

# 2017 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-DWCO David Twiney



DWCO Chriss L. Brower (right), the Northcentral Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee, received the 2017 Statewide Deputy of the Year Award. Pictured with DWCO Brower is Captain Gerald B. Barton.

photo-Sergeant James Smolko



DWCO Donald J. Benczkowski (left) is the Northwest Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Benczkowski is Lieutenant Colonel Thomas J. Burrell.

photo-Lieutenant Colonel Larry P. Furlong



DWCO Robert C. Houser Jr. (center) is the Southcentral Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Houser is WCO David A. Hurst (left) and Sergeant Craig A. Garman (right).

photo-Sergeant John G. Hopkins



DWCO Donald K. Anderson (right) is the Southwest Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Anderson is Captain Thomas J. Crist.



DWCO Peter J. Napoli Jr. (left) is the Northeast Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Napoli is Captain Clyde N. Warner Jr.



DWCO Maurice M. Williams Jr. (right) is the Southeast Region's Deputy of the Year Award Nominee. Pictured with DWCO Williams is Captain Raymond A. Bednarchik.

### Years of Service Recognition

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

#### Northwest Region

- 20 years: Mark J. Kasiorek
- 30 years: Michael J. Eismont

#### Southwest Region

- 5 years: Brian K. Miller
- Lifetime Honorary Deputy Certificate: Lonnie K. Lowndes and Amil A. Zuzik

#### Northcentral Region

- 10 years: George P. Afionis
- 15 years: Michael J. McSkimming and Ronald E. Myers
- 20 years: Janet M. Colwell
- Lifetime Honorary Deputy Certificate: Neil H. Cook Jr.

#### Southcentral Region

- 5 years: Robin D. Brant and Andrew H. Snyder
- 25 years: Mark S. Briner and Alan L. Bernardi
- 40 years: Bradley H. Criswell
- Lifetime Honorary Deputy Certificate: Alan L. Bernardi

#### Northeast Region

- 10 years: Andrew R. Panessa
- 15 years: Ross D. Piazza
- 25 years: Ardell L. Loncosky II

#### Southeast Region

- 5 years: Michael H. Rieker, Edward J. Guthrie, Maurice M. Williams Jr., David T. Schreck and Robert W. Himmelreich
- 20 years: Paul V. Marchese, Christopher J. D'Ascenzo and Stephen P. Barras
- 25 years: Richard J. Sodouski

### Becoming a DWCO

DWCOs engage in successful work from a variety of backgrounds. 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 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](http://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](http://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/BoatingRegulations/Pages/default.aspx).

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