



Finalists

Presented by Humor That Works



www.humorthatworks.com

Nominations

Best Positive Spin Award (Humor Enthusiast)

This award honors a specific moment where someone put a hilarious or uplifting twist on a tough situation. Whether it was turning a frustrating workday into a laughable story or rebranding a failure as a funny learning moment, nominate the one time they nailed it with positivity and humor.

Nominee: Mike Cundall

Source: Humor Month Survey

Nomination: We're often so focused on what we need to do next that we rarely reflect and enjoy what we have done. Instead of just focusing on your "To-Do List," (a list that will never end), Mike advocates for creating a "Ta-Da List," a list of recent accomplishments that you're proud of.

Nominee: Pragito Dove

Source: Humor Month Survey

Nomination: For many people, they know the benefits of meditation but are unsure of how to start or don't think they could manage a 7-day silent retreat in the woods. As Pragito shares, meditation doesn't have to be intimidating. Laughter can be the perfect way to prep, something she shares in her weekly [Laughter Meditation](#) sessions.

Nominee: Matt's Mum

Source: Instagram

Nomination: Some people can find the positive in nearly any situation. Summer Fox shares an example of a person exactly like that: [Matt's Mum](#). In this viral video, Matt's Mum lifts up the people around her and you can hear the impact that it has: a secure, confident kid with strong self esteem.



Greatest Use of a Meme Award (Humor Curator)

Not all memes are created equal. This award goes to a specific instance where a meme was used brilliantly to land a message, boost morale, or just make people laugh at the perfect moment. Nominate the exact post, slide, or share—not just someone who loves memes.

Nominee: Miglė Miliūtė

Source: Internet Search

Nomination: Listicle sites have been around for a long time. However, many meme collections serve only to share humor. In this [collection of funny tweets](#) on Bored Panda, author Miglė Miliūtė, et al, also added insights about humor sprinkled throughout the memes which means it's a great combination of laughter AND learning.

Nominee: Curry's

Source: Instagram

Nomination: You may have seen dozens of variations of the “bottle kicking” video online, but have you ever seen it used to advertise a laptop? The social media team at Curry's did a great job of [using a viral video to advertise](#) one of their newest products.

Nominee: Mary Beth Somich

Source: Instagram

Nomination: Memes tend to become memes because they're relatable. If you take that and apply it to something that has a stigma, such as mental health and therapy, it helps people realize that they aren't alone on their journey. Mary Beth aka the Relatable Therapist [uses curated posts to make therapy more relatable](#).



Most Creative Content Award (Humor Inventor)

We're looking for that one post that made you laugh out loud. Whether it was an internal company email, a witty LinkedIn update, a clever newsletter line, or a social media gem—nominate the single written piece that deserves to be framed (or at least forwarded endlessly).

Nominee: Dr. Bob (aka Eric Cremers)

Source: Survey Nomination Eric Cremers, (e.cremers@cohesie.org)

Nomination: Dr. Bob is a general practitioner (and alias of Eric Cremers) who complains about problems in General Practice but also shows solutions that may (or may not) work. Here's just one example of [how to solve phone addiction](#).

Nominee: synthet

Source: YouTube

Nomination:

Sometimes explanations are interesting, sometimes they're entertaining, and sometimes they are both. This impressive explanation of a musical sound we've all heard is delivered in an engaging (and musical) way: [you know this sound but not it's name](#).

Nominee: Daniel Thrasher

Source: YouTube

Nomination: A meta take on creativity can be tough to pull off, but Daniel does it, even if the idea isn't the most original ever created... but that's sort of the point: [A creative take on how \(not\) to be creative](#).



Comedic Performance of the Year (Humor Entertainer)

This one's for the standout performance that brought the funny. Nominate a specific comedy set, TikTok, song, sketch, or video that had you LOL, ROFL, LMAO, or heh the most. This award celebrates the performance that stuck with you (and maybe lives rent-free in your head).

Nominee: Darius & Jai Byrd

Source: Instagram

Nomination: We often think that modern problems need a modern solution. What if we went olde school instead? A clever, and funny, take on [modern day arguments with older times language](#).

Nominee: Yumbo Dump

Source: YouTube

Nomination: Sometimes comedic performances require the perfect crafting of message plus delivery. Other times, it just requires the right bellies. Comedy duo Yumbo Dump entertains with some [hilarious sounds from an unexpected source](#).

Nominee: Matthew V

Source: Instagram

Nomination: A powerful performance can overcome even the oddest of lyrics, as proven in [this song](#) that really strikes a chord...



Cleverest Humor Solution Award (Humor Engineer)

Humor to the rescue! This award recognizes a specific example where someone solved a real problem with a clever, funny approach. Whether it was easing tension in a meeting, re-engaging a burned-out team, or turning a boring process into a fun one—highlight one solution that worked.

Nominee: Lisa Dubois

Source: Instagram

Nomination: How do you stand out online when you're a realtor? By hiding... A [great video](#) on using the game, Hide and Seek, to show off a new home.

Nominee: Visit Sweden

Source: YouTube

Nomination: When US President Joe Biden made a blunder confusing Sweden and Switzerland, there were a lot of ways the countries could have responded. Sweden chose to make [a tourism video](#) correcting the confusion in a funny way.

Nominee: Tim Reagan

Source: Humor Month Survey

Nomination: Tim is a lifelong activist in the classroom, inciting freedom and excitement. One way he does that is through drama therapy groups for teens & adults with mental illness, which also include moments of humor to help facilitate the conversation and aha moments of discovery.



Humor Spotlight Award (Humor Advocate)

This award celebrates a moment when someone used humor to lift others up. Maybe they highlighted a teammate's win in a funny way, created a post that celebrated unsung heroes, or brought joy to someone else's big moment. Nominate the one instance that truly shined.

Organization: Restovit (Pearson VUE)

Sources: Survey: Dave Thompson, (dcthmepsnep@gmail.com)

Nomination:

Overview:

Restovit is a highly dedicated and talented technical agile team in the top lifelong learning company in the world, Pearson. We prioritize self-care and fun at work, fostering trust and reducing stress, which helps us stay creative, focused, thriving, and consistently delighting our customers. Our engagement is informed by Gallup survey data and aligned with values that promote a thriving culture.

In a high-pressure technical space, our humor practices don't just make things more fun—they make collaboration smoother, burnout rarer, and resilience stronger.

Key Highlights:

Traveling Trophy:

Our team has a unique traveling trophy that members take home and personalize. The trophy now features a giant duck in the middle, with winners and dates inscribed on the side. It's a fun element visible in background cameras during virtual meetings, adding a personal touch to our team culture.

Wacky Wednesday & Thwacky Thursday:

Every Wednesday, we kick off our standup with wuzzles, dad jokes, and recently, adult picture finds (heh). This tradition evolved into "Thwacky Thursday" for gratitude, where team members give verbal "Thwacks" to colleagues who helped them during the week (as in, "I'd like to thwack Chad for..."). This practice quickly became a beloved part of our culture, significantly boosting morale and setting a positive tone.

Celebrations:

At the start of each month, we highlight birthdays and work anniversaries. On the day of, we grab hats—or whatever random objects are nearby—to wear while we sing via Teams. Every time, it sounds hilariously better than the last (according to us).

Daily Engagement:

We keep cross-department interaction high with daily whiteboard posts like:

- "What four ingredients are in Shane's four-ingredient cookies? Wrong answers only."*
- "Which AI-generated avocado chair do you like best? Challenge: make your own."*



Holiday Party Awards:

At our recent holiday party, we gave out custom AI-generated awards. Our manager received the “Supreme Overlord of Management Excellence Award,” which, with a little help from AI, may or may not have been written by... well, let’s just say it might have been self-written.

Memes & Communication:

Some days, memes are our primary language — and somehow, it totally works. Humor keeps communication light, quick, and energizing.

Technical Summit Presentation:

Two teammates presented at a pan-Pearson tech summit on “Embers of Excellence,” tying their combined 28 years of paid-on-call firefighting experience to our business culture. They were voted most engaging presenters—flames of fun included.

Floating Holidays:

We encourage folks to give fun names to their floating holidays and share pics if they’re up for it. It’s a simple, joyful practice that boosts connection and encourages well-deserved rest.

Just-for-Fun Fridays:

We hold weekly Just-for-Fun meetings with rotating topics or games. It’s low-pressure, high-laughter, and always a hit.

Closing Thoughts:

Restovit proves that humor and high performance go hand in hand. Whether it’s thwacks of gratitude, meme-filled messages, or wearing a bowl as a birthday hat, we’ve built a culture where fun fuels engagement. We believe laughter isn’t just a perk — it’s a productivity tool. We’re honored to be considered for the Corporate Humor Award and hope our duck-decorated trophy gets to meet yours.

Nominee: *Patty Posthauer*

Source: *Humor Month Survey*

Nomination:

As a professor, Patty’s classroom is her stage! Teaching her communication courses allows her to bring her wit, dry sense of humor, and corniness to her lectures. She’s also a Laughter Yoga Leader where she helps bring laughter to people of all ages with a bit of humor and a lot of guffaws.

Nominee: *Mary Morrison*

Source: *Humor Month Survey*

Nomination: *Mary Kay has long been an incredible advocate for humor, having founded (and currently directs) the international AATH Humor Academy graduate study and certificate program. In 2024, she published the [Legacy of Laughter playbook](#), which explores the six stages of humor development in a play-filled way.*



Keeping Humor Positive Award (Humor Skeptic)

This award honors a specific moment where someone stepped up and stopped inappropriate humor in its tracks—gracefully, boldly, and maybe even with a touch of wit. It's about holding the line while still holding space for healthy humor.

Nominee: Anthony Jeselnik

Source: reddit

Nomination: Some people think that they should be absolved of any wrongdoing simply because it was “just a joke.” Anthony [explains the difference](#) between being a comedian and being a troll and that there's an art to toeing the line of what's appropriate. (Warning: NFSW language.)

Nominee: Eric Murray

Source: Instagram

Nomination: There are a lot of lifehacks out there that aren't particularly effective. Here's a group of people who [call attention](#) to the silliness of one suggestion.

Nominee: Alonzo Clark

Source: Instagram

Nomination: Alonzo calls out those friends who don't appreciate when people take the time to curate humor for them. Here's the proper [Friendship Etiquette](#) when it comes to seeing a meme.



Humorist of the Year Award (Whole Humorist)

This is the big one. This award honors someone who embodies the power of humor in every way—clever thinking, kind leadership, contagious joy, and real-world impact. They don't just crack jokes—they crack open possibility. They make the world a better place, one laugh at a time.

Nominee: Roberta Gold

Source: Survey Nomination from Julia Roy (Julie@AlpacaJulie.com) AND Patricia Bumpass (pbumpwrites@gmail.com)

Nomination: Roberta Gold offers a positive spin, wit, and outstanding leadership and always finds joy in every awful situation. She does this by connecting with us at 8 am PT every Monday through Friday in a short Zoom exchange for fellow writers. I always look forward to her weekly Laughter Rocks emailed Newsletter when it appears in my inbox on Friday mornings!

She kept her positivity even when her brother was evacuated from the Pacific Palisades and Eaton fires in Los Angeles. She even put a positive spin on an accident she had while hiking on her birthday. She fell, slid down a slippery embankment, broke her leg during the fall, ended up at the bottom of the ravine, and had to wait in agony for over 30 minutes while her daughter ran to get help. She then described her rescue with incredible wit. She was hoisted up to a helicopter while suspended between the cutest guy's legs. Her daughter even took a video to show the hoist-up, which she proudly shared the next week.

Every Thursday, she leads the first 15 minutes of open discussion, which we call "Coffee Cooler," and then a stretch break after 20 minutes of writing. She has coined the two-minute break "Laugh-a-Lattes!" She does another stretch break in between two other twenty-minute writing periods. This has been her pattern every Thursday, at 8 am PT, since March 2020. Often, between 15 - 25 of us on Zoom follow along with her "Laugh-a-Lattes!" And she shows up unless she is in the hospital or traveling somewhere, like to see her grandson!

One of her other attributes is providing a forum she calls Parent Power Happy Hour (PPHH)! Again, on Zoom, a group of us (mostly ladies) spend an hour supporting each other, sharing wins and challenges, and listening to Roberta as she shares her screen displaying the latest puns, memes, and humorous (but tasteful) sayings. We all leave the experience feeling uplifted and eager to meet again the following week.

She adds so much love and caring support to all of us, making us feel like a family through our Monday through Friday Zoom connections and PPHH.

PLUS: I nominate Roberta Gold for Humorist of the Year. Roberta uses humor to delight, inspire and defuse situations. During a time of great stress for me, I came to count on Roberta to make me laugh even in the midst of my tears. She acknowledged



my sorrow at the death of my mother but she also helped me feel imminently better with her lighthearted kindness and love. Roberta embodies kindness and laughter and love in every interaction every day.

Nominee: Robin Phoenix

Source: Humor Month Survey

Nomination: Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Robin Phoenix Johnson is the founder of [HEALARIOUS](#), a groundbreaking initiative that blends comedy with cognitive behavioral theory to provide suicide prevention and mental health support for Veterans and First Responders. After losing fellow service members to suicide, Robin channeled her grief into action, creating a program that reframes negative thought patterns through the power of humor. Her innovative vision positions laughter as a kind of “mental Heimlich maneuver,” helping to interrupt despair before it escalates. Through HEALARIOUS, she has not only brought hope to those on the front lines but has reshaped how we think about healing, making her a powerful and compassionate force in the world of therapeutic humor.

Nominee: Bea Bincze

Source: Survey Nomination, Christian Thiele (thiele.c@gmail.com)

Nomination:

Bea Bincze is a true ambassador for intentional humor, bringing the science and practice of laughter to leaders, teams, and everyday life. Through her Humor First Aid Kit workshops, LinkedIn thought leadership, and the innovative Humor Ambassadors Train-the-Trainer program, Bea empowers others to integrate humor into their work, relationships, and well-being. Whether she’s funframing daily frustrations, guiding participants toward psychological safety, or strengthening her own “humor muscles,” Bea leads by example—proving that humor isn’t just a tool, it’s a mindset. Her dedication to spreading laughter across borders, platforms, and professions makes her a standout nominee for Humorist of the Year.

