



2026 MMBA FACILITY AWARDS

Purpose

Provide industry / community recognition and serve as an example for others to emulate.

Categories

- Best Promotion
- Best Innovation
- Community Involvement
- Christian Ponder Biggest Bust or Mistake
- John Randle Biggest Dark Horse Award

Judging

All member facilities are eligible to participate. An independent panel will determine the winners. Panel participants might include current MLS managers, city staff / officials / industry representative and MMBA staff. Panel participants will vary each year.

Nomination Timeframe

Entry deadline is March 20, 2026 for activities in 2025.

Awards will be presented throughout the 2026 annual conference at Cragun's Resort.

Winners will receive a plaque, \$300 for a community project and Monday night conference participation priority.

Submissions must be received in the MMBA office by March 20, 2026

MMBA, PO Box 32966, Minneapolis, MN 55432 or kaspszak@outlook.com

It's OK to Nominate Yourself!!!

2026 MMBA Award Criteria

Best Promotion

Describe the promotion that made customers stop, smile, and buy?

Tell us what you did, how you pulled it off and how you knew it worked.

Best Innovation

For the rule-breakers (the good kind).

This award celebrates bold ideas that shook things up and made things better.

What was the problem, what was your idea and what changed because of it?

Christian Ponder Biggest Bust or Mistake

Oops.

What was your biggest swing and miss?

What went wrong and more importantly, what did you learn or fix afterward?

John Randle Biggest Dark Horse Award

Nobody saw this coming.

What turned out way better than expected?

A product, event, hire or idea that surprised everyone (especially you).

Community Involvement

More than a liquor facility.

Show how you showed up for your community and how that involvement strengthened both your town and your operation.



2026 MMBA Facility Awards Nomination Form

It's OK to Nominate Yourself!

Purpose: Provide industry and community recognition and serve as an example for others to emulate.

Activities must have occurred in calendar year 2025.

This application form is Word editable

Facility Information

Facility Name: _____

City: _____

Primary Contact & Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Award Category (select one)

- Best Promotion
- Best Innovation
- Community Involvement
- Christian Ponder Biggest Bust or Mistake
- John Randle Biggest Dark Horse Award

Submission Instructions

Deadline: March 20, 2026

Email completed nominations to: kapszak@outlook.com

Mail submissions to: MMBA, PO Box 32966, Minneapolis, MN 55432

Best Promotion

*Describe the promotion that made customers stop, smile, and buy.
(Photos & Stories Encouraged!!!!)*

Best Innovation

*What problem were you trying to solve, what was your idea, and what changed because of it?
(Photos & Stories Encouraged!!!!)*

Christian Ponder Biggest Bust or Mistake

*What went wrong, and what did you learn or fix afterward?
(Photos & Stories Encouraged!!!!)*

John Randle Biggest Dark Horse Award

*What unexpectedly worked far better than expected?
(Photos & Stories Encouraged!!!!)*

Community Involvement

*How did you show up for your community and strengthen both your town and your operation?
(Photos & Stories Encouraged!!!!)*