



# UCWDC® HALL OF FAME SELECTION PROCEDURE

## Version 2.0

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The United Country Western Dance Council® is an international organization which promotes country western dance by producing festivals and competitions across the world. We host the annual Country Dance World Championships® for couples and line dancers and we advocate country dancing as a social activity for people of all ages and abilities.

### 1.1 Purpose

The Hall of Fame is the most prestigious award presented by the Council of the UCWDC. Each year, council members are asked to nominate an individual, couple, group or team who exemplifies a truly dynamic spirit, a person of admiration and one who is worthy of this exemplary honor.

This award is bestowed upon someone who has contributed in ways that have changed or advanced the path of country dance, as we know it today. Someone who has achieved success yet is willing to share their gift of knowledge and talent with others. The Hall of Fame recipient is carefully selected from a field of rare visionaries who have impacted the world of country dance by broadening horizons and breaking new ground.

## 2. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Each year, the UCWDC makes selections from many qualified pioneers and inducts new members into the UCWDC Hall of Fame at the next Country Dance World Championships event. What follows is a summary of intentions, guidelines, goals and procedures for determining these awards and fulfilling this objective;

1. Nominations. As of January, 2017 there are nearly thirty (30) pioneers of our dance sport already enshrined in the Hall of Fame. These pioneers are among the greatest historians within the UCWDC and have built the foundation for our sport throughout the early years of development. The council shall look to and rely upon this 'group' which shall be referred to as the "Hall of Fame Committee" to nominate the top 'three' candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame for the upcoming year in three separate categories.
2. As a minimal requirement for anyone to be nominated in any category, their career with notable and significant contributions to the UCWDC must have begun at least fifteen (15) years prior to the year they would be nominated.
3. Nominations are to be divided into three (3) categories – with ideally three (3) nominees determined for each category. If circumstances should provide a unique situation such as ties, then a 'minimum of two (2) and a maximum of four (4) recommendations' in each category shall be submitted for the final vote. The three (3) categories are:
  - a. **Dance (Couples)** – driven primarily by a history of Couples competition, Couples Teams, Lead and Follow dancing to include ProAm, Choreography, and Teaching.
  - b. **Dance (Line)** – driven primarily by those who contributed to line dance. Categories in Line Dance could include Choreography, Line Dance Teams, Line Dance Competition, Teaching and Competing.
  - c. **Service and Support** – contributions aside from or not primarily 'dance' related to include administration, volunteer work, facilities coordination, deejays, lighting and sound, videography, vendors, creators and suppliers of dance products, sponsors, publishers, or scoring systems.



4. Once nominations are set in each category by a vote within the Hall of Fame Committee, a final listing of all nominees will be provided via email at least two weeks before the spring meeting of the council to every majority owner of a fully sanctioned event, every Director Emeritus, and every member of the Hall of Fame.
5. Each fully sanctioned event shall be able to vote for desired inductees. A minority owner may vote on behalf of the majority owner, however each event shall be entitled to only one (1) vote.
6. Each Director of Emeritus shall be entitled to cast a vote for desired inductees. In the event two Directors of Emeritus were so designated by the Council as a couple, the Directors Emeritus couple shall be entitled to one vote.
7. Each member of the Hall of Fame shall be able to vote for desired inductees. In the event two Hall of Fame members were inducted as a couple, the couple shall be entitled to one vote. If two Hall of Fame members formed a recognized "couple" during their dance careers, but were inducted separately, each shall be entitled to vote for new inductees.
8. A "vote" shall be comprised of up to three (3) selections for new inductees. Voters may select one (1) candidate from each of the three (3) categories, or voters may select two (2) candidates from a single category and one (1) from another category. Voters may exercise their right to vote once, twice, or three times with emphasis on the most deserving candidates across all three of the nomination categories. Only one vote per individual (nominee), i.e, you may NOT vote more than once for any one individual.
9. The voting will take place in the two (2) weeks prior to the spring council meeting. The deadline for voting shall be three (3) calendar days prior to the first day of the full General Council Spring Meeting. The results of the final vote will NOT be made known to the public or Council members. Only the UCWDC President and members of the Hall of Fame committee will be privy to the results. Newly elected inductees shall then be notified immediately to begin the long process of creating their presentations. The winners will be announced to the council at the fall meeting.
10. It is the intent of this procedure to select one new inductee from each category, with the goal of selecting no more than three inductees each year. However, it is entirely possible there could be less than three, and equally possible that the nominating and voting process could determine there is not a worthy candidate from each category each year. The process could thereby result in the selection of more than one candidate from a single category. This situation will be determined year by year based on the numbers of deserving candidates in each of the three categories and total votes cast for each nominee across all three categories. Finally, should circumstances dictate for any variety of reasons that there should be more or less than three (3) inductions in a given year, authority is given to the President, and the Chairman and the Co-Chair of Hall of Fame Committee to approve the exception.
11. Newly elected inductees shall be chosen by popular vote. Results could yield winners in all three (3) categories, or, there could be two (2) winners in a single category and a third winner in one of the other two categories based on 'total' votes cast. The decision to select one from each category accruing the most votes, or the decision to select the top three vote getters cross all three categories (top three regardless of category) shall rest with the President, the Chairman and the Co-Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee.



12. The Hall of Fame Committee will have the responsibility to contact the newly elected inductees as well as produce their presentations and present them with their awards at the next Worlds event. The committee will provide to the UCWDC Secretary, the tally results 'one year later' for record keeping and transparency. The winners will be announced to the full council in the 'fall' meeting each year.
13. Administration and payment of expenses related to Hall of Fame inductees shall be coordinated by the Worlds Director with appropriate expenses being assigned to the UCWDC General Fund. Each year, the council will spend \$350 - \$500.00 for the video presentation production costs, and within a year, each inductee will write a shorter version of their biography and provide photos for a hallway 'stand-up banner' at a cost of approximately \$250.00. (As of 2017 – the stand-up banners and associated costs are under review and likely to be discontinued and replaced by an alternate display method).
14. In addition, other accommodations shall be granted for Hall of Fame inductees at the time of their induction, including:
  - a. a complimentary Country Dance World Championship event pass for the recipient and attending family members;
  - b. complimentary two (2) night stay in the event hotel;
  - c. complimentary admission to the Worlds staff hospitality room (for the recipient and a significant other);
  - d. if significant travel expense is necessary, a reimbursement not to exceed \$200.00 (supporting documentation of actual costs required) shall be paid following the Worlds event.
15. Prizes - each recipient shall be provided with;
  - a. a UCWDC Hall of Fame Trophy (approx. \$75.00 each);
  - b. a UCWDC Hall of Fame Ring (approx. \$250.00 each);
  - c. complimentary digital recording (no cost to the council) of the live award presentation;
  - d. a lifetime UCWDC Associate Membership;
  - e. a lifetime Country Dance World Championships event pass.

### 3. SELECTION PROCESS

1. Each year, the UCWDC makes selections from many qualified pioneers and inducts new members into the UCWDC Hall of Fame at the next Worlds event. What follows is a summary of intentions, guidelines, goals and procedures for determining these awards and fulfilling this objective.
2. Each year, we shall strive to induct three (3) persons into the Hall of Fame.
3. The vetting process of determining the most worthy candidates rests entirely on the Hall of Fame committee – the 29 best historians in the UCWDC. They will provide the finalized list of nominees for the final vote to determine the winners.
4. There will be ideally three (3) nominees in three (3) separate categories. There is only one Hall of Fame – the categories simply help clarify the different types of contributions to the UCWDC. The categories are:
  - a. Dance – Couples / Dance – Line / Support & Service
5. Every 'majority' owner of a fully sanctioned event is entitled to vote for the winners.



6. Every Director of Emeritus is entitled to vote for the winners.
7. Every member of the Hall of Fame is entitled to vote for the winners.
8. Each member may cast three (3) votes and may vote for 1, 2, or 3 winners. Members may vote for one (1) winner in each of the three (3) categories or vote for two (2) winners in one (1) category and one (1) winner in another category. Votes should always be for the most deserving amongst the 3 categories.
9. Voting will be done via email in the two weeks prior to the spring council meeting and, will be open for at least ten (10) calendar days. Voting will close three (3) days before the first day of the general council meeting held in the spring. Votes will be sent to the Chairman and the Co-Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee. The tally results will be provided to the secretary for record keeping one year later. The winners will be announced to the council at the 'fall' meeting.
10. Any subjective or objective decisions necessary to accommodate unique situations and exceptions to our process, to fulfill the will of the council, to insure the best quality presentations for the Hall of Fame winners, to break ties, and to safe guard the integrity of the selection process will rest with the President, the Chairman and the Co-Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee.

## **END OF POLICY**