



2026 NOMINATION QUESTIONS WORKSHEET

This is NOT the nomination form, rather a worksheet to help prepare your answers ahead of your final nomination submission.

Gillian Rudd was NAWBO's national president who, together with other early NAWBO advocates, led the charge to educate and influence elected officials about the undeniable impact women-owned businesses played in the U.S. economy. Their efforts led to the authoring of landmark legislation—The Women's Business Ownership Act, or HR5050—and shaped our #NAWBOVOICE that's so widely respected today.

The Gillian Rudd Award honors a NAWBO woman business owner who, like Gillian, has made a significant contribution to the status and visibility of women-owned firms. She advocates for the advancement of the woman business owner community in a bipartisan spirit. She is also a voice of collaboration in effectively presenting or moving forward legislation, regulatory reforms or new initiatives.

Nominee Requirements

1. Must be a NAWBO Premier, Basic, or NextGen member with an active status.
2. Must be able to attend the Annual Awards Celebration at NAWBO Days on May 31, 2026, to accept the award.
3. Paid staff or contractors (i.e. W2, full time and part time, or 1099) employed by a Chapter are not eligible for nomination.
4. National Board of Director members are not eligible to be nominated for one full calendar year (Jan.-Dec.) following the year they complete their Board term.

Judging Criteria

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

1. Advocates for and positively impacts the women business owner (WBO) community through efforts to influence policy and legislation at local, regional, or national levels.
2. Demonstrates the spirit of bipartisanship.
3. Engages in volunteer efforts beyond professional responsibilities to propel women into greater economic, social and political spheres of power worldwide.
4. Is present and engaged with members and advocacy efforts through attendance at NAWBO's national in-person and/or virtual events.

Please note: Incomplete nominations, i.e. questions left unanswered, will not be considered. Please answer all questions.

For more information, visit the NAWBO awards page at nawbo.org/awards.

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Thank you for taking the time to submit a nomination for the 2026 Gillian Rudd Award.

As a reminder, all nominations and supporting documentation are due on February 20, 2026. All nominations must be complete and submitted electronically. Supporting documents should be emailed to contests@nawbo.org.

1. Please let us know your name and contact information, as the nominator. (If you are self-nominating, please skip to #2.)

Name of nominator: _____

Title: _____

Company name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Relationship to nominee: _____

2. Complete the following information for the nominee. (Self-nominations are welcomed)

Name of nominee: _____

Title: _____

Company name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Year Joined NAWBO (enter "unknown" if unsure): _____

NAWBO Chapter: _____

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

As you provide your responses, we encourage you to take your time, be thoughtful, and to answer each question carefully.

3. Describe how the nominee advocates for and positively impacts the women business owner (WBO) community through efforts to influence policy and legislation at local, regional, or national levels.

Please provide narrative details, including specific examples and supporting materials demonstrating how the nominee's advocacy activities have led to significant, positive outcomes for the WBO community. (Note: The limit for this response is 500 words.)

4. List specific examples of how the nominee demonstrates activities in the spirit of bipartisanship. (Note: The limit for this response is 500 words.)

5. Describe how the nominee, over time, has consistently engaged in volunteer efforts beyond professional responsibilities to propel women into greater economic, social and political spheres of power worldwide.

Provide quantitative info as well; e.g., hours devoted, travel involved, etc.; if available. (Note: the limit for this response is 500 words.)

6. Please list the NAWBO National events, virtual or in-person, the nominee has attended. Include specific event names and dates if available.

We encourage you to send up to 4 supporting documents to contests@nawbo.org by February 20, 2026. These documents should further demonstrate why this nominee is the best candidate for the award. (Examples: letters of recommendation, business reviews, articles, etc.)

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to submit your nomination for NAWBO's 2026 Gillian Rudd Award! The honoree will be notified of selection by the week of April 13, 2026.

