



UCWDC® HALL OF FAME SELECTION POLICY

Version 4.0

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1. INTRODUCTION

The United Country Western Dance Council® is inspired by the vision of a thriving global dance community featuring a world-class competition circuit and a Championship event on every continent in addition to the long-standing Country Dance World Championships®. The UCWDC® oversees the largest competition circuit for country dance in the world, including partner and line dance styles. Our mission is to provide our members with the structure, tools, education, and support they need to thrive in our circuit.

1.1 General Purpose

The UCWDC Hall of Fame is established to honor and enshrine individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the growth and legacy of country dance. It ensures that the achievements of dancers, teachers, coaches, service providers, and community leaders are preserved, recognized, and celebrated. The Hall of Fame stands not only as a record of the past, but also as an inspiration for future generations to strive for so they may uphold the same values of excellence, integrity, and service to the dance community.

1.2 Expanded Purpose Statement

The UCWDC Hall of Fame serves as the highest honor the Council can bestow, recognizing individuals, couples, groups, or teams whose exceptional contributions have advanced the art, sport, and community of country dance. These honorees are celebrated not only for their personal achievements, but for the lasting legacy they have created—through innovation, mentorship, leadership, and service—that continues to shape the direction and values of the UCWDC.

This policy exists to uphold the integrity, transparency, and consistency of the Hall of Fame selection process. It provides a clear and equitable framework that ensures all nominations and inductions are grounded in merit, supported by historical impact, and evaluated through inclusive and representative procedures. By establishing defined roles, responsibilities, eligibility criteria, and voting protocols, the policy guarantees that recognition is earned through enduring commitment and transformational influence.

In alignment with the UCWDC's broader vision of global growth, cultural enrichment, and educational excellence, this Hall of Fame policy also affirms the Council's dedication to preserving its heritage while fostering forward momentum. It ensures that those honored not only reflect the achievements of the past but also embody the spirit of progress and leadership that will carry the country dance community into the future.

2. ADMINISTRATION

The Hall of Fame selection process will be conducted under the supervision of the Hall Administrator. The Hall Administer shall be a member of the current Hall of Fame Inductees. As needed, the Administrator will be assisted by a Hall Advisory Board. The Advisory Board will be composed equally of three (3) Hall of Fame members who are current UCWDC Event Directors and three (3) Hall of Fame members who are not. This structure ensures both continuity of leadership and broad, representative perspectives.

An Assistant Administrator may be assigned on an ad hoc basis to help accomplish the precepts, edicts, and goals of the Hall of Fame, and specifically, this selection policy.



3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 General Criteria

The worthiness of Hall of Fame candidates can be established in one of two ways. First, individuals may demonstrate breadth of influence, contributing across multiple areas of the country dance community to a level of recognition that merits enshrinement. Alternatively, individuals may demonstrate depth of influence, contributing in a single area of the community to an extraordinary degree that in itself merits enshrinement.

3.2 Timeframe

Candidates must have made their most significant contributions at least fifteen years before consideration, and within the past twenty-five years. Each consideration cycle will focus on a defined ten-year period (e.g., 2000–2009). Periods will advance in five-year increments, rather than rolling annually, ensuring contributions are considered in historical context. For example, in 2030 the period of review will shift to contributions made before 2015.

3.3 Categories

There are four primary categories of enshrinement:

1. Couples' Dancers
2. Line Dancers
3. Professional Teachers & Coaches
4. Service & Support Staff

Additionally, veterans beyond the twenty-five-year threshold or exceptional contributors outside the listed categories may be considered for enshrinement on a case-by-case basis.

4. SELECTION PROCESS

The process consists of four stages: Affirmation, Nomination, Induction, and Presentation.

4.1 Affirmation Stage

The first stage affirms individuals who have reached Hall-worthy status within the contribution period with chronological emphasis on the period's earlier years to its later years. A larger voting body—composed of Directors, Directors Emeritus, Hall of Fame members, and selected UCWDC Associate Member Professionals highly active during the period—determines affirmation. Candidates must receive at least 50% approval to advance.

Open Nominations: In conjunction with the Affirmation stage, nominations may also be received directly from UCWDC Event Directors during an open call period beginning thirty (30) days prior to the Spring Meeting. These nominations will be reviewed by the Hall Administrator to ensure eligibility and once verified, will be added to the Affirmation ballot for consideration. This process provides transparency, honors the perspectives of our event leaders, and ensures that all deserving individuals may be recognized within the formal selection stages.



Associate Member Professional Selection: Associate Member Professionals invited to participate in the Affirmation stage shall be selected by the Hall Administrator in consultation with the Advisory Board. Eligible professionals must have been actively engaged in the UCWDC community during the decade under review, demonstrate a history of ethical conduct, and be in good standing with the organization. The list of participants will be reviewed annually, and all selected individuals will be required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest prior to participating in the voting process.

4.2 Nomination Stage

The second stage narrows the list to those most ready for enshrinement in the current annual induction cycle. A smaller, dedicated voting body evaluates candidates by expertise area (couples, line, teachers, service). Candidates must receive at least 65% approval to be nominated, and no more than six (6) may advance in each category.

4.3 Induction Stage

The third stage inducts candidates into the Hall of Fame. The voting body consists of all UCWDC Directors, Directors Emeritus, and all prior Hall of Fame members, each of which have been determined to be highly familiar with the contribution period. Candidates must both surpass the fifteen-year threshold of worth and be deemed chronologically ready for induction. To be enshrined, candidates must receive at least 80% affirmative votes.

With four categories being considered, plus the prospect of a veteran and an inductee from outside the four categories being named, no more than six (6) inductees will be enshrined in a given year. If no candidate in a category reaches 80% approval, no inductee will be named for that category.

4.4 Presentation Stage

The fourth stage is the induction presentation, which will occur at the year's following UCWDC Country Dance World Championships. Presentations focus on the historical factors that led to enshrinement rather than full biographies. Presentations are delivered by the Hall Orator, following a pre-designed format, though inductees may request a sponsor or representative to speak on their behalf.

5. VOTING PROCEDURES

- Affirmation: 50% approval required.
- Nomination: 65% approval required.
- Induction: 80% approval required.

Candidates not inducted remain eligible on the affirmation list until the end of the 25-year cycle. After that, they may be referred to a Veterans Panel for review and reconsideration.

The Hall of Fame Selection process for the projected year will begin at the conclusion of the UCWDC Spring Meeting and conclude prior to the UCWDC Fall Meeting. An announcement for revealing the Hall of Fame Inductees for each year will occur at the conclusion of the UCWDC Fall Meeting with the proviso that all UCWDC members please refrain from making any disclosures as to who those persons are so they may make their preparations for enshrinement in anonymity, allowing the country dance community to experience the revealing of the inductees with surprise. The presentation of Hall of Fame inductees will follow without exception at the next UCWDC Country Dance World Championships.



5.1 Voting Participation Requirements

To help facilitate voting participation from each of the selected voting bodies noted for any stage of the Hall of Fame selection process, where the integrity of the percentages needed to move from one stage to the next must be maintained, any voter selected for a particular stage that does not participate in that stage will be voided for any subsequent stages in which they were selected for the current Hall of Fame process. Additionally, they will also be suspended for lack of the previous year's participation from voting for any stage of the following year's Hall of Fame process. Dispensation may be asked for and with acceptable circumstances, granted.

Tie-Break Procedure: In the event that more eligible candidates within a category meet or exceed the established voting threshold than can be inducted under the annual cap, the following tie-break procedure shall apply:

- Candidates shall be ranked by percentage of affirmative votes per consideration category received at the Induction stage.
- If a tie remains, a run-off vote will be conducted among the tied candidates using the same electorate as the Induction stage.
- Should a tie still remain, the Hall Administrator, in consultation with the Advisory Board, shall make the final determination of results per that category.
- This process ensures fairness and preserves the integrity of the annual cap.

Dispensation for Non-Participation: Any selected voter unable to participate in one or more stages of the process must request dispensation in writing to the Hall Administrator no later than seven (7) days following the close of the relevant voting period. The Advisory Board shall review and may grant dispensation in cases of illness, family emergency, or unavoidable conflict. Approved dispensations will preserve that voter's eligibility for subsequent stages, while unapproved absences will result in suspension as defined within this selection policy.

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All voting members must disclose any personal, professional, or financial conflicts with any candidate. Members with conflicts must recuse themselves from deliberations and may not cast a vote for that candidate. Members who do not self-regulate and meet this obligation whether intentional or not will be voided from the year's current process and possibly any future process. The Hall Administrator monitors compliance and enforces recusals to preserve the integrity of the process.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

All ballots are confidential. Vote tallies are not released publicly and remain private until results are formally announced. Records are maintained securely by the Hall Administrator but are not disclosed externally.



8. RECOGNITION AND BENEFITS

Inductees are recognized at the UCWDC Country Dance World Championships. They receive a Hall of Fame trophy or plaque, a Hall of Fame ring, and permanent listing in the official Hall of Fame registry. Inductees also receive lifetime admission to the UCWDC World Championships, access to event hospitality, and, when possible, travel and accommodation support for their induction ceremony.

In addition, a commemorative belt buckle and lifetime Associate Membership may also be awarded, in keeping with past precedent and subject to Council approval. These benefits will be reviewed upon the 5-year period shift for Hall of Fame consideration. This review will confirm that the benefit package is in continued alignment with organizational values and resources.

Budgeting: The Hall of Fame shall operate within a dedicated line item of the UCWDC annual budget. The Hall Administrator, with support from the Advisory Board, will prepare and submit an annual budget request to the Council for approval prior to the Fall Meeting. This request should reflect anticipated costs for awards, presentation production, hospitality, and limited travel support.

Typical budget ranges for the Hall of Fame are expected to fall between \$5,000 and \$10,000 annually, though actual amounts may vary based on the number of inductees and the scope of planned recognition activities. Final authority for budget approval rests with the UCWDC Council.

9. GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

The Hall Administrator manages the process and ensures compliance with policy. The Hall Advisory Board provides balanced guidance and ensures both director and non-director perspectives are included. Advisory Board members serve staggered three-year terms with one Hall Advisor that is a UCWDC Director, and one Hall Advisor who is not a director, reviewed for re-instatement or replacement. The Hall Administrator may make Advisory Board changes based on an individual's preparatory participation and degree of production help in executing HoF procedures, specifically this policy, to the extent that the current Hall of Fame administration has the best chance of continuing annual achievement and success.

The Hall Administrator provides an annual report to the UCWDC General Council at the Spring Meeting, summarizing the process and outcomes from the previous year, while protecting confidentiality.

Archival Transparency: While individual ballots and tallies remain confidential, final aggregate results will be archived with the UCWDC Secretary one year following each Hall of Fame process. These records will not be made public but will serve as part of the Council's institutional history and as a resource for future policy reviews.

10. SUCCESSION PLANNING

To ensure the continuity, integrity, and long-term sustainability of the UCWDC Hall of Fame, the Council is committed to proactive succession planning within the Hall of Fame Committee and its broader inductee community. The Hall of Fame Committee for any year shall be comprised of the current Hall Administrator (or Assistant Administrator if the Administrator is absent) and all current Hall Advisors, thus totaling seven (7) persons.



10.1 Vision for Legacy and Continuity

The Hall of Fame represents the living legacy of the UCWDC. As such, we recognize that maintaining its standards, spirit, and historical knowledge requires the intentional transfer of responsibilities, values, and institutional memory to future generations. Succession planning shall be approached not merely as a procedural necessity but as a vital component of stewardship and leadership development within the organization.

10.2 Hall of Fame Committee Continuity

- The Hall of Fame Committee serves as a guardian of UCWDC's rich history, entrusted with preserving the legacy and honoring the individuals whose pivotal contributions have shaped the Council's evolution. The committee's primary responsibility is to ensure the integrity, transparency, and consistency of the Hall of Fame selection process.
- At least one year prior to any planned transition of Chair (Administrator) or Co-Chair (Assistant Administrator) roles, the outgoing leaders shall provide a written transition brief outlining current practices, policy history, nominee tracking protocols, and institutional knowledge relevant to the selection process.
- Incoming Chair (Administrator) shall be provided with access to all prior records, including past nominee evaluations, procedural refinements, budget records, and presentation archives, to ensure informed and consistent decision-making and archival references to ensure informed stewardship

10.3 Hall of Fame Inductee Engagement

- The Committee shall regularly engage Hall of Fame inductees to encourage their ongoing participation in the nomination and voting process, as well as their involvement in mentorship and historical preservation efforts.
- A "Legacy Liaison" may be designated annually from among the inductees to act as a communication bridge between the Hall of Fame members and the Committee, fostering transparency, input, and a sense of collective stewardship.

10.4 Institutional Knowledge Retention

- The Hall of Fame Committee will maintain a secure digital archive of nomination history, presentation materials, procedural changes, and any inductee biographical material produced. This archive shall be accessible to current and incoming committee members and preserved as part of UCWDC's historical record.
- As part of this effort, each newly inducted member will be invited to contribute a personal narrative or recorded reflection on their journey, impact, and philosophy, further enriching the collective memory of the UCWDC Hall of Fame.



10.5 Emergency Succession

In the event that the Chair (Administrator) or Co-Chair (Assistant Administrator) of the Hall of Fame Committee is unable to fulfill their duties due to unforeseen circumstances, the UCWDC President, in consultation with the Board of Directors, shall appoint an Interim Administrator to ensure the continuity of committee operations and preservation of the selection timeline.

This interim appointment shall:

- Be limited in scope to the essential duties required to maintain committee function and uphold policy timelines,
- Remain in effect until the next scheduled General Council meeting, at which time the Council may confirm the appointment or elect a permanent successor,
- Be made with transparency and regard for the institutional legacy of the Hall of Fame.

Should both the Chair and Co-Chair be unable to serve, the President may convene a meeting of the Hall of Fame Committee and consult with the Board of Directors to identify qualified candidates from within the current committee or past Hall of Fame inductees. Final selection of the interim appointee shall rest with the President in collaboration with the Board.

11. POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed by the Hall of Fame Committee at least once every five years, and specifically upon the 5-year period shift for Hall of Fame consideration. Through this review the Committee can ensure continued fairness, transparency, and alignment with UCWDC's mission and values.

END OF POLICY