

## **AMADOR AWARD RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING SERVICE SUPPORTS KIWANIS NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

By their very nature, Kiwanis clubs attract those in our communities who are passionate regarding service to others. The Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Kiwanis International provides a unique way to recognize those volunteers who go above and beyond serving others while at the same time supporting the Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation (KNRF)—formerly the Spastic Paralysis Research Foundation—our District’s Finest Project. The Luis V. Amador, M.D. Medallion Award is an award program within KNRF that allows a Kiwanis Divisional Council, District Board, Key Club and Circle K Boards within the I-I District to extend special recognition and honor to an individual that has demonstrated outstanding service within his or her community.

Named after our founding Medical Director, Dr. Luis V. Amador, the Award is a Kiwanis Division award requiring the signature of the Division Lieutenant Governor to certify that the “...nomination was duly approved by a majority of the clubs” within the division at a division council”. Every year, one (1) Amador Award is allocated to each Kiwanis Division for a total of thirty-three (33) Awards. The process starts with clubs in a division attending a division council meeting and suggesting potential recipients. Led by the Lt. Governor, the division council will then discuss and agree upon a nominee. The nomination form is shown below and is then completed by the nominating club and signed by the Lt. Governor. The nomination requires a \$500 donation to KNRF—in some divisions, all of the clubs contribute to pool funds to make up the \$500, while in other divisions the club with the nominee provides the \$500. Note that KNRF is an IRS 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so the \$500 may be paid out of a club’s service account and not out of dues. The completed, signed nomination form, as well as the \$500 check, are then mailed to the I-I District Office. Please note that the deadline for all nomination forms to be received in the I-I District Office is July 1<sup>st</sup>, each fiscal year, no exceptions. Award nomination forms will ***not*** be accepted or processed between July 2-September 30 each year. Nominations received between July 2-September 30 will be processed and sent after October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The bottom of the form has a place to identify where the Amador Award will be presented to the recipient. Each year, the Foundation Luncheon is held at the I-I District Convention on Saturday, and many of the Amador Awards are presented at that time. A booklet is created and provided at the Foundation Luncheon that contains the recipients and a brief summary of their nomination. In addition to allowing time to create the booklet by the August District Convention, the July 1 deadline also allows for Kiwanis Divisions to make multiple Amador Awards in a given year. If a division wants to recognize more than one recipient, they can submit more than one nomination (each nomination requires a \$500 check), but the Lt. Governor must note on the nomination forms which priority it is—number one, two, etc. After the July 1 deadline, if any division in the I-I District has not given their Amador Award, then the second nomination will be awarded. The first nomination package can be received/awarded between October 1-July 1 each fiscal year. The second nomination package ***must*** be received by July 1<sup>st</sup> and can be awarded after that date.

The funds from the Amador Awards are placed in an endowment account within KNRF, supporting the continued growth of the Kiwanis Neuroscience Research Foundation, our District’s FINEST PROJECT.