

Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award

MMA's Most Prestigious Award

Nominations are accepted annually in July-early August.

Please keep an eye out for the call for nominations memo distributed to all elected officials, key appointed officials and clerks in late June.

ETHEL N. KELLEY devoted 45 years of service to the Maine Municipal Association from its founding in 1936 until her death in 1981. The award honors her immense contributions to MMA and the cause of strong local government in Maine. Kelley has been described as the “cement” that held the organization together, particularly during World War II. During those years, she held virtually every title in the Association. As part of MMA’s 50th Anniversary celebration in 1986, the Association honored Ethel N. Kelley’s memory by starting the annual tradition of recognizing others of the same character and dedication.

WHO QUALIFIES: Elected and appointed municipal officials, employees and volunteers from any member municipality, including individuals who are currently serving or who have retired within the past two years. The award can also be given posthumously.

CRITERIA: MMA is looking for nominees who:

- Have a straightforward selfless concern for people in the community.
- Are able and willing to “hold the community together.”
- Have made conscientious service to the community a lifetime achievement.
- Are dedicated to the cause of good local government.

NOMINATION PROCESS: In addition to completing the application found on MMA’s website: <https://www.memun.org/About/Awards>, communities are asked to submit up to five letters of support from local or state officials, business leaders and members of the community. The supporting letters are a critical part of the process and provide an opportunity for the municipality to flaunt the nominee’s virtues and commitment to local government service. There are no formalities or right approaches. A simple statement of support and the reasons why your nominee is deserving of this recognition is sufficient.

SELECTION PANEL: The Award Selection Panel consists of three MMA Past Presidents who meet in early to mid-September to make their selection.

PRESENTATION: The winner of the memorial award is announced during MMA’s Annual Convention, traditionally held in October, in the presence of recipient’s family and friends, coworkers and the statewide municipal family.



**MAINE MUNICIPAL
ASSOCIATION** SINCE 1936

“One of MMA’s favored traditions is the announcement of the Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award winner during the Association’s annual convention in October. It presents an opportunity to acknowledge our collective successes and serves as a reminder of the important accomplishments of those dedicated to local government service.”

~ Catherine Conlow,
MMA Executive Director

For more information,
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