**Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired**

**2020 Annual Awards Nomination Instructions**

Do you know an individual or organization who has made an important contribution in the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired in Wisconsin? Consider nominating them for a Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired Excellence Award.

Award categories include:

**Community Volunteer Service** – awarded to an individual who has provided dedicated and exemplary volunteer service, benefiting those who are blind and visually impaired in affiliation with a community organization or business. Examples include low vision support group leaders and individuals who’ve successfully started and maintained innovative programs.

**Community Partnerships and Collaborations** – awarded to organizations who’ve made significantly positive impacts for those living with vision loss. Examples include service organizations, such as Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs and special interest clubs/groups.

**Community Giving** – awarded to individuals or organizations, who’ve made financial contributions to the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired, to support the fulfillment of our mission, as well as having a strong relationship with the Council and adhering to our core values. Candidates are chosen by the Council’s Fund Development Committee.

**Exceptional Accommodations in Employment** – awarded to employers with a strong commitment to hiring those who are blind or visually impaired and who support the success of these employees by providing exceptional accommodations.

**Legislator of the Year** – awarded to a legislator, who has played an exemplary role in assisting the Council to advance our legislative priorities in transportation, employment, education, healthcare/long-term care and civil rights. Candidates are chosen by the Council’s Legislative Committee.

**Louis Seidita** – awarded for life-time achievement for exemplary volunteer service in the blind and visually impaired community. This award differs from the other volunteer service award in scope and longevity.

Guidelines for submissions:

1. A completed nomination form, in MS Word or other similar format, for each nominee must be received by **Friday, April 17, 2020** and sent to djess@wcblind.org. A nomination form follows these instructions.
2. Nominees can include individuals and businesses, organizations or agencies whose primary mission is not serving the blind and visually impaired. For example, organizations whose mission is to employ people who are blind and visually impaired do not qualify for an award.
3. All nominees must have helped to promote the dignity and empowerment of people who are blind and visually impaired within the state of Wisconsin.
4. All nominations are reviewed by the Awards Committee of the WCBVI Board of Directors.
5. The committee will decide which award nominees will be selected for a Council award.
6. If a nominee is in consideration for the Louis Seidita Award, the committee will contact the nominator to ask for additional references.
7. Anyone nominating an individual or organization, will be notified of their nominee’s standing by Friday, April 17 and award recipients will also be notified that day.
8. Award recipients and their nominators are invited to the Council’s annual Awards and Scholarship Luncheon on Saturday, May 16 in Madison.

If you have any questions, please contact Denise Jess, CEO/Executive Director at djess@wcblind.org or 1-800-783-5213.

**Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired**

**2020 Annual Awards Nomination Form**

Please complete all questions, citing examples whenever possible. Nomination forms must be in MS Word or other similar format, not handwritten. All nominations are due, using this form, by **Friday, April 17, 2020** to djess@wcblind.org.

**Nominee’s Contact Information**

Name:

Address (street, city, state & zip):

Phone (day, evening, cell):

E-mail address:

NOTE: If the nominee currently lives outside of the state of Wisconsin, please explain their connection to the blind and visually impaired community of this state.

**Your Contact Information – in case the committee has any further questions.**

Name:

Phone (day, evening, cell):

E-mail address:

The Council offers awards in several areas, which are listed below. Please use this list as a reference when responding to the following questions. The awards committee will determine which award is most appropriate for your nominee.

Award Categories:

* Community Volunteer Service
* Community Partnerships and Collaborations
* Community Giving
* Exceptional Accommodations in Employment
* Legislator of the Year
* Louis Seidita Lifetime Achievement Award

See the descriptions in the attached instructions document for more information.

Questions:

1. What has the nominee accomplished to promote the dignity and empowerment of people who are blind or visually impaired in the state of Wisconsin? Please include specific examples, such as projects, group affiliations, important dates and accomplishments.
2. How has the nominee provided leadership and fostered community involvement, collaboration or innovation?
3. If you could use only six words to describe this individual or organization, what words would most clearly encompass them and their impact in enhancing the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired?
4. Is there anything else you would like the committee to know, when considering this nominee for a Council award?