

LEONARD LEGACY AWARD

Overview: Merry Leonard has served as a MUD Director since the mid 70s. Leonard was elected to the AWBD Board of Trustees in the early 80s and served in various offices, including President. In 1993, she was hired as the AWBD's first full-time employee and was later named Executive Director. Although she retired from AWBD in 2020, she continues to serve on a MUD. Leonard has always believed in the value of service and the power of districts and their directors to make positive and enduring impacts on their communities. The Leonard Legacy Award honors Merry and all water district directors who champion districts' efforts that make their parts of the world better.

Timeline:

- Nominations are due by Wednesday, April 8, 2026.
- Finalists will be announced on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 (AWBD May Board Meeting)
- The Leonard Legacy Award will be announced on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at the Awards Luncheon.

Nominations:

- AWBD will send Member Consultant Firms ("Member Firm") nomination forms;
- Nominations must be sent to info@awbd-tx.org; to preserve the integrity of the nominations process, *do not* send applications to any recipient or address;
- AWBD staff will accept the *first two* nominations by a Member Firm (confirming receipt) and will reject subsequent applications;
- Nominations are anonymous and confidential. The identity of the nominating firm will not be disclosed by AWBD to anyone other than AWBD staff. AWBD staff will provide the nomination forms without the coversheet to AWBD's judges;
- Nomination applications for the award will be considered for an additional 2 years beyond original submission.

Criteria: To be eligible for the Leonard Legacy Award, the nominee must:

- Be a current Board Member on an AWBD Member District;
- Have served as a director for at least 10 total years on one or more water district boards;
- Have championed as a director (not a consultant) one or more district initiatives that provided positive, enduring impacts on the community that the district(s) serves;
- Have exhibited outstanding character, setting a high bar in personal and professional conduct and demonstrating the value of service in the community; and
- Not be a current AWBD employee nor AWBD Board Member.

Judging Panel: A judging panel selected by the AWBD Recognition Committee and confirmed by the AWBD Board of Trustee will:

- Review and score the nomination packets provided by AWBD staff using a voting rubric approved by the Recognition Committee;
- As a panel, narrow the nominations to three finalists; and
- Submit a vote by secret ballot to Sherri Greenwood for the Leonard Legacy Award.

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COVER PAGE

NOTE: AWBD Staff will not provide this packet to the judging panel UNLESS the nominating firm submits this fully completed form. By completing and signing this form, the nominating firm agrees to keep the nomination information confidential and that the information provided is accurate. Failing to complete the form, providing incomplete or incorrect information, or disclosing the information in this form to a third party, including the nominee, will result in the nomination being withdrawn from consideration. The information on this cover page will not be submitted to the judging panel.

1. Name of Nominee: _____;
2. Name of Nominee's Water District: _____;
3. Length of Service as a Water District Director in Years: _____;
4. Name of Nominating Firm: _____;
5. Name of Nominating Consultant: _____;
6. Title of Nominating Consultant: _____;
7. Nominating Consultant's email address: _____;
8. Number of years the Nominating Consulting has Known the Nominee: _____;
9. Does the Nominee participate in any business interest or investment with the Nominating Consultant or the Nominating Firm? ___ YES ___ NO

Signed by (Nominating Consultant): _____

Date: _____, 2026

FOR AWBD STAFF USE ONLY:

Received and reviewed by: _____

Time/Date Received: _____ am/pm; _____, 2026

AWBD Control Number: _____ (complete in other fields)

AWBD Leonard Legacy Award Nomination Form
FOR STAFF USE ONLY | AWBD Control Number: _____

1. In fewer than 100 words and without providing any name or identifying information, describe efforts that the nominee has championed as a district director:
2. In fewer than 100 words and without providing any name or identifying information, describe what impact these efforts have had on the community served by the district:
3. In fewer than 100 words and without providing any name or identifying information, please tell us how this director has played a leadership role distinct from other directors:
4. In fewer than 100 words and without providing any name or identifying information, please describe the character of this director: