



## **Special Award Committee Report and Update**

The special awards committee had another successful three days of interviews in January at the section office. We had 27 interviews with the 12 different award categories, and as always the talent was impressive in the Michigan Section!

The committee thought we had a diverse group of interviewees and that we were able to see some new members that were doing great things. With that said, we discussed later how we could continue to improve on not only those that get nominated, but those that make it to the interview room after the full member vote.

- 1) We do know we are one of the few sections, if not the only one that has an interview process to get the award winner. We believe this is a must as we move forward and feel that it is one of the things that really separates us and our success.
- 2) We do believe that we are missing out on getting some members a chance to interview for awards we know they are qualified for. The people seem to get nominated but can't get by the member vote process.
- 3) The sub-committee process that we use to get the nominations down to five seems to be working well, but we do believe one adjustment could be made. We would want to mix up the chapter and special awards groups that act as the sub-committee to have a diverse group looking at the different bios. This would make it possible for those in different geographic areas to see information on members they wouldn't know much about.
- 4) We would also like to make the voting by the membership have the same 5 point system that we use at the subcommittee level. We think this would allow for some extra movement in the voting process.
- 5) Lastly, we think the top vote getter should get in automatically and then there is committee discretion allowed on the next person or two that could make it to interviews. It may end up the same way it has with the second person getting in, but with at least flexibility we can make sure the deserving people get the chance.

The committee also discussed what the main goal is for us, whether it is about national awards or making sure we pay attention to those in the section that deserve to be recognized. We think if we just do a couple tweaks, then we can accomplish both things and try to get away from any type of name recognition or popularity situation. I would be happy to discuss further any of the points above as we continue to have the best process of any section!