The guidelines for how BOTY's are selected in the Sault Chapter were approved by the Board and are summarized here. They are written here to make sure there is continuity among the committee as to the thoughts which should govern their deliberations regarding the selection of next year's BOTY.

The man receiving the most nominations is often, but not always, awarded the BOTY.  The committee is guided by the nominations they receive but they do more than just count ballots.  They are not restricted to considering only those men nominated. The selection is therefore not a vote or a “popularity contest”.

1.  A three person committee is struck of the current and previous year's awardee, and the current president.

2.  The committee chair calls for written nominations from the chapter membership via a form which is circulated asking members to identify a possible recipient and indicate the reasons for their nomination.  There are no stated criteria.  Members may nominate any fellow member for any reason.

3.  The committee receives and reviews the nominations.  These are not ballots and there is no vote.  The nominations received are meant only to guide the committee but they do not restrict their option to award the BOTY to the person they feel is the most deserving.

4. The committee is free to award the BOTY to the person with the most nominations, or to anyone who is nominated, regardless of how many nominations they got.  They may also award the BOTY to some outstanding member of the chapter whose contributions may have gone unnoticed and who has not been nominated at all. For this reason, the nominations are not posted or otherwise made public to the chorus at large.

5.  The awardee is announced along with the reasons for his selection at the annual year end BBQ.

In reality, there is most often a groundswell of nominations for a particular individual, which the committee accepts and agrees with.  However, there are years when say 6 or 8 persons each receive 3 or 4 nominations.  In this case the committee decides based on their assessment of merit.

If no obvious candidate emerges via the nominating process, the committee has the prerogative to select any man of their choosing.  Often this has been a man who is not in front of the chapter every week and so whose service may not be recognized.

This allows them to do as they did a few years ago when they awarded the BOTY to a 30 year member who was there every week, knew his music and willingly accepted any task to help the chorus, but who received no nominations.  This Joe Barbershopper is at the core of most of our Chapters and we have no Society without them.  The announcement of his being the BOTY was met with a spontaneous standing ovation and the genuine approval of the membership.  The man floated home that night.  Everyone felt the right choice was made, yet the man received not a single nomination.  Some men toil in anonymity and by this system, they too can be recognized.