



THE EMPLOYER OF OLDER WORKERS AWARD

Information Sheet

History: In 1958, the Veterans Employment and Education Commission expanded its Employer Awards Program by creating an award for employers of older workers. Because the commission saw older workers as a valuable economic resource of proven skills, stability and experience, it wanted to encourage employers to hire and retain older workers in the work force. National “Employ the Older Worker Week” was established by The American Legion and is observed during the last full week of each September.

The Veterans Employment and Education Commission believes that this particular award category will become increasingly important over the next few years. Several major studies have concluded that as we move through the twenty-first century there will be fewer young people entering the labor market. As a result, it will be necessary for employers to encourage older workers to stay in the labor force.

Purpose of Award: To confer recognition on one employer in each state for an outstanding record in the hiring and retention of older workers.

Deadline: The deadline for submission of nominations of Employer of Older Workers is no later than **January 15th**. Nominations received after that date will not be eligible for consideration for the national award.

Procedure: Nominations from posts, or other sources must be sent to department headquarters. The department then selects **one** nominee and sends the winning nominations with their supporting information to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission. Either the department adjutant or department employment chairman must sign the nomination. Nominations that arrive without supporting information **will not** be eligible for the national awards.

Nomination Form: A copy of the official nomination form will follow. Additional copies may also be obtained by writing or calling the Veterans Employment and Education Commission, The American Legion, 1608 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20006; phone 202-861-2700, or online at Econ@legion.org.

Award: The commission provides free plaques to each department that submits nominations. It is recommended, however, that posts and departments recognize their other nominees with plaques or awards that can be purchased for a nominal cost through Emblem Sales. The National Winner will receive a large plaque to be presented by the National Commander at the annual

National Convention and will receive a stipend to help defray the cost of their representative's travel to the convention city to accept the award.