

Hall of Fame Guidelines

1. Who may be nominated for induction?

Nominees should be Taft graduates, living or deceased, who exemplify the best of Taft, people we can be proud of holding high as our colleagues and peers. They bring honor to the name of Taft High School through their accomplishments in their careers, personal achievements, service to others, leadership and courage.

Nominees who spent at least three years at Taft High School (7th and 8th grades will not be considered in these years) but did not graduate from Taft or from any another high school, and who otherwise meet the criteria, will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Hall of Fame Evaluation Committee (hereafter referred to as the “Committee”).

Nominations of couples, e.g., husband and wife, will be considered at the discretion of the Committee based on the merits of the information provided by the nominator.

2. Who can submit a nomination?

Nominations may be submitted by any and all alumni, by family members or by Taft High School faculty. Nominees are free to nominate any eligible alumni but themselves. No TAA director who submits a nomination may serve on the Committee for that year’s induction.

3. How is the nomination made?

Nominations will be submitted on a standardized official nomination form that will be made available to alumni by the TAA Secretary upon request or on the TAA website. Any corroborating data (news articles, notices, et al) must be submitted with the form. The form must be mailed by USPS to TAA c/o Taft High School. A designee, after the deadline for submission, will make a copy of each form submitted within the deadline for each member of the Committee.

4. Who will review the submissions?

Both present and past directors will be eligible to volunteer to serve on the Committee, so long as they, themselves, have not submitted a nomination for the current induction. The call for directors to volunteer will be made by telephone or email and will be posted on the TAA website.

The Committee chairperson will be responsible for informing the Committee members of their duties and explain the importance of maintaining confidentiality during the deliberation process for the protection of the nominees. In addition, the Committee chairperson will apprise the TAA President of the nominations submitted and of the progress of the Committee.

5. How does a nominee become an inductee?

Nominees will be judged by a point system that allows Committee members to judge independently. Nominees with scores exceeding 45 out of a possible 60 points (or 75%) will be placed on a slate. The Committee may meet together, if or when necessary, to discuss any concerns. Members will submit their score sheets to the Committee chairperson for tally. Scores for each nominee will be averaged,

e.g., scores of 45, 50, and 55 will produce an average score of 50. Committee members may not ask fellow members to provide a rationale for their scoring. In the event that additional information becomes available to the Committee prior to the stated deadline, Committee members will have an opportunity to revise their scoring if necessary.

The Committee will then present the tally sheet and the slate, via paper ballot, to the board of directors with the nominee's name, graduating class, and brief paragraph of their accomplishments which will be read into the record. The presented slate will be accepted or rejected as a whole. The secretary will tally, record and announce the results of the board's votes.

If the slate is rejected by a majority vote, the slate will go back to the Committee for further consideration. If the slate is accepted by a majority vote, the nomination information of inductees will be shared with appropriate persons for the purpose of publishing the information in the newsletter, on the web site, and any other venue deemed appropriate. When this information has been made public, the nomination forms will be destroyed.

6. How many nominees will be inducted?

The top five scoring nominees will be submitted as the slate for board approval. In the case of a tie, all nominees with the tying score will be included on the slate. This means that one to five persons may be listed on the slate (possibly more in a tie), and indeed, there may be no nominees who have made the grade.

7. How often shall we induct?

Inductions will take place every three years, thus allowing the Taft student body to be introduced to, and become familiar with, their predecessors' accomplishments at least once during their years at Taft.

8. What is the schedule for submission?

Submissions in the year of induction will loosely follow the school calendar. Submissions will be due by the end of the school year; selection of the slate by the Committee will take place during the summer; acceptance or rejection of the slate by the board will take place at the first fall meeting of the board after the start of school. Induction may take place at anytime after that, either as a separate event or paired with another school event.

If a nomination form must be returned to the submitter for any reason, the submitter will be given a deadline by which to return the data in question so as not to delay the Committee's decisions. Forms submitted or resubmitted after the published deadlines will not be considered for the current induction.

9. If not selected, can a nominee be re-nominated?

Any nominee who is not selected for induction will be eligible for the next induction so long as a new nominating form is submitted with current data. This includes any nominations that missed previous deadlines.

10. Can an inductee be ejected from the Hall of Fame?

If an inductee to the TAA Hall of Fame commits an act so heinous as to bring shame and dishonor to the TAA and/or to the Taft High School, the board may vote to eject him/her from the Hall of Fame by a simple majority.

11. How shall Hall of Fame Guidelines be enforced?

It is recommended that the TAA Bylaws be amended to mandate the use of the Hall of Fame Guidelines. The guidelines themselves will not be included in the bylaws, and will be subject to amendment as necessary by the board through majority vote.

Respectfully submitted by the Hall of Fame Committee,

Kay Kuciak
Tom Kuciak
Kevin Krieger
Paulette English