

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