

Ambassador of the Year Award

The 1982 Executive Committee initiated the presentation of an annual award to be known as the Southwest District Ambassador of the Year. It is to be given to a single person or a couple who (1) best promote square/round/contra dancing, (2) give of their time and effort to support the Southwest District, (3) best exemplify the spirit of square/round/contra dancing, and (4) are members of the Southwest District.

The award is to be considered each year, but will not necessarily be given each year. It will be presented at the Southwest District Festival, in the form of two badges and a plaque with the name(s) of the recipient(s) and the year of the award. The recipient may be a business, in which case badges would not be appropriate and only a plaque would be presented.

An Ambassador of the Year Award Selection Committee is to be elected by secret ballot, during the January Board of Directors meeting, for the purpose of executing the details of this award. The selection of the award recipient will be made by the committee, and the name of the recipient is to be kept secret until the award is presented.

Nominations for the recipient of this award must be received by the chairperson of the selection committee no later than the close of the March District board meeting, in writing, detailing the nominee's contributions to square /round/contra dancing.

These working rules specifically state:

- a. Nomination for the recipient of this award must be made in writing and be received by the Selection Committee Chairperson no later than the March District Board meeting.
- b. Nominations must be submitted to the Selection Committee by a member of the Board of Directors. The District Constitution/By-Laws state the Board of Directors includes the President or Vice-President of all member clubs and two delegates from each of the member clubs.
- c. No other nominations will be considered.
- d. There are four specific qualifications nominees must possess and all four must be demonstrated by the nominee. Nominees must be:
 1. Those who best promote square/round/contra dancing
 2. Those who give of their time and effort to support the Southwest District
 3. Those who best exemplify the spirit of square/round/contra dancing
 4. Members of the Southwest District

A. Committee Member Selection:

1. The Ambassador of the Year Award Selection Committee shall be elected by the Board of Directors each year at the January Southwest District Board Meeting. Four committee members shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of current delegates present at the election. The list of attending delegates shall be provided by the District Secretary.
2. The Committee Chairperson shall be the delegate receiving the largest number of votes at the election. The elected Chairperson shall provide the leadership and guidance necessary for the committee to select a recipient and shall present the award. The Chairperson shall have a voice in the selection process, but does not have a vote.
3. The three committee members shall be the Board of Directors members who receive the second, third and fourth largest number of votes from the same secret ballot and shall each have equal voice and voting responsibilities during the selection process.
4. The committee Chairperson and the three committee members are not eligible to be considered for the award during their term on the committee.
5. A couple may be selected to serve on the committee, but that couple shall have only one vote.
6. No more than one committee member may be from any one club.
7. Callers and cuers or their spouses are not eligible to serve on the committee or to receive this award.

8. In the event that elected members are unable or unwilling to serve on the committee, the delegate receiving the next largest number of votes shall assume the member's duties.
9. If no committee can be formed by election, no award shall be given during that year. In that event, the Immediate Past President shall assume the responsibilities for introduction and recognition of the previous five recipients attending the Festival.

B. Recipient Selection Process:

1. All members of the selection committee must be present for all committee meetings where nominations are received. The Chairperson may telephone members to establish a time and place for a committee meeting, but decisions about recipients may not be made by phone, except where no candidates are nominated.
2. It is not essential that all committee members be acquainted with all nominees, since the written nomination disclosing the candidates' information should include a detailed description of their qualifications for consideration of the award.
3. To insure the integrity of the award, the names of all nominees and discussion of their activities must remain confidential.
4. The name of the selected recipient shall be kept secret until the presentation is made at the Southwest District Festival, the third Saturday in May.
5. Although there are many dancers who do an incredible amount of work for their club and deserve to be recognized at the club level, this award is specifically intended for those who contribute and support the Southwest District. It is important that they be active in their own club as well as square/round/contra dancing in general.
6. No selection shall be made unless there is a deserving person, couple, or business that meets all four criteria as outlined on page 1.
7. Any member of the Southwest District is entitled to initiate a nomination. However, in order to be accepted by the Selection Committee as a valid nomination, it must be presented through the District Board of Directors. This process entitles each member of the Board of Directors to a single nomination with up to a total of three separate nominations per club.
8. Many recipients continue to be active and important to square/round/contra dancing. However, no one may receive this award a second time.
9. Consideration should be given to a nominee's entire dancing career, not just the recent year.

C. Award Ceremony:

After the Selection Committee has chosen a recipient, the committee chairperson is responsible for the award ceremony at the Southwest District Festival on the third Saturday in May. The ceremony should include:

- a. Making an introductory speech for the recipient, outlining his contribution to square/round/contra dancing and to the District
- b. Having badges (when appropriate) for presentation to the recipient
- c. Having an engraved plaque for presentation to the recipient
- d. Presenting a corsage and/or boutonniere to the recipient
- e. Having the name(s) of last year's recipient engraved on the Southwest District plaque

The chairperson may wish to give a copy of his introductory speech to the recipient, but it would not be wise to release the letters of nomination. The Selection Committee Chairperson shall destroy the nominating letters after the presentation.

All previous recipients for the past five years attending the Southwest District Festival should be recognized during this ceremony.

No nominations from any year will be "carried over" for consideration the following year. All nominations must be submitted during the year they are to be considered.