



NOMINATIONS DEADLINE – JAN 31, 2025
****Submit nominations to secretary@owit.org (copy to president@owit.org)**

ANNUAL OWIT AWARDS CRITERIA AND NOMINATION FORM

Let's once again celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions of women leaders. Every year since 1995, OWIT has recognized women leaders in international trade and business from around the world.

The organization presents three awards annually OWIT Chapter of the Year, and OWIT Member of the Year and OWIT Woman of the Year.

This year, we have added three more: **OWIT International Volunteer of the Year Award** and **OWIT Partner of the Year Award** and the **OWIT President's Award**.

For **OWIT Chapter of the Year**, we request that each Chapter submit 2-3 highlights of events/activities deserving recognition by OWIT.

For **OWIT Member of the Year**, we request nominations of members who have made outstanding contributions to their Chapters this past year.

For **OWIT Woman of the Year**, OWIT will recognize a member who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to women in trade. Recipients of our Chapters' Awards are automatically nominated for the OWIT Woman of the Year Award.

The **OWIT President's Award** will be selected at the OWIT International President's discretion and may be a person of influence within the international trade community or an OWIT member.

The description of each award, the nomination process, the criteria, and the nomination form for each award follows. For your nominations to be considered and avoid rejection, please ensure they are complete as established by the criteria for each award.

Please submit your nominations to the OWIT Administrator at secretary@owit.org (copy to president@owit.org) by **January 31, 2025**.



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OWIT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year, OWIT presents the "OWIT Chapter of the Year Award" to a member chapter who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to OWIT International (defined as the umbrella organization and its chapters).

These contributions must be evident in at least two (2) activities/events that promoted the Chapter and OWIT in the international trade and business community in the past year. Chapters are strongly encouraged to self-nominate for this award.

Nomination Process

Nominations are submitted to the OWIT Secretary (secretary@owit.org).

The Executive Committee reviews all applications to ensure they meet the qualification criteria. The Executive Committee reserves the right to request further information or actions deemed necessary to ensure a nomination qualifies and can be further submitted for final vote. The Executive Committee also reserve the right to reject any submissions which are deemed not to meet the qualification criteria.

The recipient of this award is chosen by the OWIT International Board of Directors. The OWIT International President presents the award.

Qualification Criteria

Candidate chapter must be an OWIT member chapter in good standing.

Dues paid for the award year and/or at the time of the award

The candidate chapter should both in intent and impact be supporting the greater purpose and mission of OWIT - united around the globe to foster international trade and the advancement of women in business.

Nomination must be supported with a minimum of two events/activities by the Chapter during the award year that evidence notable contributions to OWIT and the spirit of unity embodied in OWIT's mission.



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NOMINATION FORM: “OWIT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD”

Nomination submitted by:

Name of person submitting nomination Home Chapter

Chapter Nominee:

Name of Chapter State Country

Year established as OWIT Chapter:

Point of Contact for the Chapter Nominee:

Name Email Address

Supporting Rationale: (In 300 words or less, please address the criteria with examples for which you are nominating this particular chapter).

Descriptions of Contributions may include:

Leadership: mentoring other OWIT chapters in terms of sharing organizational management experience, processes, and procedures; recognition in local community as a leader on international trade issues, activities and programs by local private and public officials.

Organizational support: on an ongoing and continuous basis, including but not limited to: raising awareness of OWIT as an organization by communicating OWIT goals, mission, programs and activities to local, national and international trade communities; encouraging participation in the OWIT organization of persons in the public and private sector; recognizing value of OWIT membership and participation by encouraging membership by local companies and individuals in public and private sector; building media and press recognition of OWIT as a chapter.

Professional development: on an ongoing and continuous basis, including but not limited to: promoting professional growth, mentoring, education and leadership among people in the public and private sectors; enhancing the status and interests of women in the field of international trade through the establishment of a worldwide network of international business contacts; sponsoring programs and activities to support the development of personal and professional skills; establishing educational programs, conferences, and other activities to promote international trade employment.

Awareness and advancement of significant trade issues: on an ongoing and continuous basis, including but not limited to: providing a forum for the discussion, debate and direction of a particular international trade issue; raising awareness of a particular issue to private and public bodies, including local and national governments, as well as multilateral institutions; building programs and activities to encourage and stimulate the exchange of views, ideas, and information concerning foreign commerce and international relations.

Significant chapter improvement/development: on an ongoing and continuous basis, including but not limited to: dramatic turn-around of an existing chapter in terms of programs, budget, membership; development of a new chapter that has significant support from local community and is driving significant programs and activities; building of a new process or new tool (i.e., website or on-line registration) that could be used as a model for other chapters.



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MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year, OWIT presents the "OWIT Member of the Year Award" to an OWIT Chapter Member who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to OWIT International and the international business and trade community during the past year.

Nomination Process

Nominations are submitted to the OWIT Secretary (secretary@owit.org).

The Executive Committee reviews all applications to ensure they meet the qualification criteria.

The Executive Committee reserves the right to request further information or actions deemed necessary to ensure a nomination qualifies and can be further submitted for final vote. The Executive Committee also reserves the right to reject any submissions which are deemed not to meet the qualification criteria.

The recipient of this award is chosen by the OWIT International Board of Directors.

The OWIT International President presents the award.

Qualification Criteria

The candidate should be someone whose service and commitment have made a contribution to OWIT International as an organization and/or its chapters above and beyond contributions to their own chapter. The candidate's service and commitment should be above and beyond any current responsibility if serving on a Chapter Board or OWIT Board.

The candidate should both in intent and impact be supporting the greater purpose and mission of OWIT - united around the globe to foster international trade and the advancement of women in business.

The candidate must be a member of a Chapter that is in good standing with OWIT International. (Chapter dues paid), and must be a member in good standing with her/his local chapter (member dues paid).

Current OWIT International Executive officers are ineligible.



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NOMINATION FORM: "OWIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD"

Nomination submitted by:

Name of person submitting nomination Home Chapter

Name and Contact Information for Member Nominee:

Name Chapter Email

Supporting Rationale: (In 300 words or less, please address the criteria for which you are nominating the Chapter member. Nomination should specify details of contributions made by the member this past year to OWIT's mission in terms of outstanding service/commitment to local chapter, outstanding service/commitment to international board/executive, significantly raised the profile of OWIT's work.



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OWIT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Each year, OWIT presents the "OWIT Woman of the Year Award" to an exceptional woman who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the status of women within the international business and trade community. As several Chapters also recognize dynamic trailblazing women, we ask that each Chapter's award recipient be submitted as a nominee for the OWIT Woman of the Year Award.

Nominations may also be submitted for other individuals deserving of this special recognition.

Nomination Process

Nominations are submitted to the OWIT Secretary (secretary@owit.org).

The Executive Committee reviews all applications to ensure they meet the qualification criteria. The Executive Committee reserves the right to request additional information or actions deemed necessary to ensure a nomination qualifies and can be further submitted for final vote. The Executive Committee also reserves the right to reject any submissions which are deemed not to meet the qualification criteria.

The recipient of this award is chosen by the OWIT International Board of Directors.

Qualification Criteria

If the candidate is a recipient of Woman of the Year by an OWIT Chapter, this award must have been received during the same period as the OWIT award, i.e., only Chapter award recipients in 2025 are eligible for the 2025 OWIT Woman of the Year Award.

If the candidate is not a recipient of a Chapter's award program, the candidate should have made an outstanding contribution and enhancement to the status of women in international business and trade for a period of three years or more.

The candidate should both in intent and impact be supporting the greater purpose and mission of OWIT - united around the globe to foster international trade and the advancement of women in business.

The candidate should role model the values of OWIT (collaboration, integrity, responsibility, respect, diversity, empowerment, learning, compassion) and be a role model to other women in the field.

The candidate should be recognized and highly respected for her significant achievements and/or responsibilities.

The candidate need not be an OWIT member.

Current OWIT International Executive Team officers are ineligible.



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NOMINATION FORM : “OWIT WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD”

** For Chapter Award recipients (automatic nominees), simply provide the Name and Contact Information for the Nominee (email address), Chapter, Date of Award, and Bio/Description Relied upon by the Chapter in selecting the awardee.

Nomination submitted by: (Please indicate name and home chapter)

Name of person submitting nomination Home Chapter

Name and Contact Information for Woman Nominee:

Name Email Address

Supporting Rationale: (In 300 words or less, please address the criteria for which you are nominating this particular woman: Professional Contribution, Enhancing Women in Trade/Business, Role Model, and Significant Achievements/Responsibilities):



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OWIT INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

OWIT presents the "OWIT International Volunteer of the Year Award" to an OWIT Chapter Member who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to OWIT International and its executive board members.

Nomination Process

Nominations are submitted to the OWIT Secretary (secretary@owit.org).

The Executive Committee reviews all applications to ensure they meet the qualification criteria. The Executive Committee reserves the right to request further information or actions deemed necessary to ensure a nomination qualifies and can be further submitted for final vote. The Executive Committee also reserves the right to reject any submissions which are deemed not to meet the qualification criteria.

The recipient of this award is chosen by the OWIT International Board of Directors.

The OWIT International President presents the award.

Qualification Criteria

The candidate should be someone whose service and commitment have made a significant contribution to OWIT International as an organization and/or its Executive Board Members and the pillars agreed during the Spring Retreat 2024. The candidate's service and commitment should be above and beyond any current responsibility as an International Volunteer.

The candidate should both in intent and impact be supporting the greater purpose and mission of OWIT - united around the globe to foster international trade and the advancement of women in business.

The candidate must be a member of a Chapter that is in good standing with OWIT International. (Chapter dues paid), and must be a member in good standing with her/his local chapter (member dues paid).



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Current Nomination FORM: “OWIT INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD”

Nomination submitted by:

Name of person submitting nomination Home Chapter

Name and Contact Information for Member Nominee:

Name Chapter Email

Supporting Rationale: (In 300 words or less, please address the criteria for which you are nominating the Chapter member. Nomination should specify details of contributions made by the member this past year to OWIT’s mission in terms of outstanding service/commitment to local chapter, outstanding service/commitment to international board/executive, significantly raised the profile of OWIT’s work.



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OWIT INTERNATIONAL PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

OWIT presents the "OWIT INTERNATIONAL Partner of the Year Award" to an OWIT Partner or collaborator who has worked alongside OWIT in organizing partner events, panel discussions, and capacity-building opportunities for OWIT chapters and their members.

Nomination Process

Nominations are submitted to the OWIT Secretary (secretary@owit.org).

The Executive Committee reviews all applications to ensure they meet the qualification criteria. The Executive Committee reserves the right to request further information or actions deemed necessary to ensure a nomination qualifies and can be further submitted for final vote. The Executive Committee also reserves the right to reject any submissions which are deemed not to meet the qualification criteria.

The recipient of this award is chosen by the OWIT International Board of Directors.

The OWIT International President presents the award.

Qualification Criteria

The Partner/Collaborator should be proactive in organizing events that have a significant global impact on OWIT's chapters and members.

The Partner/ should, both in intent and impact, be supporting the greater purpose and mission of OWIT - united around the globe to foster international trade and the advancement of women in business.



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Current Nomination FORM: “OWIT INTERNATIONAL PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD”

Nomination submitted by:

Name of person submitting nomination Home Chapter

Name and Contact Information for Member Nominee:

Name Chapter Email

Supporting Rationale: (In 300 words or less, please address the criteria for which you are nominating the Chapter member. Nomination should specify details of contributions made by the partner/collaborator this past year to OWIT’s mission fostering women in international trade.

Past OWIT Award Recipients

| <u>Woman of the Year</u> | <u>Member of the Year</u> | <u>Chapter of the Year</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2016 Anita Zucker | Deanna Clark-Esposito | Lake Geneva |
| 2015 Ambassador Darci Vetter | Maricarmen Ahedo | Chicago |
| 2014 Alma Farias | Beatrice Kagondi | Ottawa |
| 2013 Meg Jones | | Washington, D.C. |
| 2012 Maria Bustamante Mejico | Lilia Navarette | Hampton Roads |
| 2011 Jo Elizabeth Butler | Jennifer Diaz | South Florida |
| 2010 Dr. Jacqueline Wasonga Kitulu | Monika Sandman/Diane MacDonald | Nairobi |
| 2009 Joanne Mwangi | Kollyn Kanz | Toronto |
| 2008 Pamela Davis Heilman | Carmen Romero | Peru |
| 2007 Linda Rottenberg | Leann Hackman | Monterrey, Mexico |
| 2006 Andrina Lever | Beth Peterson | Northern California |
| 2005 Futhi Mtoba | | |
| 2004 Adair Heuchan | | |
| 2003 Carole Brookins | | |
| 2002 Astrid Pregel | | |
| 2000 Marjory E. Searing | | |
| 1999 Deborah A. Lamb | | |
| 1998 Marjorie Shostak | | |
| 1997 Hea-Kyung Joo | | |
| 1996 Marian Duntley | | |
| 1995 Laura Jones | | |



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