

2016 Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer Awards



Annual Deputy of the Year Program

Deputy Waterways Conservation Officers (DWCOs), working with Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs), perform mainly specialized law enforcement duties in protecting, conserving and enhancing the Commonwealth's aquatic resources.

Deputies work long hours, often on weekends and holidays. As volunteers, they receive a small stipend to help with expenses; however, they are not otherwise compensated.

Any officer may nominate a deputy for this service-based recognition. Regional committees in the Commission's Bureau of Law Enforcement and Regional Outreach and Education Coordinators review the nominations to choose one award recipient in each region. The six nominee award winners are presented with a dated plaque at their annual winter region meeting. The awards carry the distinction of the recipients knowing that their peers selected them.

The six region nominees are reviewed for a final selection of the Statewide Deputy of the Year award winner. ☐

photo-WCO Troy Merrill



DWCO Robert W. Himmelreich (left), the Southeast Region's nominee, received the 2016 Statewide Deputy of the Year Award. Pictured with DWCO Himmelreich is Captain Raymond A. Bednarchik.

photo-Sergeant Clyde N. Warner Jr.



DWCO Peter J. Napoli Jr. (left) is the Northeast Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Napoli is Sergeant Bryan Bendock.

photo-Sergeant Brook Tolbert



DWCO Daniel E. Reiber (left) is the Northwest Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Reiber is Captain Thomas H. Edwards Jr.

photo-WCO Michael Johnson



DWCO Amil A. Zuzik (left) is the Southwest Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Zuzik is Sergeant John G. Hopkins.



DWCO James F. Hillman (left), is the Northcentral Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Hillman is Captain Gerald B. Barton.



DWCO Robin D. Brant (right) is the Southcentral Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Brant is Captain Alan Robinson.

Years of Service Recognition

During the annual awards presentations, the Commission recognized the following DWCOs for their years of service.

Northwest Region

- 20 years: Michael J. Reed
- 25 years: C. Robert McDowell

Southwest Region

- 40 years: Amil A. Zuzik

Northcentral Region

- 20 years: Michael Reed
- 25 years: Jeffrey Colwell

Southcentral Region

- 35 years: Robert Houser

Northeast Region

- 10 years: Michael Koehler Jr. and Mitchell Marcus

Southeast Region

- 10 years: Michael Rau and James Yerger
- 15 years: Edmund Portko
- 25 years: Richard Babb

Lifetime Honorary Deputy Certificate:

- Theodore Romberger

Becoming a DWCO

DWCOs engage in successful work from a variety of backgrounds and choose to be DWCOs for many reasons. All DWCOs share a common commitment: to safeguard the public along our waterways and to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and the environment. Many DWCOs use their training and experience to move on to other law enforcement occupations.

Anyone interested in learning more about DWCO positions should contact the nearest Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Regional Law Enforcement Office. These offices are listed on the Commission's website at www.fishandboat.com and in the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary*.



Always Wear Your Life Jacket

Make sure the life jacket fits

For a life jacket to work properly, not only does it need to be on your body, it should fit properly as well. A properly fitting life jacket is more comfortable (meaning you are more likely to wear it) and is a legal requirement, but more important, it functions better. Life jackets that are too large can ride up or even come off when you are in the water. For more information, go to www.fishandboat.com/Boat/BoatingRegulations/Pages/default.aspx.