YWCA NETN and SWVA

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN Awards

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Honoring the Region's Women of Excellence

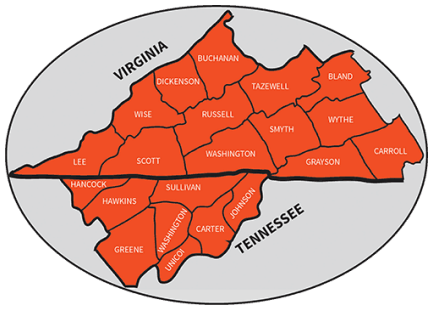
35th Anniversary!

YWCA NETN AND SWVA IS NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2026 YWCA NORTHEAST TENNESSEE AND SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA TRIBUTE TO WOMEN AWARDS

Since 1992, the YWCA Tribute to Women Program has honored Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia women who positively impact their communities. For our 2026 Tribute to Women season, we invite nominations for women of excellence in the following categories:

- **HEALTHCARE**
- **BUSINESS/INDUSTRY**
- **EDUCATION/ARTS**
- **MISSION IMPACT**
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- **FINANCE**
- **SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING**

To be eligible, nominees must reside or be employed in the YWCA service area (see map below).



Tennessee Service Counties: Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Washington, and Unicoi
Virginia Service Counties: Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe

The nomination process is simple:

1. Complete the nomination form and short-answer questions.
2. Submit all nomination materials by 11:59 P.M. on February 22, 2026.
   Online: Visit www.ywcatnva.org/nominations-2026 to submit your application.
   Email: Email your application to tribute@ywcatnva.org.
   Fax: Fax your application to 423-968-5937.
   Mail: Mail your application to YWCA NETN and SWVA, 106 State Street, Bristol, TN 37620. (Postmark of February 22, 2026, will be accepted.)
3. Celebrate your nominee's accomplishments! All nominees will receive a certificate of recognition. Award recipients will be honored during a gala celebration on April 30, 2026.

Tribute to Women serves as the YWCA's largest corporate fundraiser. Sponsorship opportunities are available for any company interested in regional marketing and/or in supporting the YWCA mission. For more information, please email tribute@ywcatnva.org.

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NOMINATION FORM

Honoring the Region's Women of Excellence

Name of nominee: _____ **Title/Suffix (i.e. Dr.):**_____

(Please write name as nominee would like it printed on all materials.)

Primary phone: _____ **Work phone:** _____

Email address: _____

Home address: _____

Work address: _____

NOTE: An organization or business may only nominate one candidate. Multiple organizations may jointly nominate. Candidates may only be nominated in one category. Previous award recipients, along with current members of YWCA staff, board, junior board, board committees, or the Tribute to Women steering committee, may not be nominated.

Please select one of the following categories:

- ☐ **HEALTHCARE** The nominee's compassion and dedication drive her commitment to individual, family, and community wellness.
- ☐ **BUSINESS/INDUSTRY** The nominee's innovation fuels the success of her business or industry while empowering her community economically.
- ☐ **EDUCATION/ARTS** The nominee excels in education or the arts, nurturing creativity and learning while inspiring others with confidence to build a better future.
- ☐ **MISSION IMPACT** The nominee's advocacy and initiatives for positive change impacts women, children, and people of color in significant ways.
- ☐ **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** The nominee's commitment to investing resources for the betterment of the community shines through the generosity of her true servant's heart.
- ☐ **FINANCE** The nominee's advocacy of financial health positively impacts her organization while equipping the communities it serves.
- ☐ **SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING** The nominee demonstrates distinguished achievement in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics, driving innovation within her organization and the broader region.

Nominating organization(s): _____

(If more than one organization or business is nominating, please indicate here.)

Authorized organization/business contact person: _____

Contact address: _____

Primary phone: _____ **Email:** _____

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NOMINATION Q&A

Honoring the Region's Women of Excellence

Please answer the following questions. Responses should be no more than 300 words per question. Please use a font no smaller than 12-point.

1. What qualities does your nominee possess that make her an effective leader in her category?
2. How has your nominee demonstrated skill development and growth within the category?
3. What achievements has your nominee made, personally and/or professionally, that are evidence of her qualifications for a Tribute to Women Award?
4. Please share a brief story that illustrates a specific contribution made by your nominee, as well as her overall impact on her business, organization, and/or community.

IMPORTANT: Information provided in the nomination application will be used for creating bios of award recipients for publications and must be accurate at time of submission.

NOTE: This form provides the only information the out-of-state judges will have about your nominee. Please provide as much detail as possible about your nominee's past and present duties and accomplishments.

Nominee's signature (required): _____

I have approved the above nominating information, and my signature indicates that, if chosen, I will attend the gala on April 30, 2026, to receive the Tribute to Women Award.

Authorized nominating organization representative's signature (required):

_____ **Date:** _____

Additional nominating organization representative's signature (required, if applicable):

_____ **Date:** _____

How did you hear about Tribute to Women?

☐ Social media ☐ Email
☐ News outlet ☐ Radio
☐ Mailing ☐ Print media
☐ Word of mouth ☐ Other:_____

NOMINATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | TRIBUTE TO WOMEN GALA: April 30, 2026

For more information, call 423-968-9444 or email tribute@ywcatnva.org

YWCA NETN and SWVA

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN Awards

NOMINATION TIPS

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HOW TO PRESENT A STRONG NOMINATION PACKET

Plan

- Ask your candidate for permission to nominate her. Confirm she can attend the gala on April 30, 2026, if chosen as an award recipient. Spend time with her to gather information for the nomination form, including her full name and contact information. Ask her about her job, activities, honors, and affiliations. If she has one available, ask for a copy of her résumé, as well as a brief personal or professional story that illustrates her contributions.

Organize

- As you draft responses to the application questions, make sure you clearly illustrate your nominee's accomplishments and contributions. Remember: Tribute to Women judges live and work outside the states of Tennessee and Virginia. The only way they can get to know your candidate is through your words.
- While many nominees excel in several areas, be sure to emphasize your nominee's achievements in only one nomination category: HEALTHCARE, BUSINESS/INDUSTRY, EDUCATION/ARTS, MISSION IMPACT, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, FINANCE, OR SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING.
- Emphasize your nominee's leadership qualities, personal and/or organizational growth, level of achievement, and the positive impact her efforts have had on others.

Submit

- Submissions are due to YWCA NETN and SWVA by February 22, 2026. Nominations may be emailed, faxed, submitted online, hand-delivered or sent by mail (We suggest you confirm receipt of any submission sent by mail by phoning the YWCA at 423-968-9444 or emailing tribute@ywcatnva.org prior to the February 22nd deadline. If mailing, it must be postmarked no later than February 22nd).
- Forms must be accurately filled out completely and signed by both the nominating organization/business and the nominee. Unsigned forms will not be accepted. If submitting online, please complete the e-signature with approval from the nominee.

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN NOMINATION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Candidate's permission received
- ☐ Nominating criteria reviewed (Page 2)
- ☐ Nominee contact information provided (Page 2)
- ☐ Nomination category chosen (Page 2)
- ☐ Organization's contact information provided (Page 2)
- ☐ Short-answer questions completed (Page 3)
- ☐ Nominee's signature provided (Page 3)
- ☐ Authorized organization representative's signature provided (Page 3)