



DONELSON HERMITAGE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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***Donelson Hermitage Chamber of Commerce Announces
2026 Women in Business Influencing Women Awards Gala***

NASHVILLE, TN - March 5, 2026

The **Donelson Hermitage Chamber of Commerce** proudly announces the **2026 Women in Business Influencing Women Awards Gala**, set for Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Sonesta Nashville Airport.

The 2026 Gala theme, **Trailblazers & Treasures**, honors the women who boldly forge new paths while enriching their workplaces, industries, and communities. It reflects both the courage of those leading change and the lasting value they create through mentorship, service, and collaboration--qualities embodied by this year's honorees.

A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the **Jeannie Seely Standing Ovation Award**, which honors a woman who has created significant influence in the entertainment industry while actively mentoring and supporting other women in her field. It celebrates professional excellence, community advocacy, and meaningful leadership. Named in honor of **Grand Ole Opry legend Jeannie Seely**, the award recognizes a recipient who truly "goes above and beyond," reflecting Seely's indomitable spirit, resilience, and boundary-breaking career that paved the way for generations of women in music and beyond.

The 2026 Jeannie Seely Standing Ovation Award recipient is Emmy-nominated TV Anchor and Grand Ole Opry Host Kelly Sutton, a true trailblazer whose career has amplified voices, opened doors, and shaped the Nashville music and media landscape. She made history as the first full-time female announcer of the Grand Ole Opry, further cementing her legacy as a pioneer in the industry. Her leadership, authenticity, and enduring influence make her a fitting recipient of this prestigious honor.

In the same spirit of impact and service, the Chamber is proud to announce the **Opry Trust Fund** as the event's 2026 Non-Profit Partner. A portion of gala proceeds will support the **Opry**

Trust Fund's mission to provide financial assistance to members of the country music community in times of need. This partnership reflects the gala's commitment to lifting others and strengthening the community through meaningful support.

“The Trailblazers & Treasures theme is truly reflected in this year’s honorees and partnerships,” said **Terri Williams Nutter, Executive Director of the Donelson Hermitage Chamber of Commerce**. “The Jeannie Seely Standing Ovation Award is named for Jeannie Seely, whose groundbreaking career, fearless authenticity, and unwavering commitment to her craft helped open doors for generations of women. Honoring Kelly Sutton, a modern-day trailblazer whose voice and leadership continue to elevate others, is a powerful reflection of that legacy. Partnering with the Opry Trust Fund allows us to extend this celebration beyond recognition into meaningful support for the country music entertainment community that Jeannie Seely championed.”

Community members, business leaders, and advocates for women and philanthropy are invited to be part of this unforgettable evening by purchasing tickets, partnering as a sponsor, or learning more about the event and its impact. Together, we celebrate remarkable women, invest in meaningful causes, and continue building a stronger, more connected community.

Those wishing to **attend, donate silent auction items, or sponsor the gala** are encouraged to visit www.donelsonhermitagechamber.com or contact the Chamber office directly at **615-883-7896**.

ABOUT DONELSON-HERMITAGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Donelson-Hermitage Chamber of Commerce – Gateway to Music City was founded in February 1977 by area business leaders with a mission to promote and grow memberships and to ensure the communities of Donelson and Hermitage remain a great place to live and work. The Chamber has a membership of more than 400 local businesses, individuals, and organizations and is one of the largest and most active Chambers in the Greater Nashville, Tennessee area. Visit us at www.donelsonhermitagechamber.com.

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