpreter**

Presented to an NAI member who has worked fewer than five years in the profession, full- or part-time, and who demonstrates a recognized potential in interpretation, assumption of leadership roles, creativity in programming or facility development, and a commitment to the profession and NAI.

Submit the following information:

1) Describe nominee's involvement in front-line interpretation.
2) List outstanding projects or programs developed and describe evidence that the nominee has leadership potential.
3) List activity in NAI at chapter, unit, or national level. Include offices held, committee work, and workshop involvement. List other professional memberships.
4) List awards, recognitions, and honors from NAI or other professional organizations.
5) Attach up to three letters of support.

Nomination must not exceed six pages, including letters of support, excluding cover page.

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**Outstanding Senior/Retired Interpreter**

Presented to an NAI member and lifelong interpreter who is no longer working full-time in the profession (may be working part-time or as a volunteer) and who has dedicated his/her lifetime career to interpretation as a front-line interpreter, interpretive manager/administrator, or both.

Submit the following information:

1) Describe nominee's involvement in interpretation or management, past and present, with an indication of how the nominee has dedicated his/her career to the profession.
2) List activity in NAI at chapter, unit, or national level. Include offices held, committee work, and workshop involvement. List other professional memberships.
3) List awards, recognitions, and honors from NAI or other professional organizations.
4) Attach up to three letters of support.

Nomination must not exceed six pages, including letters of support, excluding cover page.

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**Outstanding Interpretive Volunteer**

Presented to an NAI member who has worked five or more years as a volunteer interpreter, whose educational background is not in interpretation, and whose current volunteer duties are in front-line interpretation or administration of an interpretive program. Must demonstrate a mastery of interpretive techniques and program development, and must demonstrate initiative and a dedication to the affiliated institution.

Submit the following information:

1) Include number of hours per year volunteer donates to the affiliated organization.
2) Describe nominee's involvement and achievements in front-line interpretation or interpretive program administration.
3) List any key projects or programs developed by the nominee.
4) List activity in NAI chapter, unit, or national-level program. Include offices held, committee work, and workshop involvement. List other professional memberships.
5) List awards, recognitions, and honors from NAI or other professional organizations.
6) Attach up to three letters of support.

Nomination must not exceed seven pages, including letters of support, excluding cover page.
Outstanding product or Service by NAI Unit or Chapter

one awarded each year

Presented to a unit of NAI for an outstanding or beneficial project, product, or program. (Workshops are excluded from nomination.)

Submit the following information to the best of your knowledge:

1) Describe the product or service and its impact on the membership or interpretation in general.

2) Describe the involvement of the NAI unit in the development of this project, program, or service.

3) Seven copies of the product being nominated. (For website, list URL.)

Nomination must not exceed three pages, including picture of product/project.

Master Interpreter

up to two awarded in each subcategory (below) each year

Master Interpretive Manager

Presented to an NAI member who has worked for five or more years in the profession and whose current duties are at least 60 percent supervisory and administrative. Must demonstrate a mastery of interpretive technique, site or program and staff management, and a respected ability to pass these skills on to others.

Submit the following information:

1) Describe nominee's involvement in interpretation and in management, indicating innovative programs, mentoring experience, creative approaches to making interpretive services available to the public, facility or program development, and management techniques.

2) List key projects or programs developed by the nominee.

3) List activity in NAI at chapter, unit, or national level. Include offices held, committee work, and workshop involvement. List other professional memberships.

4) List awards, recognitions, and honors from NAI or other professional organizations.

5) Attach up to three letters of support.

Nomination must not exceed seven pages, including letters of support, excluding cover page.

Master Front-Line Interpreter

Presented to an NAI member who has worked for five or more years in the profession and whose current duties are at least 60 percent front-line interpretation. Must demonstrate a mastery of interpretive techniques, program development, and design of creative projects.

Submit the following information:

1) Describe nominee's involvement and achievements in front-line interpretation.

2) List any key projects or programs developed by the nominee.

3) List activity in NAI at chapter, unit, or national level. Include offices held, committee work, and workshop involvement. List other professional memberships.

4) List awards, recognitions, and honors from NAI or other professional organizations.

5) Attach up to three letters of support.

Nomination must not exceed seven pages, including letters of support, excluding cover page.
Excellence in Interpretive Support

up to two awarded each year

Presented to an individual member or nonmember, governing body or official, administrator, business, agency, or organization who has shown recognition of the value of interpretation through exceptional and sustained support. This support may be broad-based financial, administrative, or executive (or a combination of these), and serves as a respected model for other interpretive venues and contributors. Recognition may be for (but is not limited to) sponsorship or support for interpretive programs and enhancement of interpretive facilities.

Submit the following information:

1) Describe the nominee’s efforts and how they have resulted in lasting benefits to interpretation and set a standard for the interpretive field.

2) If efforts are for a specific project, describe the unique nature of the project, its impact on interpretation, and the audiences served.

3) Attach up to two letters of support.

Nomination must not exceed four pages, including letters of support, excluding cover page.

Special Awards

no limit of quantity awarded

Presented to members or nonmembers, individuals, agencies, or organizations whose service to NAI and its membership does not fit into one of the standard categories.

These awards may be in the form of certificates of appreciation, honorary memberships for nonmembers, or other recognition. In addition to nominations from members, the Executive Committee of NAI may choose to grant awards in this category.

Submit the following information:

1) Identify the nominee's field of business, and note contact person.

2) Describe the nominee’s role in supporting interpretation in your community or for your agency.

3) Attach one letter of support and, if available, one page of supporting material (newspaper clipping, photograph of project, etc.).

Nomination must not exceed three pages, including letter of support, excluding cover page. If selected, NAI will contact you regarding fee and shipping information. Do not enclose $40 with nomination.

Community Interpretive Service Award

no limit of quantity awarded

This award recognizes member or nonmember businesses, individuals, or civic groups whose major focus is not interpretation but have worked in their region or community to demonstrate financial or program support for local organizations or agencies with interpretive projects or facilities.

If selected by the Awards Committee, a $40 fee is required from the nominator to cover the cost of plaque engraving and U.S. shipping. Both NAI and the nominating agency are listed on the plaque. A news release template will be included with the plaque. These awards are not presented at the national workshop. Nominating agencies/individuals arrange for presentation at a time and location of their choice. Plaques will be shipped by December 31, 2017.

Submit the following information:

1) Identify the nominee's field of business, and note contact person.

2) Describe the nominee’s role in supporting interpretation in your community or for your agency.

3) Attach one letter of support and, if available, one page of supporting material (newspaper clipping, photograph of project, etc.).

Nomination must not exceed three pages, including letter of support, excluding cover page. If selected, NAI will contact you regarding fee and shipping information. Do not enclose $40 with nomination.
2016 NAI Award Recipients

NAI FELLOW

Ron Zimmerman
University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point

Master Interpretive Managers

John Miller
Missouri Department of Conservation

Ray Novotny
Mill Creek Metroparks

Cyndi Cogbill
Pawpaw Patch Productions

Trent Redfield
Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center

Outstanding Senior Interpreter

Anthony Ingraham
New York Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

Outstanding New Interpreter

Kylie Starck
Fairfax County Park Authority

Outstanding Volunteer

Shawna Skinner
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

Meritorious Service Awards

Lori Spencer
Arkansas State Parks

Sara M. Skinner
California State Parks

Angela Yau
Steppingstone Farm Museum

Excellence in Interpretive Support

Friends of Great Plains Nature Center