

2025 Susan Hager Legacy Award



Susan Hager was one of NAWBO's founding mothers and visionary leaders and our first national president. She was a fearless champion of women's economic empowerment and a steady voice leading this organization beyond what it was—to what it could be. In fact, Susan once said (and we continue to celebrate her words today): "Get a seat at the table or build your own table and make sure to include other women at that table."

The Susan Hager Award recognizes a "champion" NAWBO member who, like Susan, has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to propelling women's economic empowerment and NAWBO's mission locally and nationally. By giving her time, talent and resources, she has helped to further the legacy of women's entrepreneurship now and for generations.

Award Criteria

- Must be a NAWBO Premier member with an active status.
- Has past or current service on a committee or board at the chapter level.
- Must be able to attend the Annual Awards Gala at the National Women's Business Conference, June 8, 2025, to accept the award.
- National Board of Director members are not eligible to be nominated for one full calendar year (January-December) following the year they complete their Board term.
- Paid staff or contractors (i.e. W2, full time and part time or 1099) employed by a chapter are not eligible for nomination.



Nominating Questions

- How has the nominee's service contributed to their fellow NAWBO members' experience?
- How has the nominee contributed to chapter and/or national goals and growth through committee or board service?
- Explain the nominee's participation in local chapter/national committee(s), operations and activities.
- Share the nominee's local and/or national positive impact on the NAWBO brand.
- Please list the NAWBO National events, virtual or in-person, the nominee has attended.

NOTE: We strongly encourage the participation of the nominee in completing the application if not self-nominating. This ensures as much detail and information as possible is included for a robust nomination.



2023
Ana Fernandez-Parmet

Past Susan Hager Award Winners

2022 – Michele Schina

2021 – Joy Lutes

2020 – Phyllis Hill Slater

2019 – Teresa Meares

2018 – Griselda Quezada-Chavez

2017 – Darla Beggs

2016 – Dottie Gandy

2015 – Patty DeDominic

2014 – Virginia Littlejohn

Key Dates and Judging Criteria

We encourage those nominating to send up to 4 supporting documents to contests@nawbo.org by February 5, 2025. These documents should further demonstrate why this nominee is the best candidate for the award.

Judges may not be familiar with the nominees' chapter service. Therefore, information provided should be as clear and as specific as possible. Judges will consider each nomination based on the following criteria:

The nominee...

- Has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to contributing to their fellow NAWBO members' experience.
- Has consistently given her time and resources for the betterment of chapter and/or national goals and growth through committee or board service.
- Actively participates in local chapter/national committee(s), operations, and activities.
- Gives of herself locally and/or nationally to create a positive impact on the NAWBO brand.
- Is present and engaged with members and the mission through attendance at NAWBO's national in-person and/or virtual events.

The award recipient will be notified of selection the week of April 13, 2025.

Award Recipient Receives

- Complimentary National Women's Business Conference (WBC) registration
- Bio and 4-color headshot in the WBC Program
- Honored on stage during WBC at the NAWBO Awards Gala
- Profile article in NAWBO ONE e-publication
- National exposure on NAWBO social media and communication channels
- Customized press release announcing award selection to send to local market

**The nominations period for this award is
January 5–February 5, 2025.**

[Click here to nominate](#)

[Click here for more information](#)



NAWBO

National Association of Women Business Owners

Women Mean Business®



nawbo.org