



ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Protecting Our Communities,
HONOR • SAFETY • SERVICE

ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATION RULES, CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA – CALL FOR NOMINEES:

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association is seeking candidates for –

- Deputy of the Year
- Correctional Officer of the Year, and
- Telecommunicator of the Year

Nomination Rules:

1. Any Deputy, Correctional Officer or Telecommunicator in the State of Illinois is eligible for consideration. NOTE: You may nominate an officer who was killed in the line of duty and, if chosen, the award will be presented to a family member.
2. Nominations can be made by any **Illinois Sheriff** for Deputies, Correctional Officers, and Telecommunicators.
3. Award Period: From November 1st of the preceding year through October 31st of this current year. (Example – November 1, 2024, thru October 31, 2025)
4. **Nominations are being sought and can be made by any Illinois Sheriff, in writing, to the Illinois Sheriffs' Association, no later than WED, Nov. 5, 2025! You must utilize the ISA Nomination form, and it can either be emailed or mailed in by the deadline.**
5. Telecommunicators do not have to be employed directly by the Sheriff's Office to be nominated.
6. The nomination must be received using the form provided by the ISA and emailed to lynn@ilsheriff.org by the set deadline.
7. **NEW:** Nominations may be placed in a Life-Saving Category for either Deputies, Correctional Officers or Telecommunicators. This determination will come from the nomination narrative and the ISA Membership Committee. If the ISA has Lifesaving Candidates – all nominees will be recognized with certificates, social media promotion, and one will be chosen out of the group to attend the banquet. We will create a photo slideshow of all Lifesaving nominees for the banquet.
8. The ISA Membership Committee may elect to award none, or one Lifesaving Award in any given year, to those candidates that meet the criteria and at the discretion of the Membership Committee. The ISA Membership Committee will be the sole judge of whether a Lifesaving Award shall be awarded each year.

9. A person may nominate more than one officer but must use a separate nomination form for each officer/award.
10. The ISA Membership Committee will review all nominations that are submitted by the published deadline.
11. The decisions of the ISA Membership Committee and the determination to grant or not to grant an award to any individual shall be final.

Award Category Criteria:

LIFESAVING AWARD: The Lifesaving Award can be awarded to all law enforcement personnel directly responsible for the saving of human life. Documentation and supporting evidence must be included to substantiate the award, such as statements from witnesses, physicians, or supervisors. The award may also be made where evidence indicates the actions by the officer prolonged a human life to the extent of the victim being released to the care of medical authorities, even though the victim might succumb to their injuries at a later time.

DEPUTY OF THE YEAR: Award nominations may be made for the exceptional achievement in a public endeavor including but not limited to **crime prevention, investigative work, community relations, juvenile programs, traffic safety, drug awareness/enforcement, and innovative approaches to public service**. All nominees should have maintained the highest standard of performance, professionalism, and effectiveness during the previous calendar year.

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE YEAR: This category is for recognizing Correctional Officers who have demonstrated bravery and selflessness in the face of danger, often involving the protection of fellow officers or inmates. Awarding officers who consistently display high standards of professionalism, expertise, and dedication in their duties. Recognizing officers who have developed or implemented new programs, initiatives, or strategies that improve jail operations or inmate management. Celebrating officers who have demonstrated strong leadership skills, set high professional standards, and inspired their peers. Recognizing officers who have consistently gone above and beyond their job duties to serve the needs of inmates, staff, or the community.

TELECOMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR: Award nominations should recognize a person who demonstrates the highest level of commitment to the profession and demonstrates a positive attitude. Nominees should have a positive effect with the general public and law enforcement agencies; clearly demonstrates action above and beyond his or her normal duties and responsibilities. Nominees will be employed by a dispatch center or a law enforcement agency. All nominees should have maintained the highest standard of performance, professionalism, and effectiveness during the previous calendar year. Recipients can be nominated for their handling of a specific incident or for their overall performance. Areas of consideration are, but not limited to:

- Functions as a front-line dispatcher or call taker for police, fire, and/or EMS agencies.
- Operates telecommunications equipment to receive emergency and non-emergency phone calls.
- Determines situations from callers and ascertains all required information for dispatch of a call.
- Relays information to a dispatcher (if a separate position) via CAD or manual dispatch cards.
- Operates radio equipment to dispatch first responder units to request emergency services, receives radio traffic from first responders, and monitors emergencies and support radio frequencies.
- Maintains unit status and practices both decision-making and multitasking skills.
- Maintains appropriate security and confidentiality of information created or encountered in the performance of assigned duties.

Notes & Deadlines:

Nomination Forms due no later than WED, Nov. 5, 2025!

The awards will be presented at the Banquet during the **2026 Winter Training Conference on Monday, February 9th, 2026, at the Abraham Lincoln Doubletree Hotel and Conference Center, Springfield, Illinois.** The winners and their spouse/guest will be guests of the ISA at this banquet and one hotel room will be provided for one night.

All nominations must include a signed letter of endorsement from the Sheriff submitting the nominee (appearing on office letterhead), which includes:

- A brief statement of specific circumstances and actions that form the basis for the nomination,
- A brief biographical sketch, newspaper clippings, written reports, commendation letters, citations or other evidence that will assist in the selection process.

The ISA's Membership Committee will review and evaluate all nominations received.

If you have any questions, please call Lynn Saputo (217) 753-2372 or

Email: lynn@ilsheriff.org

***NOMINATION FORM ATTACHED AND TO BE FILLED OUT PER NOMINEE; PLEASE MAKE OR SUBMIT THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF COPIES.**



Award Application

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, November 5, 2025

(Award Activity Period: between November 1, 2024, thru October 31, 2025)

____ Deputy of the Year ____ Correctional Officer of the Year

____ Telecommunicator of the Year

Name: _____ Rank: _____

Agency: _____ Years of Service _____

Award Categories:

____ Life-Saving	____ Crime Prevention	____ Traffic Safety
____ Court Security	____ Criminal Investigation	____ Jail Operations
____ Community Relations	____ Youth Programs	____ Drug Abuse Programs
____ Drug Enforcement	____ Achievement	____ Innovation

Nearest Relative: _____ Relationship: _____

Home City: _____ County: _____

Recommending Sheriff: _____ Phone: _____

If Posthumous Date of Death: _____

Cause of Death i.e. Traffic, firearm: _____

Describe circumstances surrounding the Award:

Add Attachment or supporting document(s).

*You may upload a digital signature in the
image box, or print and sign the final copy.*

Signature of Sheriff

Date of Submission

Email signed forms to Lynn Saputo at lynn@ilsheriff.org by **WED. November 5, 2025.**