



Sunday, December 13, 2026 | Tiferet Bet Israel, Blue Bell, PA

THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Forming Your Committee

- The first job of the selection committee is to pick a candidate. If your Men's Club has no experience with the Man of the Year program, there are a couple of questions to consider; how is such a committee formed, and who should be on it?

- Do NOT include potential honorees. Many Clubs include their Rabbi and the current Men's Club President and, if available, past honorees (see below), but past Men's Club Presidents should NOT participate in this new committee because they are often candidates for this honor.

- The Selection Committee might only meet once, but the give-and-take exchange will undoubtedly produce a better list of names (than a just few suggested by the Club President). Moreover, a committee will create a buzz about what mysterious event is going on - and who the honoree will be.

- The Committee after the first year may include some or all past Men of the Year and the current Men's Club President.

The initial Committee will then grow by one man per year - and eventually, the starting members won't be necessary. After five years of attending Man of the Year dinners, a "club" of honorees will develop.

- Often, this "club of honorees" will be the best judge of who qualifies to join its ranks. It is not unusual for past Men of the Year to go to the annual dinner and celebration, and take out an ad for their new "club" member.



- The MOTY Selection Committee must not be a secret, but its work should be confidential. Meetings (just a few for the selection process) should be held in a closed room. Don't let the candidate list leak out. You never know who will expect the honor; bad feelings can result if they don't get it. Don't wait until the last minute to make your choice.

Selecting and Announcing Your Man of The Year



- Select a club member who works hard to bring pride and joy to your community.

- It is difficult sometimes to ask someone to be honored because some people are embarrassed to be singled out or do not feel worthy. The suggestions below should help your selection committee avoid common mishaps when selecting and announcing your honoree.

- After rank ordering, the Committee should designate two people to meet with the candidate. Find an excuse to run into the "target." Invite him out for coffee or a nosh. Why two of you? It is much harder to say no to two people than to one. It is also much more awkward to say no to a friend than to a stranger.

- Here is what NOT to do. The Club President, who does not know the MOTY candidate well, should NOT publicly approach the candidate and ask if he will accept the honor.

Occasionally, the first response will be, "No thank you." The solicitation is a process. It helps to warm up the prospect.

- Mention the event's importance, the goodwill generated from it - and the consensus of the Committee (Everybody Will Be Really Disappointed If You Say No). Couch the question in terms of the candidate honoring and respecting his brothers, not letting them down, by accepting the honor. Stress that it is an honor and that he deserves it. Pop the question as, "You're our Man. You won't let us down, will you?"

- Be prepared to accept a response like "Let me think about it." Give him some time, but not too much. And, of course, don't ask two candidates simultaneously (what will you do if they both say yes?). Have the honoree reserve the date on his calendar. You do not want to choose a MOTY who cannot appear for the event in his honor.