2026 OUTSTANDING CHAMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD
(Application Form)

About the Award

PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS: The Outstanding Chamber of the Year Award primarily focuses on acknowledging one or more significant achievements/accomplishments that a chamber has initiated, stimulated and/or led in its respective service area at some point during the past 12-18 months.

Achievements/accomplishments denote chamber activity that intentionally resulted in positive measurable results, including (but not limited to):

- A business development initiative
- An economically impactful effort
- A new program or event
- A community improvement project

Organizational excellence will be evaluated in each of the areas of:
Membership, Programs, Planning and Finance.

Eligibility

All members of CPO in good standing are eligible to apply.

Award Recipients

- Award winners will be honored at the **2027 CPO Winter Conference Awards Luncheon** on January 27, 2027 at the AC Hotel Dayton by Marriott – Dayton, OH.

Applications

Along with supporting documents, submitted with the application must include two (2) essays (both double-spaced):

- An essay (2 pages max) on achievements/accomplishments of the last 12-18 months.
- An essay (1 page max) on organizational excellence

Deadline for award applications is 5:00pm on Friday, December 18, 2026
Application form and materials should be submitted in MS Word or PDF format to:
Matt Owen mowen@ohiochamber.com

Nomination Guidelines:

- Nominated Chamber MUST be a member in good standing of Chamber Professionals of Ohio (CPO)
- Active or current board members of Chamber Professionals of Ohio (CPO) are NOT eligible for this award.
- Nominations must fulfill all requirements listed above and submitted via email to mowen@ohiochamber.com (PDF files preferred)
- There are two (2) categories for this award:
  - Under 600 members
  - Over 600 members
    (Please make sure you specify what category your chamber is in on your application below)
- If no entries are received in a membership category or if entries within a category are not deemed by the selection committee to be worthy of an award, then the committee reserves the right to present no award in that category.
- All awards are final.

IMPORTANT: *You must fill out the application below and submit with your application. Use the check-off boxes as a guide to make sure you have all the application requirements. Questions or concerns contact Matt Owen at mowen@ohiochamber.com*

2025 OUTSTANDING CHAMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD APPLICATION
Deadline: Friday, December 18, 2026
Awards will be presented at the CPO Annual Winter Conference Awards Luncheon (January 27, 2027)

Applicant Name: _____

Applicant's relationship/position with the Chamber: _____

Address: _____City: _____

State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Number of Members: _____

Name of Board Chair:_____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____ Email:_____

Membership Size Classification
Annual Number of Members:

- ❑ Under 600 members
- ❑ Over 600 members

Please include the following essays

- ❑ A double-spaced, two-page essay on achievements/accomplishments
- ❑ A double-spaced, one-page essay on organizational excellence including the following areas:
  - o Membership
  - o Programs
  - o Planning
  - o Finance

Along with this application and above essays, please attach the following documents:

- ❑ Mission Statement
- ❑ Year-end financials for most recently completed fiscal year
- ❑ Strategic or business plan
- ❑ Membership and membership benefits information
- ❑ Listing of chamber's major programs/events/services
- ❑ Any additional documents you may wish to submit with your application