

# Oromo Studies Association (OSA)

## **OSA Award Guidelines Revised by OSA Board of Directors August 1, 2008**

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### **Background**

It is the practice of the Oromo Studies Association (OSA )to recognize and award institutions and/or individuals who have made distinguished contributions to the development of Oromo scholarship and who have advanced the objectives of the Association. The awards are presented to individuals and institutions who qualify under the following criteria. The following guidelines replace any previous OSA Award Guidelines.

### **Criteria for Recognition and Granting of Awards**

OSA will recognize three categories of awards: The Lifetime Award, Distinguished Service Award and Outstanding Student Award.

### **Section A**

#### **1. The OSA Lifetime Award**

The Lifetime Award is presented to an individual who has made a sustained and significant positive contribution to Oromo studies, culture, and art or through some other means deepened the understanding or raised awareness of Oromummaa. It recognizes those that have invested their exceptional qualities of leadership, service, scholarship or other talent on a continuous basis. The contribution of the awardee must be worthy of the vision and mission of the Association. The work of the awardee is valued for its originality and lasting impact on Oromo studies, contemporary Oromo culture and/or Oromo interest in general. Such contributions have an international significance as evidenced through publications, presentations and exemplary contributions worthy to be emulated and honored. This award is limited at most to one recipient per year and entitles the recipient to a lifetime OSA membership, free admission to OSA functions including annual meetings and conferences. The awardee will receive a one time sum of \$500.00 (five hundred US dollars). Granting of this award is to be considered a rarity that may take place only when invaluable and exceptional achievements demand recognition.

## **Lifetime Award Criteria**

### **(a) Leadership**

A Lifetime Award may be given to a person who has achieved through the course of his or her life an outstanding record of accomplishment in leadership. This recognition shall include original and sustained work in promoting awareness of the Oromo people, their history, culture, philosophy, their interests and the significance of their collective contribution on the world scene, in promoting interaction and mutual understanding between Oromo, their neighbors and people globally, in promoting the culture of democracy, the rule of law or forms of governance consistent with Oromo legacy and values or in providing inspiration by exemplifying the best qualities of Oromummaa on the public domain.

### **(b) Scholarship:**

A Lifetime award in scholarship may be given to an internationally recognized scholar on Oromo and who has published book(s), journal articles, edited works on Oromo and/or made presentations on Oromo internationally. She/he has undertaken original study on the Oromo that contributed to Oromo literature, history, culture, or other field for sustained period of not less than two decades. This individual personifies a lifelong dedication to Oromo studies and scholarship.

### **(c) Service:**

A Lifetime Award in service may be given to someone who has made a distinguished contribution to OSA by providing professional guidance, quality leadership, significant financial contribution, mentoring and/or understanding. She/he is a friend of OSA who inspires and challenges others by measureable practical achievements.

## **2. Distinguished OSA Award**

The Distinguished OSA Award will be given to an individual, group or an institution that has made major financial, scholarly or service contribution to OSA, Oromo studies, culture, art and/or other spheres Oromummaa studies. Contributors who are identified to have given above and beyond the call of duty and expectation in advancing the mission of OSA through publication, presentation, service, talent and/or material resources will be recognized by this award. This award is limited preferably to one or, at most, two recipients per year.

### **Specific Criteria for Distinguished Award**

#### **i. Individual or Groups(s)**

##### **(a) Scholarship:**

Nominees should be persons or groups who have made a distinguished contribution to Oromo scholarship by publishing book(s) and important article(s) in reputed scholarly journals, made acclaimed presentations on Oromo (art, drama, music, environment, science, culture and/or other fields) regularly, edited journals and/or books on the Oromo.

**(b) Service:**

Someone who has made a distinguished contribution to OSA by providing leadership, scholarly inspiration, significant financial contribution, professional integrity and stability qualifies to be considered for this award.

**ii. Institution(s)**

Institutions which have made major financial, logistical, moral or material contributions

(a) to the development of Oromo scholarship.

(b) to the support of Oromo conference(s) and workshops.

(c) to publication of the *Journal of Oromo Studies*, OSA conference proceedings and other texts.

(d) to institutional accommodation of Oromo Studies events.

### **3. Outstanding Student Award**

OSA will recognize outstanding students of the Oromo who have made significant contributions to OSA through scholarship, leadership, service and/or original presentations that advance Oromo studies. The Student awardee should be a model for the young generations by his/her maturity, sophistication, confidence and quality and originality of his/her work.

**Specific Criteria for Outstanding Student**

**(a) Scholarship:**

An Outstanding Student Award recipient must formally be enrolled in school or must be less than three years beyond the termination of formal education. She/he should have undertaken a specific study on Oromo that resulted in a publication, play, workshop or other instrument modeled for public consumption. It is preferred that this person has a record of regular attendance at OSA conferences.

**(b) Service:**

Someone who has made a distinguished contribution to OSA by providing leadership by organizing Oromo youth, helped organize OSA workshop and conferences, webcast and

web publications, have become role model in the promotion of Oromo interests and in raising awareness of the Oromo.

## **Section B**

### **A. Nomination**

1. Institution(s) and individual(s) can be nominated by OSA Board, Executive Committee or OSA members.
2. A member who offers a name in nomination for an award should submit a brief statement regarding the prospective awardee's contributions based on the Specific Criteria in Section A above. All nominations should be made before June 15 of the year that the award is to be given.
3. Nominee(s) or prospective awardee(s) could include any institution(s) or individual(s) who meet(s) the Specific Criteria under Sections 1, 2 and 3 above. The active Board Chairperson or the President could not be considered for an award or recognition before their term of office expires.
4. The OSA Board will handle the nominations for a Lifetime Award as follows: the OSA Board Chair will form an award committee within three months after s/he assumes office following the election of officers at the annual conference. This Lifetime Award committee will have at least three OSA members who will review and rank nominees according to the Specific Criteria identified under 1 above.
5. Ranked nominations will be reviewed by the OSA Board Chair who then presents the nominees to the Board for selection. The nominee must be supported by at least five board members to receive the Lifetime Award.
6. The OSA President will form an award committee within three months after s/he assumes office following the election of officers at the annual conference to prepare nominations for Distinguished OSA Award and Outstanding Student Award. This committee, made up of OSA members, will review and rank nominees according to the Specific Criteria identified under 2 and 3 above, respectively.
7. Ranked nominations will be reviewed by OSA President who will present the nominee(s) to the Executive Committee. The nominee(s) must be supported by at least four of the executive committee members to present the nominee(s) for the Distinguished OSA Award and Outstanding Student Award to the OSA Board.

4. The Board makes the final decision on the granting of the Distinguished OSA Award and Outstanding Student Award.

**B. Certificate of Recognition and Plaque**

All awardees will receive a **Certificate of Recognition** signed by the Board Chairperson and the OSA President and a **Plaque** that indicates the nature of the award to be presented at the Annual Conference of OSA.