



The National Storytelling Network ORACLE Award Submission Instructions

Deadline: Midnight Central time, March 15, 2021

General Instructions

The digital nomination form can be found at <https://storynet.org/awards/oracle-awards/>.

The downloadable form can be filled in using Adobe Acrobat. Be sure to save the file when complete.

Hard copy forms can be filled in by typewriter or pen. Please use black or blue ink and print clearly.

Format

Narrative and Letters of Support: 8 ½" x 11", with 1-inch margins and type font no smaller than 11pt. Please note maximum number of pages is five (5) for the narrative and two (2) for each letter. For the Regional Excellence Awards only, please also include a link to a video showing a Storytelling performance of the nominee (YouTube, website, etc.) ***Do not send photos, CDs, or DVDs. They will not be forwarded to evaluators.***

Directions for Narrative Addressing Qualifications of the Nominee

When writing the narrative, please refer to the **description of the specific award**:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – is presented to individuals in the Storytelling community who have dedicated their lives to the art form of Storytelling and who have demonstrated meritorious service to the National Storytelling Network, as well as to the community of Storytellers at large. The individuals who are awarded are those who have expanded public awareness of the art of Storytelling by virtue of their preservation of traditional art forms or the significant originality of their body of work.
- **Circle of Excellence Award** – is presented to artists who are recognized nationally by their peers to be master Storytellers who set the standards for excellence and have demonstrated, over a significant period of time, a commitment and dedication to the art of Storytelling.
- **Regional Excellence Award** – recognizes the creativity, professional integrity, and artistic contributions of tellers who have greatly enriched the Storytelling culture of their region. **Note:** video required with this nomination since the evaluation committee may be unfamiliar with the nominee's Storytelling work.
- **Distinguished National Service Award** – is presented to those individuals, members, or groups who contribute their time and energy in an exemplary manner on the national level to forward the work of the National Storytelling Network.
- **Talking Leaves** – is presented to those members of our community who have made outstanding contributions to the literary body of Storytelling as authors, editors, or collectors.
- **International StoryBridge Award** – recognizes the exemplary work, dedication, and spirit of those individuals or groups that promote the building of bridges between their country and other countries through the use of Storytelling and/or Storytelling events.
- **Regional Service & Leadership Awards** – presented to individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to their local or regional Storytelling community and/or have used Storytelling to make a significant contribution to the larger community in which they live.

Here are some topics you may want to cover. Please focus on topics relevant to the specific award you are submitting a nomination for. The ORACLE committee can't judge a nominee's excellence if the Narrative and Letters of Support concentrate on their service and leadership; they can't give Talking Leaves (publications) if they hear mostly about the nominee's excellent performances, etc.

- Description of the nominee's originality in their body of artistic work and/or preservation of storytelling as a traditional art form (*especially important for Lifetime Achievement, Circle of Excellence, and Regional Excellence Awards*).
- Description of how the nominee's work has expanded public awareness of storytelling.
- Description of the nominee's contribution to NSN (*especially important for Distinguished National Service, International Story Bridge, and Regional Service & Leadership Awards*).
- Description of the nominee's contribution to the storytelling community (*especially important for Distinguished National Service, International Story Bridge, and Regional Service & Leadership Awards*).
- Description of the nominee's contribution to the community in which they live (*especially important for Distinguished National Service, International Story Bridge, and Regional Service & Leadership Awards*).

NOTE: No more than **five (5) pages** of narrative will be accepted.

Please note: Letters or excerpts in support of a winning nomination may be posted on the NSN website.

Submitting the nomination

Please submit each nomination in a single postal mail packet or one e-mail with attachments.

Submitting via the digital form is preferred.

- **E-mail:** Send e-mail submissions with Attn: Awards Committee in the subject line to awards@storynet.org by **midnight Central time March 15, 2021**
- **Postal Mail:** Send a single copy (the original will be scanned and sent to evaluators) **postmarked by March 1, 2021** to:

National Storytelling Network
Attention: ORACLE Awards Committee
P.O. Box 413014
Kansas City, MO 64141

Questions regarding submissions can be directed to the NSN staff at awards@storynet.org or 1-800-525-4514.

All original copies will be kept in the NSN office. If the nominee is not selected in the year nominated, the nominee's paperwork will be kept on file and automatically reconsidered in the following year.