

Announcing the 12th Annual McGan Award

Throughout the year, ARRL Public Information Coordinators, Public Information Officers and other public relations volunteers “in the field” strive to keep Amateur Radio visible in their communities. They accomplish this by publicizing special events, writing press releases and maintaining good relations with local media, among many other valuable activities. The job is an important one, it’s not always easy and their efforts benefit us all. If you know someone who has achieved public relations success on behalf of Amateur Radio, nominating him or her for the Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award is the perfect way to bestow much deserved recognition.

The award’s namesake, journalist Philip J. McGan, WA2MBQ (SK), served as the first chairman of the ARRL’s Public Relations Committee, which helped reinvigorate the League’s commitment to public relations. Unfortunately, Phil never got to see how well his efforts paid off. In honor of Phil, his friends in the New Hampshire Amateur Radio Association joined with the ARRL Board of Directors to pay a lasting tribute to the important contributions he made on behalf of Amateur Radio.

The 2003 McGan Award will go to that ham who has demonstrated success in Amateur Radio public relations and best exemplifies the volunteer spirit of Phil McGan. A committee of volunteers knowledgeable about Amateur Radio public relations will pick the winner, subject to approval by the ARRL Board of Directors.

Call for 2003 Nominations

1) The award is given only to an individual (not a group), who must be a full ARRL member in good standing at the time of nomination. The nominee must not be compensated for any public relations work involving Amateur Radio (including payment for articles) and may not be a current officer, director, vice direc-



Phyllisan West, KA4FZI (right), presents the McGan Award to last year’s winner, Sherri Brower, W4STB, at the ARRL Southeastern Division Convention. Brower succeeded West as Southern Florida Section Manager October 1.

tor or paid staff member, or a member of the current selection committee.

2) The winner of the Philip J. McGan

Public Relations vs Public Service

In the past, there has been some confusion about the difference between “public relations” and “public service.” Public Relations activities for which the McGan Award is given include efforts specifically directed at bringing Amateur Radio to the public’s attention (and most often the media’s) in a positive light. This may include such traditional methods as news releases or such nontraditional methods as hosting a radio show or being an active public speaker.

Some candidates have erroneously been nominated for their public service activities, such as emergency communications, net leadership and other activities that, while helping maintain a positive impression of Amateur Radio among the public, don’t fit the definition of “public relations.” So, if you’re considering nominating someone in your area for the 2003 award, please ask yourself if your candidate’s work fits the *public relations* criteria.


Memorial Silver Antenna Award will demonstrate volunteer public relations success on behalf of Amateur Radio at the local, state or national level, and will live up to the high standard of achievement exemplified by Philip J. McGan.

3) Anyone may make a nomination. Nominations must be on an official entry form, available from ARRL Headquarters. The nomination will include a written summary whenever possible.

4) Deadline: Nominations must be received at ARRL HQ in Newington by 5 PM May 23, 2003. Nominations arriving after the deadline or without an entry form cannot be considered.

5) Eligible nominations will be screened by a committee of Amateur Radio operators knowledgeable about public relations. The committee will forward its recommendation to the Volunteer Resources Committee of the ARRL Board of Directors. The Board will make a final determination at its July meeting, and the winner will be notified shortly thereafter.

6) To obtain an entry form, call ARRL HQ at 860-594-0328 or e-mail jhagy@arrrl.org. Ask for an official McGan Award entry form.

7) Return the completed entry form and supporting materials to Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award, c/o Jennifer Hagy, N1TDY, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. 

STRAYS

I would like to get in touch with...

◇ anyone with service experience with the Drake L7 amplifier. I am looking for an antenna-changeover relay, RLY-1, or a substitute. I. Martinides, HB9ACQ, Flurlingerweg 38, CH 8212 Neuhausen, Switzerland; e-mail i.martinides@swissworld.ch.

◇ any former Navy/Coast Guard crew members of the Icebreaker *Burton Island*, AG88/AGB1/WAGB283. Contact Jack Clark at w9hjm@arrrl.net.