

The ESOP Association — Wisconsin Chapter 2010 Awards Nomination Form

The Wisconsin ESOP Chapter is taking nominations for Chapter ESOP Company of the Year and Employee Owner of the Year. One winner will be selected for each category.

Nomination deadline is January 22, 2010

ESOP Company of the Year: *Nominate your company!*

The ESOP Company of the Year has a commitment to employee ownership, as shown by its:

- Involvement with The ESOP Association and its programs
- Communications with employees
- Commitment to the Vision of The ESOP Association that endorses employee participation, wealth creation, and individual dignity and worth.
- The company should be financially solvent and have more than one or two years of ESOP sponsorship. It is not necessary that the company have any one style of management, such as “work teams,” “TQM,” “employee committees,” etc., but overall there is an understanding that by some manner the majority of employees feel a sense of ownership and/or that the ESOP is important to the company and all individuals in the company.

The prizes:

- Winner of the state award is automatically forwarded to the national competition.
- One free registration to the annual conference in Washington D.C. and awards banquet.
- Plaque to display at company.
- Honored at 2010 Wisconsin Chapter Events.
- News release sent out from Association to promote the award winner.

ESOP Employee Owner of the Year: *Nominate your company!*

The Employee Owner of the Year should be an employee below the level of senior management. Despite the lack of a firm rule stating the employee owner has to be an hourly or non-management employee, these two terms can be general guides for the selection process.

The individual should be active in the employee ownership activities of the company and/or activities of The ESOP Association where appropriate. Examples for consideration are:

- Serves on the ESOP committee or an employee advisory committee.
- Contributes to a company publication.
- Helps with Employee Ownership Month (EOM) observances.
- Leads employees to a better understanding of the ESOP and employee ownership.
- Attends chapter meetings, helping with chapter meetings or activities.
- Provides letters to elected officials.
- Attends or participates in Association meetings such as the employee owner retreat and national conference.

The prizes:

- Winner of the state award is automatically forwarded to the national competition.
- One free registration to the annual conference in Washington D.C. and awards banquet.
- Plaque to display at company.
- Honored at 2010 Wisconsin Chapter Events.
- News release sent out from Association to promote the award winner.

**Award Nomination Form
The ESOP Association — Wisconsin Chapter**

Company of the Year

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|---------------|
| Company Name: |
| Contact Name: |
| Address: |
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| Phone: |
| Email: |

The Wisconsin Chapter's ESOP Company of the Year should be recognized because:

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

Employee Owner of the Year

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| Company Name: |
| Contact Name: |
| Address: |
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| Phone: |
| Email: |

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

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

Please submit nomination to: Donna Walseth, Chapter Administrator
906 97th Lane NE
Blaine, MN 55434
dmwalseth@msn.com
763-785-4168 - FAX

Nomination deadline: January 22, 2010.

NOW IS THE TIME TO DOCUMENT FOR AACE!

We all know that The ESOP Association (TEA) sponsors a competition known as **AACE** for companies who communicate their ESOPs to their respective employee owners. Yet many companies never really focus on the AACE competition until it is time to send in their entries. The fact is that **NOW** is when you should be documenting your communications program and planning your AACE entry for the 2009 judging. The deadline will be around the first of March 2009, but the work should begin **now**.

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. Visit the AACE section of the TEA web site and begin deciding how you want to showcase your program. Read the brochure from the 2008 AACE, always being mindful that there may be minor changes in the program and/or the deadlines. The 2009 brochure will be posted early in January of 2009.

Although you won't actually be sending anything in to the competition until the end of February 2010, your AACE benefits can begin **NOW** as you document and evaluate the components of your future entry. Don't delay. Begin the road now that can take you to the winners' spotlight!

All entries will be displayed at The ESOP Association's Annual Conference in May in Washington D.C. Winners will be honored at the Awards Banquet during the conference.

All the information about the AACE competition is shown on the TEA website, www.esopassociation.org/resources/resources_AACE.asp including past winners with photos and contact information. If you have questions concerning the AACE program, please feel free to contact Pat Barnes, AACE Program Manager, at (304) 274-251, or artpbarnes@comcast.net

Employee Ownership Month (EOM) Poster Contest

Nomination deadline: Late February/early March. Questions concerning the Poster contest may be directed to Gwen Rosenthal at gwenn@esopassociation.org, or 1-866-366-3832.

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