Businesswoman of the Year Award

History of the Award

The Businesswoman of the Year Award has been honouring South Africa's outstanding businesswomen since 1980. It has grown in stature over the last 32 years, to become the premier event of its kind in the country and a notable part of the South African business calendar.

Previous winners of the Award

1980  Val Mickleburgh, Marketing Director, Total SA (Pty) Ltd
1981  Margaret Lessing, Director, TWS Communications
1982  Marina Maponya, Director, Maponya Group of Companies
1983  Reeva Forman, Managing Director, Reeva Forman (Pty) Ltd
1984  June Kritzinger, Marketing Director, Clicks Stores
1985  Dr Anette v d Merwe, Superintendent, JG Strijdom Hospital
1986  Jane Raphaely, Managing Director, Jane Raphaely and Associates
1987  Joan Joffe, CEO, Joffe Associates
1988  Carol Scott, Managing Director, Imperial Car Rental
1989  Pru Pfuhl, Managing Director, Biggie Best
1990  Yvonne Lottering, Managing Director, Coin Security Group
1991  Dr Jocelyne Kane-Berman, Chief Medical Superintendent, Groote Schuur Hospital
1992  Margerett Macfarlane, Executive Director, Ziton SA (Pty) Ltd
1993  Dawn Mokhobo, Senior Manager (Human Resources), SKIM
1994  Veronica Devine: Managing Director, Justine Cosmetics
1995  Wendy Lucas-Bull, Executive Director, Rand Merchant Bank
1996  Pam Golding, Chairman, Pam Golding Properties
1997  Bronwen Phillips, Managing Director, Fridge Master SA (Pty) Ltd
1998  Sindi Zilwa, National Managing Partner, Nkonki Sizwe Ntsaluba, CA South Africa
1999  Dr Anna Mokgokong, Chairman, Malesele Investment Holdings
2000  Irene Charnley, Executive Director, Telecommunications, Johnnic Holdings Ltd
2001  Maria Ramos, Director General, Department of Finance
2002  Kim McFarland, Chief Operations Officer and Chief Financial Officer, Investec Asset Management
2003  Nicky Newton-King, Deputy CEO, JSE Securities Exchange
2004  Futhi Mtoba, Chairman, Deloitte
2005  Monhla Hlahla, Managing Director, ACSA
2006  Gloria Serobe, Corporate Category and Angela Dick, Entrepreneur Category
2007  Thoko Mokgosi-Mwante, CEO, Hewlett Packard SA (Pty) Ltd and Renee Silverstone, CEO, Jupiter Drawing Room
2008  Mardia van der Walt-Korsten, CEO, T-System SA and Chichi Maponya, Director, Maponya Group
2009  Venete Klein, Executive Director, ABSA and Carol Weaving, Director, Thebe Group
2010  Santie Botha, Managing Director for MTN
2011  Philisiwe Buthelezi, CEO of the National Empowerment Fund and Dr Nondumiso Mzizana, CEO of Sikelela Medical, Dental and Pharmaceuticals
2012  Dawn Rowlands [Corporate Category], CEO, Aegis Media SA and Margaret Hirsh [Entrepreneur Category], COE, Hirschs

Criteria for the Businesswoman of the Year Award

Nominees for the Businesswoman of the Year Award need not be a member of the Association but do need to
a. Be a South African resident and / or citizen and be conducting business in South Africa.
b. Control a budget expenditure of R75 million for Corporate and R35 million for Entrepreneur or more.
c. Have been working for her current company for a minimum of 3 years.
d. Have demonstrated her ability to achieve business success.
e. Be a role model.
**Background and Overview**

The Businesswoman of the Year Award is South Africa’s premier award for women achievers. Since its inception in 1980, the objectives of the award organisers have remained remarkably consistent over the years:

- To recognise the success of women leaders in business, thereby creating a cadre of female role models whose achievements will inspire other women to raise their sights and reach their goals;
- To create a mechanism for applauding and celebrating women’s contribution to the economy;
- To use the event as a fund-raiser to offer bursaries for women for business studies. Since 1988, all proceeds of the BWOYA have gone to the BWA Bursary Fund, which has distributed over R500 000 since then, to deserving women postgraduate students.

Entries were always open to all racial and ethnic groups, even in the days when such openness was officially discouraged. Among early winners were Dawn Mokhobo (1993), senior HR manager at Eskom and the now deceased Marina Maponya (1982), director of the Maponya Group.

The Businesswoman of the Year Award is **not** a lifetime achievement award. This encourages entries by women from various age groups and at different career stages.

Candidates for the Businesswoman of the Year title are nominated by third parties (usually individuals but corporate nomination is permissible). Nominees must give formal go-ahead for the nomination as judging entails an examination of financial statements. All documentation in support of nomination is kept confidential. Judging panels are selected to ensure no potential business competitor has access to sensitive information.

**Regional Business Achiever Awards**

The Businesswoman of the Year Award is completely separate from the Regional Awards. While the Businesswoman of the Year Award has always existed at a national level (for the last 32 years) to recognise leading businesswomen in South Africa, it was increasingly felt by both the BWA and Nedbank that more women deserved recognition at local level as well. The recognition of the Regional Business Achievers is very inclusive as it recognises businesswomen who control a budget of less than R75m; as opposed to Businesswomen of the Year, which is in the bigger league of the South African economy. Women at local and start-up level, growing entrepreneurs, professionals in profitable practises and corporate
women at executive level all needed a recognition mechanism. And hence, the Regional Business Achiever awards have been running for the last 12 years.