



IACCE

Serving Chamber Executives Since 1915

OUTSTANDING CHAMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD To be presented at the Annual Fall Conference

About the Award

The Outstanding Chamber of the Year Award recognizes organization excellence in chambers of commerce and provides a unique benchmarking opportunity to assess a chamber's strengths. The award is based on the US Chamber of Commerce accreditation process for local chambers and highlights accomplishments in the areas of leadership/governance, finance, advocacy and membership development.

Eligibility

Members of IACCE in good standing during the year the award is presented are eligible to apply.

Benefits to Applicants

All eligible applicants receive:

- Letter to their Board of Directors recognizing their application
- Listing on the IACCE website and announcement to IACCE members
- Recognition in a press release listing all applicants

Award Recipients will receive:

- A Plaque
- A publicity pack including an official Outstanding Chamber of the Year seal and prepared press release for promotional use
- Recognition at the annual awards meeting

Applications and Deadlines

The Outstanding Chamber of the Year Award application is due OCTOBER 1. Do not send promotional items such as mugs, posters, t-shirts or other oversized items; they will not be considered as part of the application.

Complete the application below and send an electronic copy of all materials to lisa@iacce.org and mail a \$100 application fee to IACCE Outstanding Chamber of the Year award, 53 Wienold Lane, Springfield, IL 62711. Alternatively, you mail print your application and send it with your application fee.

- One award will be presented to the highest scoring chamber in each size category. If no entries are received in a membership category or no entries within a category achieve a minimum of 80 points, then no award will be presented in that category
- Entries are judged on innovation, effectiveness and quality of results.
- Finalists will be notified by October 24 and the winners will be announced at the Fall Conference.
- IACCE does not comment on applications; members of other Midwest CCE organizations will judge entries. Comments are the opinions and suggestions of the judges.
- All awards are final.

OUTSTANDING CHAMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD
Presented Annually at the IACCE Annual Conference

Chamber of Commerce: _____
Applicant Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____
E-mail: _____
Website: _____
Number of Employees: _____
Number of Members: _____

In all cases, use the most current completed fiscal year as the time period in question.

Membership Size Classification

Annual Number of Members:

- Fewer than 600 members
- 600 and above members

Leadership & Governance (15 points)

Provide examples of the following and limit responses to 300 words or less:

- Mission Statement
- Organization Chart
- How has the chamber demonstrated leadership in your community?
- What efforts has the chamber undertaken to enhance the level of business activity or commerce in your chamber service area?
- Strategic Plan

Finance (15 points)

Provide examples of the following and limit responses to 300 words or less:

- Operating Budget
- Financial Statement for the last completed fiscal year
- What percentage of the budget is in reserves or savings? _____
- Does your chamber conduct an audit or review at least once every three years?
 - Yes
 - No
- What policies are in place to guide the chamber in planning for the future?

Advocacy & Communications (30 points)

Provide examples of the following and limit responses to 300 words or less:

- Most Recent Annual Report
- Press Releases, Published Articles, Letters to the Editor or other examples of the chamber's advocacy activity
- What are the advocacy priorities for the chamber?
- How has the chamber demonstrated advocacy for its members at the local, regional, state or national levels?
- How has the chamber communicated positions with the media, the community, and its members?

Programming & Membership Development (30 points)

Provide examples of the following and limit responses to 300 words or less:

- Newsletters, magazines, e-mail bulletins or other communication samples
- Chamber promotion or membership recruitment examples
- Number of Members at the beginning of the year _____
- Number of Members at the time of application _____
- What was the chamber's strategy for membership development?

- How has the chamber used volunteers, incentives or goals to assist in membership development?

- What new or innovative services has the chamber created to attract, retain or serve members?

- How has the chamber incorporated technology into its strategies for effective performance and/or to enhance member services?

Innovation and Extraordinary Events (10 points)

- Use this area to describe any innovative or extraordinary projects, programs or events from the last fiscal year that might be of note

- Attach supporting materials.

Promotional Information

Name of Board Chair:

Organization:

Address:

City, State, Zip:
