

*National Life: "Life in Perspective"
Apr 22 -24, 2002
2002 "President's Club"
Fairmont Southampton Princess*

*05: Mallon Welcome / Setup Awards / Mallon
Monday, 22 April 2002*

MALLON

[AD LIB THANKS TO WELCH]

[PAUSE]

Now comes my favorite part of the program... the part where we show appreciation... where we begin to present our Awards... where we applaud achievement and recognize effort....

The sound of applause, of course, means a lot to most people.

The expression of praise and appreciation finds many forms. By one accounting there are more than twelve thousand awards offered by forty-three-hundred organizations in North America alone...

... and at least another six thousand awards offered by organizations in 75 other countries.

The range and variety of these awards are astounding... and they outline in some ways the shape, form and boundaries of human activity and achievement.

And then there are some unusual awards...

Take the Show Magazine Bore of the Year Award... or Esquire's Dubious Achievement Awards. Two that you would not want to win....

Or the International Flat Earth Research Society's Award for any member who... quote... through diligent and painstaking study and research has proven beyond any shadow of a doubt that the earth is flat ... end quote.

Any takers? I didn't think so....

[PAUSE]

How about the American Society for Enology and Viticulture? It offers a medal for "achievement in the advancement and improvement of the wine and grape industry or wine research."

I'd like to compete for that one myself.

[PAUSE]

And then there's my favorite... The Procrastinator of the Year Award....

The winner gets a plaque to be inscribed... Later. Much later....

[PAUSE]

And I heard that last year's winner hasn't even picked his up yet.

[PAUSE]

And now, I'd like to begin by adding to the list of illustrious achievers deserving recognition and applause... starting with our past years' President's Club Life Membership Awards....

Would everyone who is a President's Club member stand for some much deserved recognition...