

GAVEL CLUB AWARD RULES

1. **Membership:** Membership in the Gavel Club is made up of all past and current presidents from any chapter of the National Smooth Dancers, Inc.
2. **Assessment:** Membership in the Gavel Club is non-assessable. Voluntary donations are requested when necessary.
3. **Purpose:** The purpose of the Gavel Club, beyond the social aspects, is to, when appropriate, select a nominee and qualified member of The National Smooth Dancers, Inc. to receive the PRESIDENTS' GAVEL CLUB AWARD.
4. **Nominations:** Nominations for the PRESIDENTS' GAVEL CLUB AWARD must be in writing and submitted to the Gavel Club Chairperson by August 1st of the year that the nomination will be presented for consideration.
5. **Nomination Letter:** The letter of nomination must contain a description of the qualifications that the nominee possesses, and must reflect the criteria stated in rule 6.
6. **Candidate Qualifications:** The candidate for the PRESIDENTS' GAVEL CLUB AWARD must be a member in good standing and have performed OUTSTANDING service to the National Smooth Dancers, Inc.
7. **Candidate Nominations:** Nominations must be for an individual member of the National Smooth Dancers, Inc. Nominations for Joint candidates (two or more) will not be accepted.
8. **Nomination Period:** A nomination period may be carried for two years only. If the nominee is not selected within the two-year period the nomination will lapse.
9. **Voting Privileges:** Only Gavel Club members, present at the time of voting, will be allowed to vote, (except as noted in Rule 13).
10. **Balloting:** Balloting will be conducted by secret ballot at the Gavel Club Award Brunch. ONLY Gavel Club Members can attend the Brunch (except as specified in Rule 13). Gavel Club members may attend the business session of the brunch without attending the brunch itself. All members present at the balloting will receive a packet, which will include the nominating letters for all candidates, a list of Gavel Club Members, and the Gavel Club Financial Report. A list of past recipients can be found online:
<https://www.nationalsmoothdancers.org/Files/GavelClubHonorees.pdf>
11. **Vote Count:** Votes will be counted by three members assigned to this function by the Gavel Club Chairperson. Only the Chairperson and the ballot counters will be made aware of the winner of the award. They MUST NOT reveal the winner to any other person. The winner will be announced at the Awards Breakfast by the Gavel Club Chairperson .
12. **Declaring A Winner:** To win on the first ballot a candidate must receive 50 percent plus one vote. If a second ballot is required, the two candidates with the highest number of votes will be placed on the second ballot. A simple majority will declare a winner.
13. **Voting Participants:** In addition to Gavel Club members (as described in Rule #1) Gavel Club Award winners, who are not members of the Gavel Club, are welcome to attend the Gavel Club Brunch and Meeting as voting participants.