Western Association of Chamber Executives

Legacy of Leadership Award (formerly Russell E. Pettit Excellence in Leadership)

Purpose:
Originally presented in memory of Russell E. Pettit, a longtime Chamber leader known for his high professional standards and unselfish dedication to his fellow executives, this award honors a chamber executive with a long record of advancing professionalism and encouraging others to pursue chamber careers.

Unlike other awards, this award is not based on one year of performance but on sustained contributions to the profession through industry leadership and professional/peer mentorship.

Eligibility:

- Nominees may be a Chief Paid Staff leader or a staff leader with significant executive responsibility at a Chamber which is in good standing as a W.A.C.E. member.
- Nominations may be made by regional or state Chamber Executive Associations or by **three or more W.A.C.E. members**.

Application Elements:

- Nomination letter(s) outlining the nominee's contributions to peers, mentoring, and professional development in the chamber industry.
- Evidence of sustained leadership and service.
- Testimonials from peers or mentees (recommended).

Judging Criteria:

- Long-term contributions to advancing chamber professionalism (40%)
- Mentorship and encouragement of peers and future leaders (30%)
- Service to the chamber profession and W.A.C.E. (20%)
- Demonstrated commitment to unselfish leadership (10%)