



Ideas for Member Recognition

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Gateway and Greater Milwaukee Rose Societies

**Local Rose Society Advisory Committee
Leadership Subcommittee**

Why Is Member Recognition Important?

- Rose Societies are volunteer organizations; No one is getting paid for their time!
- People need to know their hard work is meaningful to their Society, is “seen”, and is appreciated. Their work is not taken for granted
- Member recognition is a public “Thank you” for a person’s contributions to their Society
- Public Member recognition encourages others to volunteer

This is the power of Thank You!

Member Recognition Best Practices

- Evaluate candidates for Member Recognition each year
- Consider awards other than Bronze Medal, tangible awards, Presidential and/or Society Board Citations/Certificates of Appreciation
- Present Awards at a public event, End of Year Banquet, Holiday Party, Awards Lunch/Dinner, etc.
- Publish Award write-up in Newsletter and on Website

Types of Awards

- **ARS Bronze Medal**

- Highest award a Society can bestow on a member
- Can only be awarded once in a member's lifetime
- Rules, nomination forms, Bronze Medal Award items at <https://www.rose.org/member-forms>

- **Issues for the Local Society**

- Members can provide meaningful service to their Society but don't qualify for the Bronze Medal
- Bronze Medal awardees may provide significant ongoing service to their Society

Tangible Awards

- If the Society Treasury permits, consider a tangible award for exceptional and/or ongoing service, leadership of a committee or big event(s), officers
- Tangible Awards are often rose- or garden-related
 - Gift certificates: Rosemania, local garden centers
 - Rose bush, garden care products
 - Tickets to Botanical Garden
 - Free year of Society Membership

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Tangible Awards: Example Write-ups

Helping Hand Example: “Sometimes, a group is lucky enough to have a person that always lends a helping hand, no matter what the activity, and represents the best qualities and values of the organization. XXX is fortunate to have such as a member! This person is quiet about their contributions and their role, although he is often the smiling and enthusiastic face of the Society to members and the public. YYYY, XXX would like to present you with this Garden Stone, in recognition of your always willing help and Society Ambassadorship.”

Tangible Awards: Example Write-ups

For Large Event Example: YYY and YYY: Those who have been to the picnic, eagerly hoped for and anticipate the next one. They were not disappointed. Who could resist such wonderful hospitality! The roses were glorious, the grounds were amazing, the weather was just about perfect, coupled with the food and company, it was the event of the summer! Thank you, YYY and YYY, for opening your home and your garden for the last 2 years for the enjoyment of the Society!

Certificates of Appreciation/Citations

- Recognize Society contributions in a cost-effective manner
- Can be simple, using a template and printed on heavy paper or can be framed
- Contributions: current year, multiple years, ongoing roles
- Consider roles such as hospitality, mentoring, newsletter editor, Program Chair, Rose Show Chair, etc.
- Think about members who are not in the spotlight, go-to volunteer, smiling face at every meeting, treat provider, meeting set-up/clean-up, event greeter



[Certificate of Appreciation | Rose.org](https://www.rose.org)

Templates for Certificates can be found online or can be purchased for a small fee and used indefinitely



Certificates of Appreciation: Example Write-ups

YYY: Hospitality, beautiful tables, silent auction leadership, fabulous arrangements of lilies from your own garden for Judges' Rose Show and Board Member! XXX thanks you for sharing the bounty of your garden, your artistry, and your time.



Member Recognition

We appreciate you and what you do!

Your contributions make a difference to our Society!