

The 10th Anniversary Banky[™] Awards

The Only Award Proven to Dramatically Increase Both Growth and Profitability

10TH ANNIVERSARY

OFFICIAL NOMINATION APPLICATION

Will you join this elite circle?

Proven to Dramatically Increase Both Growth and Profitability

The first year we won, we grew more than we had in the previous 8 years combined.



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— P. Steele, CEO, Builtwell Bank 2014 Extraordinary Bank of the Year[™] Award Winner 2015 Institute for Extraordinary Banking[™] Hall of Fame Inductee

Hundreds of Banks Will Apply. Many Will Win... Will Yours?

Unlike other awards with just one winner, the Banky Awards celebrate multiple elite, results-oriented banks across the country.

What This Means for You:

Winning a Banky puts your bank in an elite group of top-performing financial institutions.

- ✓ Many banks will receive a prestigious Banky Award and gain national recognition, proving their excellence.
- ✓ Top banks in each category will be named finalists and award recipients.
- \checkmark One bank will rise to the top as the Extraordinary Bank of the YearTM.

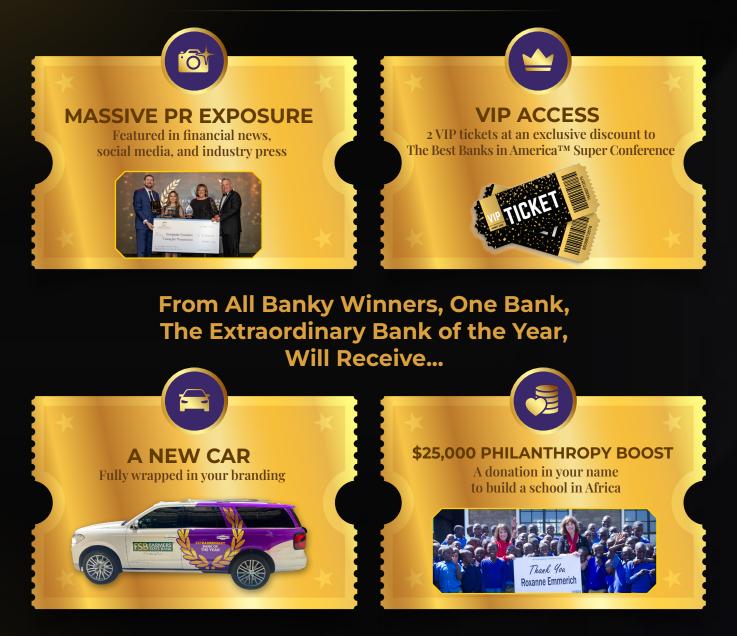
NOMINATE YOUR BANK NOW

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 16, 2025.

Apply Now at BankyAwards.com or Submit the Enclosed Application

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOUR BANK?

MORE CUSTOMERS. MORE CREDIBILITY. MORE PROFITS.



HOW TO APPLY:

Get Your Application At BankyAwards.com

COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!



HOW WINNERS ARE CHOSEN

- Banks are scored based on culture, customer service, financial literacy, philanthropy, and innovation.
- A mystery shopper evaluates real customer experience.
- A complimentary culture survey (valued at \$10,000+) is conducted, requiring only 15 minutes per employee.
- Top-scoring banks become finalists, with category winners selected.

Finalists must be present at the event, where the audience and independent judges vote for the winner!

AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT The Best Banks in AmericaTM Super Conference

(THE TOP GUN EVENT FOR BANKING)

Where the Best-Performing Banks Gather

🛗 September 23-24, 2025

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👤 Atlanta, GA

- * Discover exclusive growth strategies from top banks.
- * Gain VIP access to network with elite banking leaders.
- * Limited spots available for nominees only.
- * This event delivers two years' worth of ideas in just two days.

BLOCK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

FOUNDING **ADVISORY BOARD**













TAKING RESULTS SERIOUSLY

While the event maintains a classy atmosphere where results are taken seriously, some also bring a lighthearted approach.



BEST BANKS

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CULTURE

Patti Steele, Extraordinary Banking 2015 Hall of Fame recipient, shares how she transformed to a performance culture at First Volunteer











ORD

SHARING Executives share their best secrets that make

10

AORDINARY BANKING" their banks stand out



THE INSTITUT. REXTRAORDINARY BANKING

Founder, with celebrity emcee, Yakov Smirnoff

Roxanne

Emmerich,

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TOP QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EXTRAORDINARY BANKING AWARDS

What Is a Banky[™] Award?

Great question! You've heard of the Emmys, the Tonys, the Grammys... each award of distinction sets consumer buying preferences for entertainment. The Banky gives the same level of distinction and differentiation for community banks.

What Awards Are Given?

Hundreds of banks will apply, and dozens will receive a Banky Award, signifying their excellence in banking. Twenty select banks will be recognized as category finalists in their respective asset classes, in each of these five categories:

- Thank God It's Monday!™ Culture Banky Award for Outstanding Workplace Culture
- Above-and-Beyond Customer Service Banky[™] Award
- Money Smarts Banky™ Award for Financial Literacy Education
- BanksGiving™ Banky™ Award for Philanthropy
- Thought Leadership Banky™ Award

Three elite banks will be selected as finalists for the Extraordinary Bank of the Year Award.

Each will present their accomplishments on stage at the Awards. Then the judges and audience of top-performing bankers will vote to choose this year's Extraordinary Bank of the Year.

What's the Catch? Is There Some Hidden Fee to Participate?

I get your skepticism, but there are NO hidden fees. There's no fee to nominate your bank, and if you are selected to receive a Banky Award, you won't pay to attend the awards ceremony or The Best Banks in America[™] Super Conference, where the ceremony is held.

You will receive two VIP tickets at an exclusive discount to The Best Banks in America[™] Super Conference for the CEO and an accompanying exec or director. If you want to bring a larger team, you'll be able to do so at an exclusive "winner's rate." This will give you access to both Super Conference and the Banky Awards.

What Do the Winners Receive?

Banky Award winners receive an award, a red-carpet photo op, and a complete PR / Marketing kit. They also receive two complimentary tickets for The Best Banks in America Super Conference and Extraordinary Banking Awards Ceremony.

Category winners receive all of the above, plus special recognition as a category winner. The Extraordinary Bank of the Year Winner receives a NEW CAR—yes, really—wrapped with the winning bank's logo, announcing their win. Plus, a \$25,000 donation, made in the name of the bank, to fund the construction of a school in Africa.

If you win, the car is yours to keep... forever.

Where Is the Awards Ceremony Held?

The Awards are a part of The Best Banks in America Super Conference hosted by The Institute for Extraordinary Banking™ in Atlanta.

Why Would I Want to Win a Banky[™]?

Unlike most banks—which think differentiation means lofty platitudes like "we have great customer service" or "our people make the difference," you know that you need extreme, meaningful differentiation from your competitors.

Imagine the buzz in your market when you are able to announce that your bank has been recognized among the Best Banks in America. You'll soon find that The Banky is a gateway to premium pricing.

Who Judges the Awards?

A panel of three independent judges, as well as thought leaders, reviews all the applications and selects Banky winners, category finalists and winners, and the three finalists for the Extraordinary Bank of the Year Award.

The identities of the judges are concealed until the awards ceremony to prevent banks from lobbying them.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TOP QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EXTRAORDINARY BANKING AWARDS

What Are the Dates of The Best Banks in America™ Super Conference and Extraordinary Banking™ Awards Ceremony?

The Best Banks in America Super Conference is September 23–24, 2025. The Awards are the evening of September 24th.

How Do I Nominate My Bank?

Simple. Just have your marketing department or executive assistant complete the enclosed application form or download an electronic version at BankyAwards.com.

Why Should I Attend Super Conference?

Some of the country's top community bank CEOs have attended the last three conferences and said they found two years' worth of implementation ideas at each event.

When you attend, you'll hear the real strategies used by award-winning banks—many performing in the top 5% of all community banks. These are strategies that will increase your profits—not theories, but proven, results-driven, real-world, practical strategies that will grow your bank.

Banky Recognition Drives Our Culture of Excellence

We use the Banky recognition as a tool with our employees to **push a culture of excellence**. It helps our clients see us as special, and it certainly helps close new business."



— C. Floyd, CEO, Dream First Bank 2019 Extraordinary Bank of the Year[™] Award Winner 2022 Institute for Extraordinary Banking[™] Hall of Fame Inductee

The Application Deadline is May 16, 2025.

Here's the important question. What if your competitor wins and you don't? Don't let that happen. Nominate your bank today.

Use the enclosed application or download one at BankyAwards.com.



APPLICATION FORM

Deadline: May 16, 2025

Use the enclosed application or download one at BankyAwards.com.

Submission Instructions

You deserve to be recognized as an extraordinary bank and use it to command premium pricing. Here's how you start. The 2025 Extraordinary Banking Awards application form is fillable online but cannot be submitted online. Be sure to save a copy of the application to your system BEFORE closing the document. If you don't save a copy, you may have to fill in your application again. To complete your submission, email the saved copy of your application along with attachments of the other required elements-your photograph (Section 3) and essay (Section 6)-to Nominations@BankyAwards.com.

If you are filling out a paper copy of the application, please print or type only. Regardless of how you complete your application, be sure to write the name of the bank exactly as you would like it to appear in press releases and on trophies.

Awards

First Level - Banky™ Award Bank meets the criteria of stringent standards of The Institute for Extraordinary Banking based on the quality of the information provided in the application.

Next Level – Category-Level Award Category winner by asset class and one overall category winner recognized for each of the five categories-TGIM, MoneySmarts, BanksGiving, Above-and-Beyond, and Thought Leader. The asset classes are under \$300 million, \$300-500 million, \$500 million -Subillion, and over Subillion.

Highest Level – Extraordinary Bank of the Year™

Extraordinary Bank of the Year – excellence in each of the five categories – three finalists will vie for the title LIVE at the awards ceremony.

The judges' decisions are final and may not be appealed.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive an award, the nominee bank must be a community or regional bank in the United States or its territories. All Banky Award winners will become eligible to be considered for one of five Category-Level Banky Awards and the 2025 Extraordinary Bank of the Year Award—the top award for community banks.

To be considered for a Category award and as a finalist for the 2025 Extraordinary Bank of the Year Award, each Banky winner must complete a culture survey, with 75% of the bank staff completing the survey. The culture survey will be weighted at 50% of the Thank God It's Monday! Culture Award, with the other 50% of the score coming from the judges' scores. Also, each bank that applies for a Banky will be mystery-shopped by phone. The mystery-shopping score will be weighted at 50% of the Customer Service Award, with the other 50% of the score coming from the judges' scores.

The three finalists for the 2025 Extraordinary Bank of the Year Award will be determined based on a combination of the judges' scores, culture survey score, and mystery shop score, with one-third of the overall score coming from each. The overall Extraordinary Bank of the Year Award is then determined by a combination of judges' scores and a vote by the attendees at the Banky Awards.

Previous Banky Award winners and Category-Level Banky Award winners may apply for the 2025 awards. Previous Extraordinary Bank of the Year winners-the highest annual award-are inducted into the Institute for Extraordinary Banking Hall of Fame and are no longer eligible for the Extraordinary Bank of the Year Award but remain eligible for Banky and Category-Level awards.

Judging Panel and Criteria

The independent panel of judges is composed of community banking experts from throughout the industry who analyze each nomination across five dimensions:

- Internal Culture: Employee engagement •
- Customer Service: Commitment to exceptional and consistent customer service
- Financial Literacy: Commitment to financial literacy programs •
- Philanthropy: Commitment to having a huge impact within vour community
- Extraordinary Bank Practices: Commitment to raising the • standards of banking practices focused on client success

2025 BANKY AWARD APPLICATION

1. Nominee information

bank Name:		Main Office / Main Phone #:			
(SPECIFY NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON AN AWARD OR IN A PUBLICATION) Main Office / Main Address:					
City:	State:			Zip:	
Bank Website:					
Preferred mailing address for correspondence such as P.O. Box:					
CEO's name:					
Email:	Direct P	Direct Phone #:			
CEO Assistant's name:					
Email:	Direct P	Direct Phone #:			
Marketing Contact name:					
Email:	Direct Phone #:				
Name of person nominating the bank:		Title:			
Email:	Direct Phone #:				
Has nominee previously been nominated for consideration? Yes No Year(s):					
What award level has the nominee previously received? (check boxes next to all that apply)					
Banky Category winner Extraordinary Bank of the Year winner Category finalist Extraordinary Bank of the Year finalist					
2. General information					
In what year was the bank founded?		Corp	S-Corp		
How many locations?	G	ommercial	Retail	Other	
FDIC certificate #:					
3. Photograph Please submit a professional photograph of the CEO and one of the b logo/signage). Specifications: digital file, minimum 300dpi, JPEG for press releases to announce winners.					
4. Financial data Please double-check the FDIC Certificate number you entered in Section	2 as we'	l use that number	to pull your fina	ncial data.	
Has the bank merged or acquired another bank within the last three years? Yes No					
If yes, when and what dollar amount of the asset growth reflected in th	ne financ	ial data is attribu	table to the me	rger or acquisition?	

5. Executives and Board Members

Please list below the individuals who have assisted the bank's growth and success.

President		
Name:	Address is the sar	me as HQ/Main
Email:	Other Address:	City:
Direct Phone #:		
Chief Operating Officer		
	Address is the sar	me as HQ/Main
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Direct Phone #:		
Chief Financial Officer		
	 Address is the sar 	me as HQ/Main
Email:		
Direct Phone #:		
Head of Retail		
Name:	Address is the sar	me as HQ/Main
Email:		
Direct Phone #:		
Board Chair		
Name:	 Address is the sar 	me as HQ/Main
Email:		
	- State:	
Other Executive		
	Title:	ma aa HO /Main
Name:		
	State:	
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Other Executive	Title:	
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6. Essay

Whether you complete a hard copy of this application or fill out and save the PDF version, your application is not complete until you include the required essay covering the topics listed below. You may include supporting documentation. The financial information and the narratives are critical evaluation tools for the independent panel of judges. Take this opportunity to "tell the bank's story." Most information for each question may be readily available on the bank's company website or marketing materials.

History and current activity (250 words)

Describe the history of the bank. Is the founder still involved in leadership? Why did he or she found the bank? If the bank is family-owned, describe the generational history and milestones. Describe any significant obstacles the bank and its leaders have overcome to create the current level of success.

• Why are you the Best Bank in America? (1250 words)

Explain why your bank should be recognized as one of the Best Banks in America and awarded with the Banky designation. What makes your bank unique—distinct from your competitors? Describe the market and customers your bank serves and why your bank is driven to serve those customers.

Include the number of branches, the geographic reach, and the number of employees.

Be sure to include the following topics in your essay: Bank Culture, Financial Literacy Education, Philanthropy, Customer Service, and Innovative Approaches. The bank may be eligible for additional awards of excellence in these categories.

TGIM / Bank Culture

Describe the bank's culture and how that culture was accomplished. What were the guiding principles that shaped the culture? Describe the engagement of the bank's employees in the mission and vision of the bank – include specific activities that highlight employee engagement. Describe your education and systems to develop human potential, the systems you use to align your team to your corporate values, and the process to measure and improve culture each year.

Money Smarts / Financial Literacy Education

How does the bank address the community's need for financial education? What makes your financial literacy program unique? Who in your bank is involved in your literacy programs, and how?

BanksGiving™ / Philanthropy

Tell us about the bank's philanthropic activity. How is philanthropy integrated into the culture of the bank, and what makes it unique? How does your bank's philanthropy program help improve the communities you serve? How do the bank employees participate in the bank's philanthropic efforts?

Above-and-Beyond / Customer Service

What are the bank's systems for managing the consistency and quality of customer service? What are your key indicators and metrics of customer service excellence? Include scores and speak to scoreimprovement processes. Have you been recognized in your region for excellence in customer service? If so, what was the recognition received?

Thought Leader / Innovative Approaches

What is the bank's unique approach to delivering value to customers? Do you have a unique or effective program that you use to attract new market segments and new high-profit, low-risk clients? What is your leadership team's vision for future growth and profitability? How do you align each employee in your organization to both the strategic plan as well as to profit?

Terms and Conditions

THE PROMISES YOU ARE MAKING

You are promising that what you send as a Banky[™] Award nomination entry:

- 1.
- Is yours to share, use, and publish. If it shows pictures of clients, staff, employees, or any third-party, that you 2. have the right to give The Institute for Extraordinary Banking the right to publish this material and have all necessary permissions and consents.
- Accurately describes items being implemented at your bank presently.
- 4.
- Is accurate, if you are supplying data. Does not break confidentiality requirements, including but not limited to 5. those of your bank and holding company.

If someone sues or presents a claim to The Institute for Extraordinary BankingTM because you gave us something and didn't have permission to give it to us to publish, that you will indemnify us and pay all costs and fees associated with our defense of that suit.

License

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THE INSTITUTE FOR EXTRAORDINARY BANKING™ WILL SUPPLY PHOTOS AND VIDEO OF THE PRESENTATIONS OF THE FINALISTS WHICH THE FINALISTS ARE LICENSED TO USE AS THEY SEE FIT. THE INSTITUTE FOR EXTRAORDINARY BANKING™ MAY VARY THE MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED TO WINNERS FROM TIME TO TIME, AND THE CONTESTANT WILL BE ADVISED OF THE SPECIFIC MATERIALS TO BE RECEIVED AND ANY RELEVANT LICENSES GRANTED AT THE TIME OF RECEIPT OF THE MATERIALS.

Limit of Liability

THE INSTITUTE FOR EXTRAORDINARY BANKING™ SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS, DAMAGE, COST, OR INJURY THAT ARISES FROM ITS USE OF LICENSED INFORMATION, THE CONTESTANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROMOTION, OR WINNING OR USE OF A PRIZE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: (I) LATE, LOST, DELAYED, DAMAGED, MISDIRECTED, INCOMPLETE, OR UNINTELLIGIBLE ENTRIES; (II) TELEPHONE, ELECTRONIC, HARDWARE OR SOFTWARE PROGRAM, NETWORK, INTERNET, OR COMPUTER MALFUNCTIONS, FAILURES, VIRUSES OR DIFFICULTIES OF ANY KIND; (III) FAILED, INCOMPLETE, GARBLED, OR DELAYED COMPUTER TRANSMISSIONS; (IV) THE DOWNLOADING OF ANY MATERIAL IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PROMOTION; OR (V) ANY OTHER CONDITION THAT MAY CAUSE THE PROMOTION TO BE DISRUPTED OR CORRUPTED. THE INSTITUTE FOR EXTRAORDINARY BANKING™ RESERVES THE RIGHT, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION AND WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE, TO SUSPEND OR CANCEL THE PROMOTION OR ALTER THE RULES FOR ANY REASON, WITHIN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, IF AT ANY TIME A COMPUTER VIRUS, TECHNICAL PROBLEM, OR OTHER UNFORESEEABLE EVENT ALTERS OR CORRUPTS THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROMOTION.

Release

CONTESTANT RELEASES AND AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE INSTITUTE FOR EXTRAORDINARY BANKING™ AND ITS AFFILIATES, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, PARTNERS, AND AGENTS FROM ANY LIABILITY WHATSOEVER FOR ANY CLAIMS, COSTS, LOSSES, OR DAMAGES (INCLUDING INFRINGEMENT OF PROPRIETARY RIGHTS, RIGHTS OF PUBLICITY OR PRIVACY OR DEFAMATION) ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH: (I) THE ENTRY SUBMITTED BY CONTESTANT, AND/OR THE INSTITUTE'S USE OF ANY LICENSED INFORMATION; (II) CONTESTANTS ENTERING AND/OR PARTICIPATING IN THE PROMOTION; AND/OR (III) ACCEPTING OR USING ANY PRIZE. ANY LAWSUIT MUST BE BROUGHT IN HENNEPIN COUNTY STATE COURT IN MINNEAPOLIS, MN. IF YOU WIN THE CAR OR ANY OTHER PRIZE, YOU WILL ASSUME ALL LIABILITY FOR THE PRIZE AND ANY DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE CAR OR OTHER PRIZE, AND HOLD HARMLESS AND IDEMNIFY THE INSTITUTE FOR EXTRAORDINARY BANKING™ FOR ANY TAXES, FEES, EXPENSES, DAMAGES, OR OTHER COSTS RELATED TO ANY PRIZE RECEIVED HEREUNDER.

THE INSTITUTE FOR EXTRAORDINARY BANKING™ RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE RULES AT ANY TIME WITHOUT NOTICE AND IN OUR SOLE DISCRETION. NO FEE OR PURCHASE IS REQUIRED TO ENTER THIS PROMOTION.

About the Extraordinary Banking Awards

Hundreds of banks will receive a Banky, the mark of excellence for community banks—like a seal of approval endorsing them as a highly-effective, community-focused bank. Five will be singled out as category award winners in each of these categories:

- Thank God It's Monday!™ Culture Banky™ Award for Outstanding Workplace Culture
- Above-and-Beyond Customer Service Banky™ Award
- Money Smarts Banky™ Award for Financial Literacy Education •
- BanksGivingTM BankyTM Award for Philanthropy
- Thought Leadership Banky[™] Award

All five category winners will receive over \$25,000 in business building and public relations resources designed to help them show their communities that they truly are Extraordinary Bankers! In addition, the Institute for Extraordinary Banking will donate \$25,000 to The Unstoppable Foundation on behalf of the 2025 Extraordinary Bank of The Year Award winner to sponsor the construction of a school in Africa.

PLUS the 2025 overall Extraordinary Banking Award winner will receive A NEW CAR! The car is custom-wrapped with YOUR branding to say loud and clear to everyone in your community that you are the 2025 Extraordinary Bank of the Year winner. The car is yours to keep this year and beyond!



Winners will be responsible for any federal, state, and/or local taxes due on prizes if any. Winners receive two VIP tickets at an exclusive discount (for the CEO and one executive or board member) to attend the Awards Ceremony and The Best Banks in America Super Conference, September 23-24,2025, in Atlanta.

The Extraordinary Bank of the Year™ Will Help Build a School in Africa

The Institute for Extraordinary Banking will award a \$25,000 donation on behalf of the overall 2025 Extraordinary Bank of the Year Award winner to help build a school in Africa.

The Banky Award Is the Only Event in **Banking Where You Could Win a Car!**

The 2025 overall Extraordinary Bank of the Year Award winner will receive A NEW CAR! The car is custom-wrapped with YOUR branding to say loud and clear to everyone in your community that you are the 2025 Extraordinary Bank of the Year winner.

SAVE THE DATE FOR

The Best Banks in America[™] Super Conference and The Extraordinary Banking[™] Awards on September 23-24, 2025!

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RESULTS-ORIENTED BANKS COMPETE. ASPIRING BANKS APPLY. ONLY THE BEST WIN.

Nomination Deadline:

May 16, 2025 – Don't Get Left Behind!

Apply Now at BankyAwards.com