THE EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS AWARD

Information Sheet

History: In 1958, the Veterans Employment and Education Commission expanded its Employer Awards Program by creating an award for employers of older workers. Because the commission saw older workers as a valuable economic resource of proven skills, stability and experience, it wanted to encourage employers to hire and retain older workers in the workforce. National “Employ the Older Worker Week” was established by The American Legion and is observed during the last full week of each September.

The Veterans Employment and Education Commission believes that this particular award category will become increasingly important over the next few years. Several major studies have concluded that as we move through the twenty-first century there will be fewer young people entering the labor market. As a result, it will be necessary for employers to encourage older workers to stay in the labor force.

The purpose of Award: To confer recognition on one employer in each state for an outstanding record in the hiring and retention of older workers.

Deadline: The deadline for submission of nominations of Employer of Older Workers is no later than January 15th. Nominations received after that date will not be eligible for consideration for the national award.

Procedure: Nominations from posts or other sources must be sent to department headquarters. The department then selects one nominee and sends the winning nominations with their supporting information to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission. Either the department adjutant or department employment chairman must sign the nomination. Nominations that arrive without supporting information will not be eligible for the national awards.

Nomination Form: A copy of the official nomination form will follow. Additional copies may also be obtained by writing or calling the Veterans Employment and Education Commission, The American Legion, 1608 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20006; phone 202-861-2700, or online at VE&E@legion.org.

Award: The commission provides free plaques to each department that submits nominations. It is recommended, however, that posts and departments recognize their other nominees with plaques or awards that can be purchased for a nominal cost through
Emblem Sales. The National Winner will receive a large plaque to be presented by the National Commander at the annual National Convention and will receive a stipend to help defray the cost of their representative’s travel to the convention city to accept the award.
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Nomination Form

The American Legion Department of: ________________________ Date: ___________
The American Legion Post’s name and number: _________________________________

Please print or type information

1. Exact name of company: ____________________________________________

2. Business address: ________________________________________________

3. Name and title of the company’s contact person: ______________________

4. Contact person’s telephone number: _______________________________

5. Type of business: ________________________________________________

6. Total employees: _______ Employees over 55: _______ Employee 55 years old
   with 5 years or more: _______ Numbers of hires last year over 55: _______

7. Attach additional pages of reasons why you feel this nominee should receive this
   year’s Employer of Older Workers Award. Include a brief summary of the
   company’s policies and records that qualify it, such as hiring, promotion, retention,
   and affirmative employment policies.

8. Name, title and daytime telephone number of the person making the
   nomination:
   ________________________________________________________________

Only those nominations that include adequate documentation on the nominee’s
employment practices concerning veterans will be considered for the National Employer
of Older Workers Awards. The nominator should provide a copy of the company’s
written policy on employment of veterans if available, a description of how the employer
supports veterans’ activities in the community and any other reasons why the nominee
should be selected to be the Employer of Older Workers Award winner.

Nominations by posts and individuals must be sent to department headquarters as soon as
possible so that the department will have time to review all nominations received and
make the selection of its winners.

Application deadline: October 15
Mail to:
The American Legion of Iowa
720 Lyon Street
Des Moines, IA  50309
All nominations from departments must arrive at National Headquarters on or before January 15th. Either the department adjutant or department employment chairman must approve this nomination.

Approved Signature: ______________________________________ Date:____________________

Circle One: Department Adjutant Department Employment Chairman

Desired presentation date at Department Convention:______________________________

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