



ATTENTION: ALL COMPANIES DEDICATED TO EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP!

Nominations are now open for The Illinois Chapter 2020 ESOP Company of the Year and 2020 Employee Owner of the Year

Taking the time to submit an application can pay off! The winner of these awards will:

- Be submitted as the Illinois Chapter nomination for the National competition.
- Receive one free registration to the Annual ESOP Conference in Washington, DC, May 20-22, 2020.
- Be recognized at the Awards Banquet on May 21, during the Annual ESOP Conference in DC.
- Receive an Awards plaque to display at your company.
- Be recognized at Illinois Chapter events, on the Illinois Chapter website and in Chapter communications and announcements.
- Receive a \$100 Gift Card to use towards travel expenses to the National Conference in Washington, DC.

To nominate:

1. Read through the below criteria and use the nomination form to gather information

ESOP COMPANY OF THE YEAR

The company should be financially solvent and have more than two years of ESOP sponsorship. It is not necessary that the company have any one style of management. More importantly, employees should feel a sense of ownership and/or that the ESOP is important to the company and to the employees.

The “**ESOP Company of the Year**” may show a commitment to employee ownership by its:

- Involvement with the ESOP Association and the Chapter such as conference attendance, hosting/speaking at events and congressional visits.
- Communication and company activities to create/maintain a strong culture of ownership and engagement

EMPLOYEE OWNER OF THE YEAR

An “**Employee Owner of the Year**” would be someone who is an outstanding citizen in the company where they work and is active in employee ownership activities of the company and/or The ESOP Association. They should be an employee below the level of senior management and have a clear understanding of ESOPs and employee ownership.

Examples of how they may have contributed to their ESOP Companies:

- Serving on a communications committee or on an employee advisory committee
- Contributing to a company publication
- Helping with Employee Ownership Month (“EOM”) observances
- Leading fellow employees to a better understanding of the ESOP
- Attending chapter meetings, and/or helping with chapter meetings or activities
- Writing a letter to an elected official, organizing legislative visits

2. Prepare a nomination letter explaining why the company/employee owner should be selected

3. Submit via email by February 1, 2020 to:

Illinois ESOP Chapter, IL-Chapter@esopassociation.org | (312)741-8033

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS FEBRUARY 1, 2020

The Illinois Chapter of The ESOP Association 2020 Nomination - ESOP Company of the Year

Use the below form to assist you in gathering examples of events and activities your ESOP company may have participated in. This is only to help provide suggestions and a starting point in composing your nomination, you are not limited to these events and activity examples. **Feel free to use supporting pictures and attachments, please do not exceed 3 pages in your nomination.**

Company Name: _____

Year the Company was Established _____ Year the ESOP was Created _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Provided background specific ESOP Activity in your company:

- _____ Has ESOP Employee Communication or Advisory Committee
- _____ Has ESOP Employee Advisory Committee that is elected by employees
- _____ Has ESOP Employee Advisory Committee with an event budget
- _____ Provides non-management employee on company Board of Directors
- _____ Has non-management employee serve as an ESOP Trustee
- _____ Has pass-through voting for Board of Directors
- _____ Contributes to ESOP PAC
- _____ ESOP provides for in-service distributions other than diversification
- _____ Entered Annual Awards for Communication Excellence (AACE)
 - List AACE categories: _____
- _____ Lobbies or contacts elected officials on ESOP issues
- _____ Submits Employee Owner of Year nomination
- _____ Sponsors the Chapter
- _____ Donates at EOF Fundraisers
- _____ Has web site with section on employee ownership
- _____ Company shirts, pens, mugs, etc. say employee-owned
- _____ Distributes ESOP newsletter to employees
- _____ Receives media recognition as a great place to work

Has company activities such as:

- _____ Employee Ownership Month
- _____ Program to explain ESOP and/or ESOP statements to employees
- _____ Mentoring and/or orientation program for new employees on ESOP
- _____ ESOP breakfasts
- _____ ESOP games (list, e.g., BINGO, Jeopardy)
- _____ ESOP barbecue
- _____ ESOP-related company trip
- _____ Employee lunch/breakfast with the CEO
- _____ CEO State of the Company Presentation and/or annual report
- _____ Sponsor local charitable events

Has sent employees to ESOP Association events (list # sent and event):

- Midwest Regional Conference, Number Attended: _____
- Illinois Roundtable Events _____
- Illinois Chapter ESOP Conference/Meetings, Number Attended: _____
- D.C. Annual Conference, Number Attended: _____
- National Las Vegas Conference, Number Attended: _____

Has employee spoken/presented at an ESOP conference, # Participating: _____

Other things company has done to advance employee-ownership at your organization and through the ESOP Association

The Illinois Chapter of The ESOP Association 2020 Nomination – Employee Owner of the Year

Use the below form to assist you in gathering examples of positions, events and activities your Employee Owner may have participated in and/or organized for your Company. This is only to help provide suggestions and a starting point in composing your nomination, you are not limited to these events and activity examples. **Feel free to use supporting pictures and attachments, please do not exceed 3 pages in your nomination.**

Employee Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Provided background:

- _____ Serves on company's ESOP Employee Communication/Advisory
- _____ # of years on Committee
- _____ Chairperson of Committee
- _____ Holds a seat on company Board of Directors
- _____ Serves as an ESOP Trustee
- _____ Organized company entry in Annual Awards for Communication Excellence (AACE)
- _____ Lobbied/contacted elected officials on ESOP issues
- _____ Holds a seat on an ESOP Association Chapter Committee

Participated and/or led company activities such as:

- _____ Employee Ownership Month
- _____ Explanation of ESOP and/or statements to employees
- _____ Mentor and/or orientate new employees on ESOP
- _____ ESOP breakfasts
- _____ ESOP games
- _____ Company publications

Attended or provided support for ESOP Association events:

- _____ Midwest Regional Conference
- _____ Illinois Chapter Meetings
- _____ Annual Washington D.C. Conference
- _____ National Las Vegas Conference
- _____ Has spoken/presented at an ESOP conference