

Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania

ORGANIZATION AND NOMINATING PROCESS

Each year the Governor and First Lady recognize a select group of women as Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania at an awards luncheon at the Governor's Residence. This tradition of honoring Pennsylvania women who have given distinguished service through their voluntary and professional service was initiated in 1949 by Governor James H. Duff.

The Distinguished Daughters are organized in eastern, central, and western regions of Pennsylvania, with a chair for each region. Its officers are elected on a statewide basis to coordinate the group's work of recommending the Distinguished Daughter honorees who are recognized by the Governor.

Women proposed to receive this honor must be nominated by organizations within the Commonwealth in recognition of outstanding accomplishments of statewide and/or national importance. They need not be native Pennsylvanians, but must have lived in the state and be identified with it.

Each January, invitations for nominating a Distinguished Daughter are mailed to civic, cultural, professional, and educational organizations throughout the state. The nominations must be submitted to the President of Distinguished Daughters by **March 15, 2018**. They then are circulated to all Distinguished Daughters for consideration.

The accomplishments of the proposed candidates are first reviewed on a regional basis by the Distinguished Daughters from that region who select nominees to be considered at the state level. At the Annual Meeting in May, the final selections are made by the membership and sent to the Governor. The Governor's Office then notifies those selected as well as their sponsoring organizations. The Annual Presentation Luncheon is held in the fall at the Governor's residence in Harrisburg and the Governor's Office issues the official announcement of the new Distinguished Daughters.

Generally, no more than 10 women are named Distinguished Daughters each year, with the average being 6-8 a year. Since the first group was named in 1949, more than 500 women have been recognized as Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania, of whom about 200 are living today.

January 2018

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REGULATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATION

1. Each organization may nominate only one woman a year. The nominee need not be a member of the organization proposing her.
2. Nominations must be authorized and submitted by organizations only, not by individuals.
3. A Pennsylvania connection is essential. A nominee is eligible if she was not born in the state, but has achieved notable accomplishments while a resident of the Commonwealth. A nominee is equally eligible if she has lived in Pennsylvania but has achieved notable accomplishments outside the state.
4. A woman serving in elected public office is eligible for nomination. However, a woman will not be considered as a nominee for Distinguished Daughters in the year she is a declared candidate for elected public office.
5. The nomination must be summarized on the Official Nomination Form, with a concise but comprehensive review of qualifications, with emphasis on national and statewide impact.
6. In addition to the official form, supplementary informational material and no more than two endorsement letters may be submitted.
7. The nomination must be held in strict confidence by all involved in its preparation and should not be discussed with the proposed nominee. Publicity prior to the official announcement from the Governor's Office is strictly prohibited.
8. If the same person is nominated by more than one organization in the same year, the first nomination received will be considered the primary nomination; others will be regarded as second nominators.