Association Awards and Honors



Donald L. Smith Distinguished Service Award

May be awarded annually and designated as the highest honor bestowed by MEUW -- in recognition of exceptional leadership in and dedication to public power.

The award is named in honor of Donald L. Smith who worked at Columbus Water and Light for 35 years, serving as Superintendent for 17 of those years. Don was a very active MEUW member, serving as president in 1963-64 and part-time executive director from 1973 to 1980, and was instrumental in forming the Municipal Wholesale Power Group. His involvement in legislation contributed to the legislation passed allowing the formation of Joint Action Agencies in Wisconsin.

Eligibility:

 Any employee of an MEUW member system who has been active in the organization for at least 10 years. The awards committee has the discretion over the awarding of this award and may do so under extraordinary circumstances.

Criteria:

- Achievements, or sustained performance, showing commitment to MEUW:
- Exceptional leadership and contributions toward attaining the vision and mission of the MEUW and enhancing the image of public power
- Recognition by the nominee's peers
- Exemplification of the highest ideals and finest traditions in management of publicly owned electric utility systems
- Contributions to the betterment of the community, the state and the nation

Charlie Bradburn Pillar of Public Power Award

Presented to individuals who served a specified period of time as a member of a public power governing board (e.g., utility commission, city council, and village board). Recipients are honored in one of four categories based on years of service as a governing board member:

- Platinum 40 or more years
- Gold 30 to 39 years
- Silver 20 to 29 years
- Bronze 10 to 19 years

The award is named to honor Charlie Bradburn, who served as a Cedarburg Light & Water Commissioner for 60 years from 1952-2012, following in his father's footsteps who served from 1924-1951. His unending devotion to and tireless work on behalf of Cedarburg Utilities and all of Wisconsin's public power communities truly defines "Pillar of Public Power." In 2009, he was recognized by APPA as the longest serving utility Commissioner in the country.

The years of service must be on a utility governing board and need not be consecutive. Once awarded, the recipient will be listed each year. Each MEUW member utility may nominate as many governing board members as qualify. Recipients must be nominated each year to be recognized at the annual conference.

Philip F. La Follette Public Official Award

May be given annually to an individual who has demonstrated an extraordinary level of commitment to public power through policies, presentations or overall career activities that make a significant impact to public power.

The award is named to honor Gov. Philip F. La Follette who served as Wisconsin's 27th and 29th Governor (1931-1933 and 1935-1939). During his administration, several significant laws were passed that supported the growth of municipally owned electric utilities. Gov. La Follette's policies are considered to have helped to strengthen public power in Wisconsin.

Eligibility:

 Any elected or appointed member of a policy board or commission of any MEUW member system who has actively participated in MEUW for at least five years

Criteria:

- Nominee's personal service to MEUW has:
- Made a substantial contribution toward the attainment of the vision and mission of the MFUW
- Made a substantial contribution toward enhancing the image of public power
- Made contributions to his/her community

Friend of Public Power Award

May be presented to an individual, organization or local business that is a non-MEUW member or representative. The MEUW Awards Committee and the MEUW Executive Committee shall review requests for the award as needed. It may be presented at an appropriate ceremony either at the annual conference or other event as determined by the committee.

A recipient of the MEUW Friend of Public Power Award could be a local business leader or chamber of commerce executive who supports public power; a legislative or congressional staff person; or someone who supports public power ideals, but doesn't directly work in or for a public power utility.

MEUW Meritorious Service Award

Presented to individuals to recognize outstanding service/ achievement, or other recognizable act while an employee of an MEUW member utility, or in service to MEUW (consultants, public officials, etc.). Awarding of the Meritorious Service Award is the sole discretion of the MEUW Awards Committee, should a nomination be received for which this award would be appropriate.

MEUW Retirement Awards

Presented to individuals that have served in a managerial or supervisory capacity in an MEUW member utility, or have served MEUW on a committee or board capacity. The award is presented at the annual conference by the MEUW president and/or other appropriate persons. Member utilities are encouraged recommend individuals to receive the award upon retirement.