

**Bylaws for the Peggy Renner Award for Teaching and Curricular Innovation  
(Approved 2019)**

1. The Peggy Renner Award for Teaching and Curricular Innovation is an annual award to an historian who has developed a college or university course that engages students in exploring the links between contemporary issues (“hot topics”) and/or contemporary events and the past.
2. Applicants to the Peggy Renner Award for Teaching and Curricular Innovation must hold a Masters or Doctorate degree. Applicants must also be current members of the Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH) when they submit their application. Current WAWH board members are not eligible to apply. Applicants may apply for the award more than once, but may win only once.
3. All applicants shall be actively engaged in teaching at an accredited college or university, and therein engaged in teaching that is historical in nature, although the course does not need to be within a History department if it is offered within a related department or field.
4. Applicants for a Peggy Renner Award for Teaching and Curricular Innovation must submit the following materials to the selection committee:
  - a. A completed application form.
  - b. A copy of the course syllabus or other summary of the course content, which identifies the significant contemporary topic(s) and related historical material. The syllabus and/or summary of the course content should include:
    - i. Contemporary sources (primary and/or secondary) used to establish the significance of the issue in contemporary society;
    - ii. Historical sources (primary and/or secondary) used to engage students in contextualizing the topic(s) and exploring the history of the issue; and
    - iii. Instructions associated with assignments—including essays, poster talks, electronic presentations, or other assignments—that reveal students’ engagement in exploring the relationship present issue(s) to the past.
  - c. One confidential letter of recommendation from the applicant’s supervisor which confirms the course was taught.
  - d. *Optionally*, one or more letter(s) of recommendation written by student(s) who took the course.
5. The award will be determined by the Peggy Renner Teaching Award Committee subject to funding availability and the applicant pool.
6. The Award Committee Members shall:
  - a. Be appointed by the President for a three-year term.

- b. Have terms that are staggered in a three-year cycle. Each year a new committee member will be appointed. In case of an incomplete term of service, an appointment will be made to complete the term of service
7. The Award Committee Chair shall:
  - a. Ideally have at least one year of experience on the committee prior to taking over the position of Chair.
  - b. Be responsible for overseeing the work of the committee, including receipt and distribution of applications to committee members, timely determination of award recipient(s), and notification of the decision to those applicants selected and not selected as well as to the Executive Director.
  - c. Present, or appoint someone to present, the award to the winner at the annual WAWH conference.
  - d. Make a summary report to the Executive Board at the annual meeting.
8. Each Committee member shall review and rate each application for the Peggy Renner Award for Teaching and Curricular Innovation. From their individual ratings, Committee members shall confer and reach a consensus on the recipient.
9. The Committee shall use the following criteria in selecting recipients (all are given equal weight):
  - a. Scholarly potential of the applicant;
  - b. Significance of the topic in contemporary society;
  - c. Originality and clarity of the course offered; and
  - d. Timeliness of the topic.
10. Peggy Renner Award for Teaching and Curricular Innovation recipient(s) shall be announced at the annual conference.