

# OSA Guidelines and Criteria for Recognition and Award Giving

## Background

Since the early 1990s, the Oromo Studies Association has been recognizing and awarding institutions and individuals who have made distinguished contributions to the development of Oromo scholarship and advanced the objectives of the Association. At their joint meeting on July 21, 1995, the Board of Directors and Executive Committee had agreed “to speed up the formulation of award giving criteria.” At its Toronto meeting, held on July 28, 2000, the Board of Directors has again raised the issue and decided to “assume responsibility” for granting awards. Then it was agreed to hold further discussions and develop guidelines and criteria for award giving. But, so far, no clear guidelines and criteria were established to handle this matter. Each year, the Executive Committee, usually the President, nominated the names of awardees. The final decision was made by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors jointly. The process has worked well so far.

It is, however, necessary to establish objective criteria and standard for future recognitions and awards. Now, in accordance with earlier decisions of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, the following guidelines and criteria were proposed by the President, discussed by the Board and the Executive Committee, and adopted.

### A. Categories and Criteria

1. **Institution(s)** which has made a major financial and material contribution
  - a) to the development of Oromo scholarship.
  - b) to hold Oromo conference(s) and workshops.
  - c) to publish the *Journal of Oromo Studies*, OSA conference proceedings and other texts.
  - d) to host other Oromo Studies events.
2. **Individual(s)**
  - a) **Scholarship:**

Someone who has made a distinguished contribution to Oromo scholarship by publishing book(s) and important article(s) in reputed scholarly journals or by editing journals and books on the Oromo.
  - b) **Service:**

Someone who has made a distinguished

    - i) contribution to the development of OSA by providing leadership and scholarly inspiration.
    - ii) effort in organizing OSA conferences, seminars and workshops.

### B. Nomination

1. Institution(s) and individual(s) can be nominated by the Board, Executive Committee or OSA members.

2. A member who nominates someone for recognition and award should submit a brief statement regarding the prospective awardee's contributions based on the criteria in Section A above. All nominations should be made by June 30.
3. Nominee(s) or prospective awardee(s) could include any institution(s) or individual(s) who meet(s) the criteria under Section A above, but active Board Chairperson and the President could not be considered for an award or recognition before their term of office expires.
4. Nominations will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and recommended to the Board of Directors for final decision.
5. The Board makes the final decision.

**C. Certificate of Recognition and Plaque**

All awardees will receive a **Certificate of Recognition** signed by the Board Chairperson and the President. Those who made greater contribution could also receive a **certificate of recognition and a plaque**.

**Minneapolis, Minnesota  
July 27, 2001.**