

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR LEGION OF HONOR & STAR OF MERIT AWARDS

The purpose of the Falcon Legion of Honor is the preservation and fostering of the noble ideals, principles, traditions, precepts and customs of the Falcon Order, as defined by its founders and originators. Those members entitled/qualified for the honor are the deserving men and women who by their untiring sacrifice have worked within the Falcons and among Polonia gaining respect and esteem. They have also shown integrity and an unimpeachable character to obtain the finest reputation amongst the Falcon members.

To assist each Nest, we are providing these guidelines to make the application process easier, and to avoid any problems with completing an application.

SERVICE STAR OF MERIT AWARDS

There are three classes of **Service Star Awards**: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Applications for **Service Star Awards** must be sent to National Headquarters at least **30 days** prior to the presentation.

In order to be eligible for a Bronze Service Star, a member must belong not less than three years and be active and render services to the Nest or District for the entire three years, and must be at least 19 years of age.

After another five years of active service, a member may then qualify for a Silver Service Star.

Then, if the member still continues such activities for another five years, a Gold Service Star application may be submitted.

The Service Star Awards do not need the approval of the District or the Legion of Honor Commandery. These are approved by the National Executive Board only.

Five years following the presentation of the Gold Service Star Award, an individual is eligible to be nominated to receive the Bronze Legion of Honor Award.



LEGION OF HONOR AWARDS

There are three classes of Legion of Honor Awards: Bronze, Silver and Gold. A period of five full years of service must lapse between awards.

Applications for **Legion of Honor Awards** must postmarked and sent to National Headquarters at least **60 days** prior to the presentation.

Nests with up to 150 members may present three recipients with one being Gold. Nests with 151-300 members may present four recipients with one being Gold. Nests with 351-499 may present five recipients with two being Gold. Nests with more than 500 members may present six recipients with two being Gold.

The delegates at a National Convention of the Polish Falcons of America, or a Nest, or a District or National Headquarters of the Polish Falcons of America have the right to recommend a person for the Legion of Honor Cross. After conducting an investigation and completing the Legion of Honor application, the candidates will be presented to the Commandery for a final decision.

Basic Legion of Honor Application Procedures

The Nest/District President will appoint an Awards Committee who will make a recommendation for candidates for the Legion of Honor. The candidate for the Award should not be on the Committee or sign the application. The President cannot be on the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee will submit the names of qualified candidates to the Nest/District President. The recommendations of the Awards Committee are voted on at a regular meeting of the Nest, or Plenary Meeting of the District. The Executive Nest/District Officers, plus the Legion of Honor members present at the meeting, will vote for the most qualified members.

On the back side of the Legion of Honor application, the signatures of the President and Financial Secretary are required. If the President or Financial Secretary are nominated for an award, they must not sign the application. Another Officer may sign the form.

In case an application is rejected or withheld by National Headquarters, it will be returned to the Nest or District for correction. Once correction is made, the Awards Committee should re-apply at once.

Applications for elevation of Star and Legion Awards must specify what the member has done since receiving the last award. Improperly completed applications will be returned to the Nest or District.

The Award Ceremony is to be conducted strictly according to the Rules and Regulations of the Legion of Honor. The Awards are presented by the National President of the Falcons, by a person designated by him/her or the highest-ranking National Officers or members of the Legion of Honor Commandery attending the affair. If none are present, then the Nest President shall present the Awards.

The application forms for Legion of Honor and Star of Merit Awards are as follows:

Legion of Honor — Form No. 110 (Rev. 5-2005)

Star of Merit — Form No. 108 (Rev. 5-2005)

Please discard all copies of old forms. There have been many changes made to the applications over the years and it is important that we use the correct forms. If you need additional forms please contact National Headquarters, or make photocopies of the forms.

If there are any questions regarding applications or the rules and regulations for the Star of Merit and/or Legion of Honor, you can contact Druh Louis Tremiti by phone at (585) 392-3607 or by e-mail at seabeelou@yahoo.com. You can also contact First Vice President Patricia “Trish” Del Busse toll-free at 1-800-535-2071 or by e-mail at vptrish@polishfalcons.org.

