

Description

- The Society's Regional Scholars Award recognizes and promotes outstanding entry-level scholars in the field of biblical studies as identified by the Society's Regions. The objectives of this program are to:
 - I. *Encourage professional development;*
 - II. *Lend practical assistance; and*
 - III. *Establish ties between new and established scholars.*
- Each Regional Scholar Award recipient is recognized:
 - I. *On the Society's website;*
 - II. *In the Annual Meeting Program Book for the year in which the Award is given; and*
 - III. *At an appropriate award recognition event at the Annual Meeting.*
- An amount of \$1,000 is currently given to each Award recipient to support attendance at the Annual Meeting and to foster future scholarship and professional development.
- Under the auspices of the program, a mentor may be chosen to provide advice concerning the preparation of a paper for the national meeting and/or publication.

Application Process

- Each Region of the Society may select one candidate for the award based upon the following qualifications, requirements, and evaluation criteria. If no applicants satisfy the Region's expectations, the Region is not obligated to select a candidate.
- Qualifications:
 - I. *Currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program and at least ABD (all-but dissertation) where applicable; or*
 - II. *No more than four years past receipt of the Ph.D. at the time of application.*
- Requirements:
 - I. *Presentation at an SBL Regional Meeting of an original work of your own scholarship not presented at another academic conference;*
 - II. *Submission of a complete, current CV; and*

- III. *Submission of a copy of the paper presented at the Regional Meeting, including print copies of any audiovisual materials (e.g., Powerpoint slides).*
- IV. *All materials must be submitted to the Regional Coordinator in the Region where the paper is presented. Some Regions may require the submission of materials prior to paper presentation. The Regional Coordinator of the Region in question should be notified in advance of intent to apply for the Award and for Region-specific requirements.*

- **Evaluation:**

- I. *A crucial element of an application is the oral presentation. Representatives of the Region selected by the Regional Coordinator will observe the applicant's presentation and create a brief written report (fewer than 500 words) to be included in the overall evaluation. The criteria for evaluation of the oral presentation are as follows:*
 - a. Clear articulation of argument advanced;
 - b. Even and engaging delivery (i.e. routine eye contact, tonal inflection, etc.);
 - c. Clear pronunciation and style appropriate to oral presentation; and
 - d. Creative and appropriate use of presentation materials (e.g., audio, visual, performance) that aid the presentation.
- II. *Paper submissions will be evaluated as oral presentations, not as research articles submitted for publication, on the basis of the following criteria:*
 - a. Clarity of expression and argumentation;
 - b. Demonstrated knowledge and critical use of scholarly resources and publications related to the topic of the paper;
 - c. Use and knowledge of the primary sources related to the topic of the paper; and
 - d. Originality of ideas and solutions developed in the paper.
- III. *Each Regional Selection Committee is responsible for:*
 - a. Observing the applicant's presentation and evaluating this presentation in writing;
 - b. Verifying that each applicant meets the basic requirements for the award;
 - c. Assessing the written submissions and copies of any handouts or presentations if applicable; and
 - d. Reviewing the CV of the candidate.

- **Notification of Applicants**

- I. *Applicants for the Award will be notified by the Regional Coordinator no later than June 1st of their status, that is, whether or not the applicant has been nominated to the Regional Scholar Award Selection Committee.*
- II. *In the event that no candidate is selected, all applicants must be notified of this decision by the Regional Coordinator.*

- Following the selection and notification of a Nominee, the Region will forward all materials to the Society's Executive Office, which will distribute them to the Society's Regional Scholar Award Selection Committee.

The SBL Regional Scholar Award Selection Committee

- The Committee will consist of the Chair of the Regional Coordinators Committee, two to three Regional Coordinators, and one to two other persons chosen by the Chair. Conflict of interest must be clearly avoided when members of the committee are related to the candidate by virtue of institution or any other category that constitutes a reasonable possibility of a conflict of interest. A member of the Executive Office staff will be designated by the Executive Director as an ex-officio member of this Committee.
- The Regional Scholar Award Selection Committee is responsible for reviewing all Nominees. The Committee will review each Nominee's written submissions and the presentation evaluations forwarded by the Nominee's Region.
- The Committee will review the Nominees and select no more than six to receive the Award. All Nominees will be notified of their status with regard to the Award by a person appointed by the Committee no later than August 31st of the same year.
- For the subsequent Annual Meeting, the Executive Office will contact the Regional Scholars by May 1st of the following year to obtain the following information:
 - I. *A short biography and picture for the printed Annual Meeting Program Book and for the Regional pages on the SBL website.*
 - II. *Current contact information for advance registration and housing.*
 - III. *Information of the Regional Scholars' participation in the Annual Meeting program.*
- Award checks will also be mailed to recipients at this time.
- Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Executive Office will create Award certificates for the Regional Scholars and send reminders of any appropriate Award recognition event.