



# JOYFUL LEADER AWARD

## NOMINATION FORM

\* Nomination investment will be returned if your candidate is not selected.

### Celebrating Leadership That Inspires Positivity, Creativity, and Joy

Profiles in Leadership Journal Joyful Leader Award celebrates leaders who bring **joy, enthusiasm, and inspiration** to their organizations. It recognizes those who lead with heart, humanity, and create uplifting workplaces. These leaders focus on **positivity, growth, and fulfillment in the workplace**, not just strategic thinking and decision-making.

This award is open to leaders from **all industries**—corporate executives, entrepreneurs, educators, nonprofit leaders, creative visionaries, and beyond. Whether leading a Fortune 500 company, a startup, or a community organization, a Joyful Leader transforms **how people experience work and leadership**.

### Why Joyful Leadership Matters

Workplaces that **promote positivity** and psychological safety have **higher productivity, better teamwork, and lower turnover rates**. Employees value leaders who make them feel engaged, valued, and inspired. The Joyful Leader Award recognizes leaders who create thriving work environments through humor, playfulness, emotional intelligence, and optimism, fostering a culture of creativity, innovation, and well-being.

### Nomination Criteria

Candidates for the Joyful Leader Award should demonstrate:

- **Positivity & Enthusiasm:** They bring an uplifting energy to the workplace, making leadership an enjoyable and engaging experience for their teams.
- **Use of Humor & Lightness:** They understand the power of humor to build trust, ease tension, and create strong connections.
- **Creativity & Playfulness:** They encourage innovation by fostering an environment where new ideas are welcomed and explored.
- **Emotional Intelligence & Empathy:** They lead with kindness, ensuring that employees feel seen, heard, and appreciated.
- **Resilience & Optimism:** They face challenges with a forward-thinking, can-do attitude that inspires others to do the same.
- **Commitment to Well-Being:** They actively cultivate a workplace where employees feel fulfilled and supported.



Questions? Contact James Rector Publisher

Email: publisher@leadershipjournal.com Office: 440-892-0444 Mobile: 440-662-9770



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### Complete Your Nomination in 4 Steps

**1. Provide important nomination information on pages 3 – 5 of this document.**

Unlike traditional leadership awards focused on financial success or influence, the **Joyful Leader Award** shines a light on a **new kind of leadership—one that embraces humanity, joy, and connection.**

- **It's a fresh, timely perspective on leadership.** At a time when workplace burnout and disengagement are rising, this award focuses on the leaders who make work fulfilling.
- **It appeals to a wide audience.** Joyful leadership transcends industry, experience level, and background—anyone with a leadership mindset can embody these qualities.
- **It's a game-changer for company culture.** Being recognized as a Joyful Leader will encourage more leaders to integrate positivity and engagement into their approach.

**2. Complete the Nomination Processing Area on Page 5**

There is a \$495 processing investment per nomination which must be received by the nomination deadline. *If your nominee is not selected, your nomination investment will be refunded.*

**3. Upload\* Your Completed Nomination document** by August 14, 2026 at <https://leadershipjournal.com/joyful-nomination-upload/>.

\* Nomination forms must be submitted/uploaded via *PLJ's* secure online portal. Email submissions will not be accepted!

**4. Recognize Your Leaders with Confidence**

We understand that today's communications require care and consideration. That's why *Profiles in Leadership Journal* offers all nominating organizations the opportunity to review and approve their award winner's profile prior to publication.

Your organization remains in full control of how your leadership is portrayed—we're your partner in celebrating excellence, not a source of concern.

### It's that Easy

If your nominee should be selected as a 2026 Joyful Leader Award recipient, we will notify both your successful nominee and the person who nominated him or her. We'll also send each nominee a Question & Answer packet. He or she will be asked to answer a few questions, write an optional brief essay, and provide a high-resolution photograph of him- or herself, as well as a digital version of your organization's logo. Each nominee's photograph, optional essay, and professional information will appear on a dedicated full-page in our Fall issue. Just complete the Nomination area on pages 3 and 4. Links for upload and payment are on page 5.

**DEADLINE for Nominations:**  
**August 14, 2026**

Questions? Contact James Rector *Publisher*

Email: [publisher@leadershipjournal.com](mailto:publisher@leadershipjournal.com) Office: 440-892-0444 Mobile: 440-662-9770



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## NOMINATION FORM

(Please fill in all form fields and **be sure to save this file** when completed)

### Before You Begin

As part of our collaborative process, your organization will have the chance to review and approve the final profile of your award winner before publication. This ensures alignment with your internal messaging and gives your team full confidence to nominate with peace of mind.

### A. Nominee Information

Nominee's Name:  Mr.,  Ms.,  Mrs.,  Dr. \_\_\_\_\_  
*(as it should appear in print and please check prefix that applies)*

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Corporate Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact info for Nominee's  
Administrative Assistant: \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Nominated by:

*Note: The nominator must be the primary point of contact for all editorial communications. Using a company executive as the nominator will not increase a nominee's chances of selection. He or she will be evaluated on merit alone. Please ensure that the person whose information is entered below is available to manage all communications related to the nomination and award process.*

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Corporate Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary Contact Name & Email:** \_\_\_\_\_



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### C. Tell Us Why You Chose this Nominee

Briefly explain why your nominee should be recognized as a 2026 Joyful Leader awardee: (200 words max.)

Provide a brief description of the nominee's leadership role. Please include highlights of your nominee's contributions and accomplishments, which may include examples of how they create a joyful and engaging workplace. You may also provide testimonials from colleagues, employees, or stakeholders. (500 words max.)

### D. Final Profile Approval

Please confirm your preference regarding the final profile approval process:

- Yes**, we would like to review and approve the final profile before publication.
- No**, we trust the editorial process and do not require a final review.

Note: If "Yes" is selected, publication will not proceed without organizational approval.

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## NOMINATION FORM

### E. Nomination Processing

**NOMINATION INVESTMENT: \$495:**

After uploading your Nomination form, please be sure to go to our secure payment portal where you can submit your entry payment. If your nominee is not selected, *PLJ* will refund your nomination investment.



Please upload this document (*do not email*)

at: <https://leadershipjournal.com/joyful-nomination-upload/>



Submit \$495 nomination investment payment at:

<https://buy.stripe.com/cN24j6aplggj2PKdR4>

**If you need an invoice for payment please email  
James Rector: [publisher@leadershipjournal.com](mailto:publisher@leadershipjournal.com)**

**Nomination and investment must be received by August 14, 2026**

*Emailed submissions will not be accepted!*

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. Will our organization have the opportunity to review the award winner's profile before publication?**  
Yes. We offer every nominating organization the chance to review and approve the final profile of their award winner before publication. We understand the importance of alignment with internal communications and public messaging. Your team remains in full control of what is shared publicly.
- 2. Will the nomination fee be refunded if our candidate is not selected?**  
Yes. Your nomination fee will be returned in full if your candidate is not selected.
- 3. Is my organization allowed to nominate a candidate who has won a different award this year from *PLJ*?**  
Yes. Your nominees may include a candidate or candidates who have previously won different awards from *PLJ* this year.
- 4. How will my organization be notified of our nominee's acceptance?**  
Confirmation that your organization's nominee has been accepted will be sent to the nominator and the award winner along with the Question & Answer Form.
- 5. Is purchasing an advertisement in the Fall issue of *PLJ* required if our nominee is accepted?**  
No advertising purchase is required.
- 6. Will we be able to receive pdfs of our nominee's profile layout?**  
If you wish to receive a **FREE pdf** of your nominee's layout from the Fall issue, please email a request to [stevetothleadershipjournal.com](mailto:stevetothleadershipjournal.com) after the issue has been launched.
- 7. Will my organization have an opportunity to revise a profile after it appears in the Fall issue?**  
If you would like to make edits or changes to your page(s) after the issue is posted online, please email [stevetothleadershipjournal.com](mailto:stevetothleadershipjournal.com).