JAMES ROBERTSON AWARD

James R. Robertson Timeline

- Born June 20, 1898
- Graduated High School June 1916 (Educated Guess (EG))
- Lifelong Seattle resident (EG)
- WW I Veteran in Army Signal Corps and saw combat in France
- Worked as Seattle Water Department meter reader and State Highway Department Bridge Inspector while attending the UW
- Graduated from UW in 1924 and joined city engineering staff as a “computer”
- Served much of his career at the City as a Principal Assistant City Engineer, with permanent appointment to that post by Roy Morse, City Engineer, in 1957. Widely known both as a bridge construction engineer and as technical administrator, he had a reputation as a firm but kindly executive of a department of more than 1100 employees. He oversaw construction of the Ballard Bridge and was the City’s chief engineering liaison with the State Highway Department on all their major projects affecting Seattle during his tenure.
- Retired June 28, 1963, after 39 years with the City. Died in 1982 (EG)

James R. Robertson Affiliations

Member of the UW’s ASCE student chapter in 1923 and 1924

President of the Seattle Engineer’s Club

He was one of 23 original petitioners, in 1955, to National APWA for the formation of the Washington Chapter, and was apparently the chair of the temporary Chapter committee, as the Executive Director directed National’s letter of acceptance of the petition to him on July 26, 1955. James Robertson continued to serve behind the scenes and was a Board Member but never a Chapter Officer. He served as Region IX’s Washington State representative for at least four years.

James R. Robertson Award

The award was officially instituted on October 19th, 1962 during Public Works Day for the World’s Fair. James Robertson was the first awardee. This is a quote from the Seattle Times article of October 20th, 1962:

“Establishment of an annual state-wide engineering achievement award named for James Robertson, assistant city engineer. was disclosed during a program at the World's Fair. The award, a plaque to carry names of annual winners, has been instituted by the Washington State Chapter of the American Public Works Association. Yesterday was Public Works Day at the Fair. More than 300 engineers and civic leaders attended a luncheon at Club 21, sponsored by the Uptown Kiwanis Club. Robert! Burgher. Chicago, Director of the Public Works Association. said the Robertson award can "be an inspiration to those young men of ability who will, we hope, select public service as their career."
Awardees

1962  James Robertson
1963  Robert G. Anderson
1964  George R. Fisher
1965  Roy W. Morse
1966  Herbert C. Higgins
1967  John B. Warder
1968  Everett G. Henry
1969  Carl V. Kilgore
1970  Dominic Roleto
1971  Ed Kortnik
1972  Paul Sturmer
1973  Leland L. Sphar
1974  Allan L. Kimbel
1975  Chester J. Woods
1976  Robert R. Engle
1977  Harold Hagestad
1978  June Rosentreter
1979  Don Horey
1980  Bill Howe
1981  Pat Nevins
1982  Jack Locke
1983  Marv Seabrand
1984  Rich Tracy
1985  Terry Duncan
1986  Warren Gonnason
1987  Jan Klippert
1988  Larry Southwick
1989  Philip Buswell
1990  Jerry Fay
1991  Ken Fujiki
1992  Richard Warren
1993  Dave Mandyke
1994  Roy Peterson
1995  Dale Poussier
1996  Gwen Maxfield
1997  John Ostrowski
1998  Craig Olsen
1999  Dave Hudson
2000  John Carpita
2001  Tom Dozall
2002  Jack Pittis
2003  Dick Andrews
2004  Bob Moorhead
2005  Bill Goodwin
2006  Courtney McFadden
2007  Kathy Robertson
2008  Mohammad Kashani
2009  Gretchen Johnson
2010  Sam Yaghmaie
2011  Daniel L. Dawson
2012  John Ostrowski
2013  Debbie Sullivan
2014  Jim Rioux
2015  Dan Wesley
2016  Kristina Nelson
2017  Jon Davies