



The ESOP Association — Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter 2010 Awards Nomination Form

ATTENTION: ALL COMPANIES DEDICATED TO EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP!
NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE MINNESOTA/DAKOTAS CHAPTER
“ESOP COMPANY OF THE YEAR” AND “EMPLOYEE OWNER OF THE YEAR”

TAKING THE TIME TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION CAN PAY OFF:

CHAPTER WINNER IS AUTOMATICALLY SUBMITTED FOR THE NATIONAL COMPETITION
ONE FREE REGISTRATION TO THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DC IN MAY
PLAQUE TO DISPLAY AT YOUR COMPANY
RECOGNITION AT MINNESOTA/DAKOTAS CHAPTER EVENTS
NEWS RELEASE SENT OUT FROM ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE THE AWARD WINNER

DON'T DELAY - THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS JANUARY 23, 2009

CRITERIA FOR ESOP COMPANY OF THE YEAR AND EMPLOYEE OWNER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

ESOP COMPANY OF THE YEAR:

“**ESOP Company of the Year**” has a commitment to employee ownership as shown by its:
Involvement with the ESOP Association and its programs,
Communication 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. More importantly, employees should feel a sense of ownership and/or that the ESOP is important to the company and to the employees.

EMPLOYEE OWNER OF THE YEAR: *Nominate one of your employees!*

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 are:

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

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 owner retreat, national conference.

The overwhelming criteria should revolve around the person’s overall contribution as a ‘good’ citizen in the company where he or she works.

Please submit nomination to:

Sue Crockett, Chapter Administrator

1805 3rd Avenue South, #302

Minneapolis, MN 55404

scrockett@mndak-esop.org

www.mndak-esop.org

Nomination deadline: January 23, 2010

Award Nomination Form

The ESOP Association — Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter

Company of the Year

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter 's 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 Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter 's 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.**

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 February 2009, 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