Fellow Rules, Criteria and Guidelines

History and Description

The American Welding Society, in 1990, established the honor of Fellow of the Society to recognize members for distinguished contributions to welding science and technology, and for promoting and sustaining the professional stature of the field. AWS Fellow candidates are expected to have demonstrated impactful contributions through research, teaching, leadership, or service. Election as a Fellow of the Society is based on the outstanding accomplishments and technical impact of the individual.

These accomplishments will have advanced the science, technology and application of welding, as evidenced by:

* Sustained service and performance in the advancement of welding science and technology.
* Publication of papers, articles and books that enhance the knowledge of welding.
* Innovation and development of welding technology.
* Service to the American Welding Society (AWS) at national, section or committee levels.
* Professional recognition.

Rules

1. Candidates shall have at least 10 years of membership in AWS.
2. Candidates shall be nominated by any five members of the Society. Members of the AWS Fellows Committee are not eligible to serve as proposers (supervise the package and its submission) or supporters (provide letters of support) for any AWS Fellow nomination package.
3. Current AWS Officers, members of the Board of Directors, and AWS Executives shall not serve as proposers or supporters for any AWS Fellow nomination package.
4. Nominations shall include the official fillable pdf available at: https://www.aws.org/about/awards/counselor-and-fellow.
5. Nomination packages shall include a separate document which summarizes the candidate's qualifications relative to the eleven selection metrics described below.
6. Nominations must be submitted to AWS Headquarters *no later than July 1 of the year prior* to that at which the award is to be presented.
7. Nomination packages will remain valid for three years.
8. All information on nominees will be held in strict confidence.
9. No more than two posthumous AWS Fellows may be elected each year.
10. Candidates who have been selected as Counselor of AWS shall not be eligible for selection of Fellow of AWS. Candidates may not be nominated for both awards at the same time.

Number of Fellows

A maximum of 10 Fellows can be selected each year.

AWS Fellow Criteria

Nomination packages for AWS Fellow should clearly demonstrate the candidate's outstanding contributions to the advancement of welding science and technology. AWS Fellows packages are judged using an integrated approach relative to eleven criteria, although candidates need not have made strong contributions in all the areas to be named a Fellow.

To allow the AWS Fellows Selection Committee to assess the candidate's qualifications accurately, *proposers must develop and include a separate document that summarizes the candidate's major accomplishments relative to the eleven criteria (*shown below in approximate order *of importance). The separate summary document must clearly describe the candidate's specific technical accomplishments, their impact on the advancement of welding technology, and the sustained nature of the contributions.*

1. Description of significant technical accomplishments. This section should include brief summaries and impact statements of the candidate's most significant contributions to the advancement of welding science and technology.

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2. Publications of books, papers, articles or other significant scholarly works that demonstrate the contributions cited in (1). Where possible, papers and articles should be designated as to whether they were published in peer-reviewed journals.
3. Inventions and patents and significance of each.
4. Professional recognition including awards and honors from AWS and other professional societies.
5. Meaningful participation in AWS technical committees. Indicate the number of years served on these committees and any leadership roles (chair, vice-chair, subcommittee responsibilities, etc.).
6. Contributions to AWS handbooks and standards.
7. Presentations made at AWS technical conferences and section meetings.
8. Consultancy – particularly as it impacts technological advancement.
9. Leadership at the technical society or corporate level, particularly as it impacts advancement of welding technology.
10. Participation in organizing AWS committees for technical programming.
11. Advocacy – support of the society and its technical advancement through institutional, political or other means.

Proposers are also strongly encouraged to view and comply with the guidelines below.

Guidelines on AWS Fellows Applications

Introduction**:**

The objective of this document is to provide additional information to the Proposers (who supervise the package and its submission) to better understand the AWS Fellows submission and selection process. A requirement has been instituted to help Proposers produce more successful packages. Specifically, a separate document that summarizes the candidate's major accomplishments in terms of the eleven criteria (in order) outlined above must be submitted with the package. Proposers should note that application packages that do not support the candidate using the eleven criteria listed above will have a very low probability of success.

Although many Proposers have included a separate form with applications for many years, others have simply provided the application form, support letters and a copy of the candidate's *curriculum vitae* (CV). With the latter approach, committee members could be challenged to find evidence that a candidate meets specific criteria if details were not easily and quickly discoverable within a large package (such as in a support letter or CV). Recent history has shown that packages that include the separate accomplishments document have better success rates than those without. Ideal applications will summarize the candidate's accomplishments in a comprehensive and concise manner, not to exceed 15 pages.

Consequently, the discussion above to include a separate accomplishments document is aimed at alerting Proposers to the recent history and at mitigating this issue to permit committee members to assess the candidate's qualifications quickly and accurately during package review. Specifically, successful Proposers should recognize the reviewers' challenges and take time to carefully construct and sequence their application package to make it easier for reviewers to find evidence for meeting criteria.

Mandatory Required Documents:

The five types of documents required for a complete AWS Fellows Package are summarized below:

- Completed Fellow Application Form including the names and AWS member numbers for the Proposer and four Nominating Members (minimum of five). This fillable pdf form is available at: https://www.aws.org/about/awards/counselor-and-fellow.
- A separate document containing a 50 to 100 word citation document that provides a high level synopsis of the candidate's impacts. A recommended format for the citation is included below.
- A separate document that summarizes the candidate's major accomplishments relative to the eleven criteria mentioned above.
- Letters of support from the Proposer and four Nominating Members. Additional letters beyond these five letters of support may be included in the package, although the Proposer should use discretion to avoid unwarranted package length.

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- The Candidate's résumé or curriculum vitae can also be included (optional) but should not be viewed as a substitute for the major accomplishments document.

Citation Statement:

A citation statement (50 to 100 words, separate sheet) that highlights the candidate's impact is a requirement for the nomination package. While Proposers may utilize their discretion on the format of the citation, one common approach involves the use of two to four prepositional phrases that demonstrate the candidate's breadth of contributions, as in the fictitious example citation below:

Sample Citation Statement for AWS Fellow: Dr. XYZ is nominated for AWS Fellow:

"For sustained and seminal research on microstructural evolution of austenitic stainless steel during solidification and its relation to hot cracking susceptibility; For innovative and pioneering efforts on developing computer based codes for predictive modeling and simulation of heat and mass transfer during various weld processes; For longstanding, impactful contributions to structural welding codes and standards, especially those pertinent to seismic structures; For continued education, mentoring and development of students and associates to meet the demands for the next generation of welding scientists and engineers in support of the industry."

Proposers will note that the utility of this approach lies in the use of the citation phrases as sub-headings in the separate technical accomplishments document summarizing the 11 criteria listed earlier in this document. An example of this approach is provided below.

Major Accomplishments Document:

Proposers will recall that the 11 criteria are listed earlier in this document in approximate decreasing order of importance. Note that successful candidates are not expected to make significant contributions to all 11 criterion areas listed in the accomplishment document. Criterion areas where the candidate has not made significant contributions can be marked as "NA" or "none". Nonetheless, as mentioned earlier, components of the citation statement can logically serve as sub-headings under each criteria in the technical accomplishments document, as shown in the examples below.

1. **Description of Significant Technical Advancements**

   (a) Microstructural Evolution of Austenitic Stainless Steel During Solidification:
   - Describe the candidate's most significant contributions for this topic area.
   - Discuss the importance and impact of these contributions for this topic (e.g., scientific advancement, component performance, money savings and profits, or public safety).
   - The ordering of criteria can be considered flexible, and minor changes are allowed if they facilitate the candidate's assessment.
   - For example, packages for a candidate with a strong record of scientific advances may present the listing of publications and presentations (Criteria 2) for this specific topic immediately after the description of accomplishments and impact.
   - This approach allows committee members to assess the candidate's contributions on this topic quickly and accurately.
   - Alternatively, citation of other criteria related to this specific topic (e.g. inventions or patents, or contributions to handbooks and standards) may be moved here depending on the candidate's strengths.

   (b) Development of Computer Based Codes For Predictive Modeling and Simulation
   - Repeat the same format for this specific topic.

   (c) Contributions to Structural Welding Codes and Standards
   - Repeat the same format for this specific topic.

   (d) Education, Mentoring and Development
   - Repeat the same format for this specific topic.

Additional comments on responses to other criteria are outlined below with reference to the pertinent criteria number.

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2. **Publications that Demonstrate Contributions: Dr. XYZ**
    - Similar use of phrases from the citation statement as sub-headings, as shown above, should be continued in the same order under each successive criterion.
    - *Proposers should note that simply reproducing a list of all publications from* the candidate's CV in this section of the accomplishment document without concern for the topic area will likely complicate the review for reasons outlined already *with less probability of success*.

5. **Meaningful Participation in AWS Technical Committees:**
    - Proposers should recognize the difference between a candidate's meaningful participation in a committee and their name being listed on a committee roster.
    - While AWS cannot track the exact contributions of a candidate to any committee, Proposers should attempt to provide unambiguous evidence of meaningful contributions, such as a letter from the committee chair or other members of the committee as to the meaningful contributions by the candidate.
    - In the absence of a letter from the committee chair, a meaningful summary of the candidate's contributions should be provided. The inclusion of commentary on the candidate's contributions is also preferred over just a vague listing of committee names and dates. Simple listings of committee names and dates may result in lower impact.

6. **Contributions to AWS Handbooks and Standards:**
    - Comments like those above for Criterion 5 apply here as well. Proposers should focus on demonstrating the impact relative to meaningful contributions.

<u>Supporting Letters:</u>

- For greater clarity and impact, Proposers may choose to write a combined cover/support letter and place it at the front to the package to summarize key themes articulated more completely in other parts of the package.
- Proposers should select and instruct different supporters (letter writers) to emphasize aspects from different times in the candidate's career path to provide a more comprehensive picture of the candidate's overall accomplishments.
- Letters of support from individuals knowledgeable of the candidate and his/her contributions are required. These letters should provide additional detail on information presented in the major accomplishments document regarding the eleven criteria listed earlier in this document.
- The letters should also provide personal insight into the contributions and stature of the candidate. Letters of support that simply endorse the candidate will have little impact on the selection process.
- Proposers should note that creative sequencing of the documents and letters can be used for greater impact and flexibility of guidelines.

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