Home Owner of Distinction Award – Chapter #36

At the April 2000 SLA meeting Lorraine mentioned that there was one nomination for the Homeowners of Distinction Award (Jeff and Amy Kramarz of Silver Lake Institute) and would like to present the trophy at the Annual meeting.

In May of 2001 there were 12 nominations for the Home Owners of Distinction Award. A committee was formed to visit the properties and make recommendations. Ron, Betty, Helen, and Bill were the committee members of the HOD. Lorraine would write to each nominee to outline the guidelines and let them know of the committee visits and send back information on their yards. Sue and Rod Eaton and Karen Geedy received trophies as the 2001 Home Owners of Distinction. The general membership nominated 13 property owners for the award. The committee toured the sites and recommended two recipients that year.

The committee recommended Peter and Ruth Lavin of 3810 Euclid Avenue for the 2002 HOD award with suggestions the committee visit nominees during the summer the following year and that accurate addresses were made available to the committee. Peter and Ruth Lavin of 3810 Euclid Avenue received the SLA's Home Owner of Distinction Award for 2002.

March 2003 Betty Nasca was appointed chairperson of the Home Owners of Distinction Committee whose members consisted of Rich Eliasz, Linda Holz, and Carol Brakenbury. In June of 2003 a discussion pursued on the concerns raised by the Home Owners of Distinction Committee, the board reached a consensus that nominees could be nominated by non-board members. Clarification on the list of 20 items for the nominee notice was discussed; they were ideas only. The SLA would provide a Certificate of Recognition for honorable mention; the committee suggested a garden marker for winners in the future.

Bill welcome about 50 people at the July 2003 annual meeting. Betty Nasca, Chairperson for the Home Owners of Distinction and her committee presented the 2003 HOD Award trophy to the winners Sue and Howard Baumer of Fairview North Tract. Certificates of Honorable Mention were presented to nominees: Mary Kay Barton; Carol and Ron Baumer, and would be sent to John and Doreen Adrian; the Kraft family and Joseph Kuhner.

At the July 2004 annual meeting it was announced by Betty Nasca that Pat and Marcia Urschel of Broadbooks Tract won the Home Owners of Distinction Award and Honorable Mention Certificates went to Brian and Cheryl Bentley, Tom and Carol Gominiak and Gary and Wende Roller.

There was a tie for the 2005 Home Owners of Distinction Award so two trophies were awarded, one to Mary Kay and Bill Barton of Traber North Tract and one to Mike and Gail Serventi of Luther/Wheaton Tract. Honorable Mention Certificates went to: Judy Jacobsen of Euclid (and her granddaughter); Debbie and Jim Leumer of Fairview South Tract; and Dick Tiede of Sutton Tract. The inscribed plaque hung at Silver Lake Marine but Lorraine suggested it be hung at Lakeside Marine that year which the Barton's owned. It would be discussed at the August SLA meeting.

The 2006 Home Owner of Distinction Award was presented to Steve and Pam Tarbell of Fairview South by the HOD Chair, Betty Nasca. Richard Tiede of Sutton Tract would receive the Honorable Mention Certificate.

The Homeowners of Distinction chairperson Betty Nasca, updated the board on the Homeowners of Distinction awards. She said that pictures would be taken after the meeting. There were 5 nominations: the winners were Roxanne, Jack and Collin Tuttle of Austin/Shearman Tract. The Honorable Mention Certificates went to Angela and Kevin Blank of Old Orchard Beach North, Bob and Connie Murray, Jim and Bonnie Smoot, and Bill and Sally Soules of Fairview South. The first awards were given in 1997 and there was a plaque with the names that hung in Silver Lake Marina. Betty encouraged nominations from any SLA member and the form could be found in the winter newsletter. Ruth thanked the Homeowners of Distinction Committee.

Betty Nasca stated that there was only 1 nomination for 2008 and it arrived past the deadline so it would be carried over to the following year. Yard signs for the HOD winners have been reduced in size from 20x36 to 14x24. This was the smallest sign available that would get all the information on it. Cost remained the same at $125 each. A discussion about the yard signs commenced and it was asked who paid for the signs the homeowner or SLA. Betty said that she would send a letter of interest to past winners. Jim Coles suggested offering the plaque in addition to the award at homeowner's cost. Ann Heizmann moved for Betty to send a letter first. Most were not in favor of the additional award.

For the 2009 HOD Award Betty said that they had 7 nominations. Two of the nominations were for new homes with no landscaping and one was for a home where the work was hired out so she planned to reword the request form to make guidelines for nominating more clearly. It was then asked if the nominees should be members of the Association. After a discussion Rich Eliasz moved that HOD award be open to everyone. It was stated that the Property must be in the watershed area. All agreed and passed the motion.

At the August 2010 meeting it was decided to table the HOD award until the following year. That year's nominations would be reviewed in August and presented in September. Betty Nasca was the person who nominated that year's home and she would be the person to inform them of the committee's decision.

In 2011, Betty Nasca and the HOD Committee visited the nominees. The Committee decided to select two winners that year. Angela and Kevin Blank of Old Orchard Beach North and Shirley and Doug Spencer of Silver Lake Institute (Monroe Ave) were the 2011 winners. Certificates of Honorable Mention for other two nominees were also presented. Julie took photos of the winners for the newsletter.