



2026 Woman Business Owner of the Year

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The **Woman Business Owner of the Year** is designed to honor a female entrepreneur/business-owner (minimum 51% female ownership). The honoree should exhibit leadership skills and a commitment to her craft. The individual should be dedicated to her organization, her team and her clients – and be able to demonstrate examples of business success. Nominations may be self-submitted or submitted by another person/organization.

The award will be presented at the Women-in-Business Luncheon as part of **Pow(H)er 2026** at Embassy Suites by Hilton Rockford Riverfront & Rockford Conference Center.

Entry Process

- Prepare a written submission with the following:
 1. **Nominee's name, place of work, title, email address and phone number**
 2. **Nominator's name, place of work, title, email address and phone number**
 3. **Start With Why**
It's often said less is more. In a quick 250-word summary, share *why* your nominee should be named Woman Business Owner of the Year.
 4. **Leadership Skills**
Describe the nominee's skills as a leader, both formally and informally. What makes her an outstanding woman to follow? In what ways do others look to her for guidance and leadership? How does she support other women in business?
 5. **Dedication**
In what ways does the nominee dedicate herself to her craft? How has she grown in her field? How does she continually learn? How does the nominee funnel this dedication to her organization, her team and her clients?
 6. **Business Success**
Describe the honoree's business success. How has she used innovative ideas or methods to improve her business? How does she give back to her profession? How does the nominee see her business growing in the next three to five years?
- Letters of recommendation will be accepted & considered but are not required.

Once you have finalized your submission, please email to: nominations@rockfordchamber.com

Nominations must be received by noon on October 2, 2026, by Noon.

To register for the Women-In-Business Luncheon, please visit rockfordchamber.com.

Please note: all attendees, including honorees, will need to register for the event.