



2026 TAUD Awards of Excellence Nominations



Please take your opportunity to nominate a deserving co-worker, boss or employee for a TAUD Award of Excellence. Beside each award is a description a nominee should possess to be considered for the award. Awards nominations are collected and voted on by the TAUD Awards Committee. The deadline for operator nominations is **March 31, 2026**, and the deadline for administrative

awards is **May 31, 2026**. Operator awards will be presented at the TAUD Operator Expo in May. All administrative awards will be presented at the Business Conference in August. Please contact Beth Hardiman at (615) 900-1014 or by e-mail at bethhardiman@taud.org with questions. We appreciate your participation in allowing us to honor our valuable members for their contributions to their utility and TAUD.

Water Operator of the Year -- Given to a certified operator that goes above and beyond the normal means of service to their utility. This individual should possess a high level of knowledge and skill and be instrumental in their contribution to their utility. The operator should be active within TAUD attending training classes and conferences to better themselves and their utility.



Distribution Operator of the Year -- Given to a certified operator that goes above and beyond the normal means of service to their utility. This individual should possess a high level of knowledge and skill and be instrumental in their contribution to their utility. The operator should be active within TAUD attending training classes and conferences to better themselves and their utility.



Wastewater Operator of the Year -- Given to certified operator that goes above and beyond the normal means of service to their utility. This individual should possess a high level of knowledge and skill and be instrumental in their contribution to their utility. The operator should be active within TAUD attending training classes and conferences to better themselves and their utility.



Collection Operator of the Year -- Given to a certified operator that goes above and beyond the normal means of service to their utility. This individual should possess a high level of knowledge and skill and be instrumental in their contribution to their utility. The operator should be active within TAUD attending training classes and conferences to better themselves and their utility.



Gas Operator of the Year -- Given to an operator that goes above and beyond the normal means of service to their utility possessing a high level of knowledge and skill to assist management and other employees. The operator should be active within the gas industry striving to better themselves through training and conference attendance.



Administrative Professional of the Year -- Given to an office manager of a member utility in the water, wastewater or gas industry that is instrumental to their utility providing excellent administrative support to their manager and to other utility employees. This individual should be active within TAUD.



Roger Booher Young Professional Award -- Given to a young professional from a member utility. This individual should be under the age of 35 and can serve their utility in various capacities i.e. operator, engineer, GIS/GPS etc. The young professional should be active within TAUD and respected by their fellow employees as an up-and-coming leader.



Associate Member of the Year -- Given to an Associate Member who gives great support to the Association and its members. This individual should be active within TAUD attending conferences and region meetings and should be respected by other associate and utility members for their dedication to TAUD.



Associate Wall of Fame -- This award is given to one Associate Member who has dedicated their professional career to the betterment of TAUD and to the service of TAUD's member utilities.



Alan Gill Leadership Award -- Given to a member utility manager or assistant manager in the water, wastewater or gas industry that exemplifies character, hard work and dedication. This individual should be active within TAUD and their utility. The utility should be in excellent financial and operational standing with the state of Tennessee.



Cecil Branstetter Legacy Award -- This award is given to a utility member who has given their lives to the betterment of TAUD and its members. This is the most prestigious award given annually by TAUD. The recipient of this award is placed on the TAUD Wall of Fame.



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Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____

Name of Utility: _____

Name of Person Completing Application: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Nominee Years in the utility business: _____ Nominee Years with present utility/company: _____

Nominee must have been a TAUD member for a minimum of five years.

Describe how the nominee has been active in TAUD activities:

How is the nominee active in his/her community? _____

Describe how the nominee has been instrumental to their utility:

Submit to Beth Hardiman (bethhardiman@taud.org) Questions? Call (615) 900-1014.