

McNamara Award Committee

The McNamara Award Committee gives “an annual certificate of honor and monetary grant for a paper in the sociology of religion submitted by a student.” The committee both solicits submissions and judges “their merit, within guidelines established by the Executive Council.” These guidelines are summarized in the call for papers that appears on the website.

The Chair of the committee receives the applications at his or her address and circulates the manuscripts that are submitted. Manuscripts are currently due June 1, so the Chair and the committee should be available at that time to begin the committee’s work. In consultation with the committee, the Chair determines, within reason, how the manuscripts will be evaluated. If the Chair is a member of the committee, s/he participates directly in the voting process; if not, then s/he would act only in a tie. Regardless, however, the Chair normally participates in the discussion and evaluation process. Because all applicants for the McNamara Award must be members of the Association, the Chair should consult the ASR Member Directory on the website to verify that each applicant is a member.

Once an awardee has been determined, it is the responsibility of the Chair to notify the Executive Officer and to notify *all* those who submitted papers for consideration, including the awardee.

Neither the work of the committee nor the giving of the award requires attendance at the annual meeting. However, when both the Chair and the Awardee are present at the annual meeting, it is appropriate for the Chair to present the award at the Association’s Opening Night Reception. If the Chair of the committee is unable to present the award, another member of the committee or the President of the Association will do so. Otherwise, the award is announced at the General Business Meeting and in the next issue of *News and Announcements*.

The current amount of the award is \$500. An additional \$200 is available for honorable mention(s), though it has been given only once.

In recent years, the number of papers received has ranged from 12 to 19. The award does not have to be presented, and at least once, the committee chose to give no award, even though it had candidates. When it is not presented, the award returns to the endowment.