



Pinball Industry Awards

Excellence Awards Judging Panel – Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

John Cosson, Emily Cosson, George Fisher, David Dennis, Zach Meny, Dennis Kriesel, Martin Robbins, Jessy Jay, Joel Engelberth, Joshua Jacobs, Craig Bobbie, Tom Graf, Moppy, Steve, Roary, Jeff Teolis, and Nick Brown.

Additional Notes:

- Jessy Jay and Martin left prior to the photography section
- Josh left during writing section
- Steve, Moppy and Roary from the Puppet Palz arrived for 45 minutes during the meeting wrap up.
- Jeff Teolis arrived at the end with approximately 15 minutes left
- Meeting was video recorded and will not be released

Discussion around treatment of TPN nominees and if they should be able to win awards. Some providers expressed that if nominated they would withdraw their nomination.

Discussion on how to change this process for 2021 so it is not seen as a TPN favouritism/grievance award and allow TPN members to be comfortable being nominated.

Discussion on single or multiple awards in areas.

Excellence in Pinball Streaming

George Fisher (Don't Panic Flip) nominated by John Cosson

Arguments for Include: community engagement, activity in various Discord (chat) groups inside and outside TPN where knowledge and support of steaming is shared. Raiding other streamers when session is complete, positive brand image, measurable growth in followers/subs in 2020 and quality streaming is very high.

George Fisher Declines Nomination citing conflict of interest in TPN

Karl DeAngelo (IE Pinball) nominated by Martin Robbins

Arguments for Include: InDISC live event steam quality, Wizard Mode challenge on Twitch/YouTube, PinClash event was stunning, well planned, and the event executed flawlessly. PinClash was different, exciting, and engaging. Karl shares endlessly with the community with items such as the streaming rig plans, raids and always sharing knowledge via various Discord channels.

Jack Danger (Dead Flip) nominated by David Dennis

Argument for Include: First streamer to pivot to digital online match play with Zoom/mixed streams with Jurassic Park. Jack innovated by adding design team digitally to launch reveal streams, although with some minor issues it was successful, he continued to slowly grow subs and follows on Twitch.

Emily Cosson Nominates – Escher Lefkoff

Argument for Include: Massive appearance on statewide digital talent show exposing pinball to the masses. Soundly debated.

George Fisher nominates Manu (Mystery Science Pinball 3000)

Argument for Include: Building the streaming knowledge in the hobby, sharing that knowledge, tech streams focusing on improving pinball Streaming, adding animations to and redemptions on this twitch stream. A positive brand image and stunning video quality.

Zach Meny nominates Gametime Television

Argument for Include: Quality and incredibly entertaining streams, consistent raiding of other streams, engaging the community positively.

Dennis Kriesel nominates Hot Nudge

Argument for Include: Quality and incredibly entertaining streams, consistent raiding of other streams, engaging the community positively. Amazing graphics and animation on Stream overlay. Those overlays, wow!

Colorado Pinball Collective nominated by Nick Brown

Arguments for Include: Amazing PinMasters and North American Championship coverage, building the streaming community locally by sharing knowledge and being a positive group in the pinball streaming community.

Excellence in Pinball Podcasting

David Dennis noted if nominated he would decline a nomination.

The Puppet Palz nominated by Zach Meny

Argument for Include: Stunning level of talent, meta humour in the hobby, positive image, building a unique and positive brand, sound/audio editing is on another level.

Super Awesome Pinball Show nominated by David Dennis

Arguments for Include: Wonderful editing and interesting edited 'bits' such as Franchi being locked outside Stern HQ and the Christmas special sleighride. Top Quality guests and interviews by Christian and Franchi. Exclusive news and announcements without rumours or leaks required.

Pinball Profile nominated by Tom Graf

Arguments for Include: Years of quality content and consistent content in 2020. Quality interviews with tournament, industry, and hobbyist media personalities. Different approach to pinball interviews. Community builder.

Jeff Teolis joined the call at the end and missed the nomination. Jeff requested the opportunity to withdraw the Pinball Profile nomination. The PIA Governing Committee granted his request.

Kaneda's Pinball Podcast nominated by Joel Engelberth

Arguments for Include: Breaking news others will not, willing to champion various causes and industry issues which other may not.

Backbox Pinball Nominated by Dennis Kresel

Argument for Include: Large group of guest and co-hosts, Deeproot coverage, bringing in new people to pinball with easy-to-understand content.

Loser Kid Pinball Podcast nominated by George Fisher

Arguments for Include: Consistent release schedule, high profile interviews with industry insiders which tend to be very natural, and casual. Breaking news and code breakdowns with those who designed it. The Shape Series of interviews. The Loser Kids have built a well-respected brand by being a positive force who avoid negativity and have the best hat and merch game in the industry.

Martin Robbins, Jessy Jay left meeting (it was New Years even in Australia)

Excellence in Pinball Photography

Charles Acosta Pinball Photos (pinballphoto.com) nominated by Zach Meny

Arguments for Include: Stellar Jersey Jack Pinball GnR Launch photos, featured in Forbes and runs a top-quality print shop.

Gene X Hwang (Orange Photography) nominated by John Cosson

Arguments for include: mixture of pinball content (portraits, candid, machines), excellent photo editing skills, strong social media and community involvement. Shoots people and locations from a variety of locations from all over the US.

Just Pinball – Photos by Christian Larsen (Instagram: pinball.by.xtn) nominated by Nick Brown

Arguments for: Great photo editing focus on live events the emotion in those events and tournaments.

Excellence in Pinball Writing

Committee discussed category at length. During the discussion many on the committee were concerned they had no references to the materials to review. Some of the nominations were of large bodies of work vs. one article and many mentioned they were not confident in providing an award without deeper thought.

A discussion on future years to prevent this from happening took place.

A suggestion would be that nominations be done prior to the meeting and materials from nominees (ie. written articles etc). be sent prior to the meeting to ensure everyone can review and make a strong decision which everyone is confident about.

The PIA Governing Committee is disappointed in not nominating anyone for Excellence in Pinball Writing for 2020.

Joshua Jacobs left the meeting (the meeting was running VERY long)

Excellence in Pinball Videography

George Fisher nominates Gavin Free the Slo-Mo Guys

Arguments for Include: Displaying pinball in a totally unique and new way. In fact Slo-Mo Guys showed pinball to those who have been in the pinball hobby for years in a totally different way. The online discussion on their channel was huge, David Dennis mention he had clients reach out to him and point out the Slo Mo Guys did a pinball episode.

Some concern around 1 video vs. someone in the community. The website description does say video(s) not videos.

Tom Graf nominates Straight Down the Middle: A Pinball Show

Argument for Include: The stellar Guns N' Roses featurette which showed large growth in production quality, story telling and reveal. The Ninja Turtles unboxing, production quality, always first to market with releases and videos of machines.

Craig Bobbie nominates TNT Amusements

Arguments for Include: Pinball's YouTube statesmen, engaging positive and fun.

David Dennis nominates Tilt: The Sweet Science of Pinball

Arguments for Include: Wonderful video production, stories around pinball and about pinball. Building community conversations in pinball. Wonderful story telling and personal.

Dennis Kriesel nominates Cary Hardy YouTube

Arguments for Include: Fast release of content and non confrontational critics. Varied content including tech videos, reaction videos, news and fun skits.

Jeff Teolis nominates Imoto Harney

Imoto has done production and videos for multiple sources this year including the Stern Turtles streaming event, the TWIPYs ceremony video, she is kickstarting an arcade and pinball web series. She does her own video, green screen work, production, editing, coordination, and graphics. She has done the Marco TV interviews at shows (while people could meet), she is incredibly positive in promoting and engaging with any person in the community and tried in various ways to grow her audience and pinball in general. Lastly, 2020 Girls Game release.

Open Discussion

Discussed adding awards in 2020 or 2021 awards show.

Discussion of open up closed judging pool to non TPN member in 2021, logistics, keeping the pool from becoming a competition, being influenced and bias.

How do we build a consensus with a large group?

Many category voters expressed happiness that they didn't have to vote for peers, would they want to vote?

The Puppet Palz (Steve, Moppy and Roary) joined made jokes.

Jeff Teolis joined and shared some thoughts, on the process and a nomination. See notes prior to reference.

Meeting Close – Meeting Time 3:00:00

Minutes draft was sent in an email. That email included a survey form with ranked ballot on Podcaster section and follow up question on Videography.