



ATTENTION: ALL COMPANIES DEDICATED TO EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP!

**Nominations are now open for The Illinois Chapter
2017 ESOP Company of the Year and 2017 Employee Owner of the Year**

Taking the time to submit an application can pay off. Recognition includes:

- Winners are submitted as the Illinois Chapter nomination for the National competition.
- One free registration to the Annual ESOP Conference in Washington, DC, May 11-12, 2017.
- Recognition at the Awards Banquet on May 10, during the Annual ESOP Conference in DC.
- An Awards plaque to display at your company.
- Recognition at Illinois Chapter events and on the Chapter website.
- Publicity in Chapter and National communications.
- \$100 Gift Card to use towards travel expenses to the National Conference in Washington, DC.

DON'T DELAY - THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS FEBRUARY 10, 2017

Award Criteria

ESOP COMPANY OF THE YEAR	EMPLOYEE OWNER OF THE YEAR
<p>“ESOP Company of the Year” has a commitment to employee ownership as shown by its:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement with The ESOP Association and its programs, • Communication with employees; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to the Vision of The ESOP Association that endorses employee participation, wealth creation, and individual dignity and worth. <p>The company should be financially solvent and have more than one or two years of ESOP sponsorship. Most importantly, employees should feel a sense of ownership and/or that the ESOP is important to the company and to the employees.</p>	<p>The “Employee Owner of the Year” should be an employee below the level of senior management (hourly or non-management employee).</p> <p>The individual should be active in the employee ownership activities of the company and/or activities of The ESOP Association where appropriate. Examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serving on the ESOP 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; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending chapter meetings, and/or helping with chapter meetings or activities; • writing a letter to an elected official; • attending Association meetings such as the Employee Owners Retreat, Technical Conference and Trade Show in Las Vegas or Annual Conference in Washington, DC. <p>The overwhelming criteria should revolve around the person’s overall contribution as a ‘good’ citizen in the company where he or she works.</p>

The Illinois Chapter of The ESOP Association Awards Nomination Form

Complete the form below, or submit a nomination using company letterhead. Nominations may not exceed 3 pages. Supporting photos are acceptable.

Company of the Year

Company Name:
Contact Name:
Address:

Phone:
Email:

The Illinois Chapter ESOP Company of the Year should be recognized because:

Use attachments if you wish. Do not exceed 3 pages of attachments.

Employee Owner of the Year

Company Name:
Contact Name:
Address:

Phone:
Email:

The Illinois Chapter ESOP Employee Owner of the Year should be recognized because: (Biographical information is helpful)

Use attachments if you wish. Do not exceed 3 pages of attachments.

Please submit electronic nomination to: Alicia Diekow, Chapter Administrator • adiekow@esopexec.org
Nomination deadline: February 10, 2017

ESOP ASSOCIATION AACE AWARDS COMPETITION

Annual Awards for Communications Excellence

Submission Deadline: February 3, 2017

<http://www.esopassociation.org/about-the-association/esop-awards/aace-awards>

The Annual Awards for Communications Excellence (AACE), sponsored by The ESOP Association, recognizes the outstanding communications programs of its members. AACE winners are chosen by a panel of five judges made up of both management and non-management employee owners.

All entries are displayed at The ESOP Association's Annual Conference in May, in Washington, DC. Winners are honored at the Awards Banquet during the Annual Conference.

NOW is the time to start documenting everything you do to communicate the ESOP. Get a little crazy with your camera-photos always help to "dress up" and clarify an entry. Tips on getting started and organizing your entry can be found in the AACE Brochure at the link above.

Five Good Reasons to Enter!

- 1. Allows you to organize your thoughts and reflect on the value of your program.***
- 2. Helps you review the work you've done.***
- 3. Permits you to evaluate your program.***
- 4. It is great way to generate new ideas.***
- 5. It's a perfect opportunity to create an archive of your program.***

Questions? Contact Patrick Mirza, ESOP Association Communications Director,
Patrick@ESOPassociation.org

EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP MONTH (EOM) POSTER CONTEST

The poster contest deadline is February 2. Details are included in the AACE Brochure link at the top of the page: <http://www.esopassociation.org/about-the-association/esop-awards/aace-awards>.

Judging Guidelines:

- Good employee-owner education of EOM
- Respect for the contributions of employee-owners
- Integration of the concepts of both employee ownership as well as the celebration of EOM into the fabric of the poster design.
- Encouragement of ownership attitudes in the poster design.
- Clear, simple design.
- Creative use of ideas.
- Good graphic design.

The Prizes:

- One complimentary registration to the annual conference in Washington D.C.
- One complimentary ticket to the awards banquet.
- Company name appears on the poster as the designer of the winning poster.
- Certificate of achievement.
- Publicity in The ESOP Report.