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.
- 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
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