

ABWA cites business leaders

Special to the Sentinel "Top Ten Nominee."

The Douglas County Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA) has recognized women business leaders at two former top ten annual awards banquet and ceremony.

The ceremony included a "Business Associate of the Year" award, which was given to GreyStone Power Department Manager of 2010.

Member Services Ian Thompson. The award recognizes a key individual in the community who has supported their local ABWA chapter, women in business, and local charities.

Chapter Treasurer Marcia Scharnhorst nominated Thompson and presented the award to her after remarking on Thompson's management achievements. "She has increased self-service options for customers, instituted a rewards system for employees, given her employees myriad opportunities for cross-training, and can constantly be found coaching her employees to success through teamwork and improving themselves," said Scharnhorst.

The "Boss of the Year" award was presented at the event to Utility Support Systems (USS) Founder and President Cathy Arnett.

The award is given to a boss who motivates staff, provides clear goals and direction, and is committed to

Growe will go on to apply for national recognition as part of the Top Ten Business Women of ABWA.

The chapter has been honored with two former top ten winners, with GreyStone Vice President of Human Resources

Marcia Scharnhorst winning in 2008 and Dr. Maggie Mercer, owner of Douglas County Animal Hospital, winning in

The chapter chose the current president Lucie Castro for the "Woman of the Year" award. The award was designed to recognize a member who has made notable contributions and outstanding achievements to their local ABWA chapter. Castro

awarded her choice for the "President's Award" to Helen Turpin, Atlanta Area Council Delegate.

The event also included guest speaker Rosemary Sims Willingham, who encouraged attendees to reach out to other women to find career opportunities. "ABWA

gives you those tools for furthering your education. You may be at the pinnacle of your career. If so, share it with someone else," she said.

The Douglas County Charter Chapter of the ABWA is part of a national network of business women and was chartered in 1986. The national organization was formed



Contributed photos

GreyStone Power Department Manager of Member Services Ian Thompson, second from left, was awarded the 'Business Associate of the Year' award. From left: Dr. Maggie Mercer, Thompson, Marcia Scharnhorst and Latika Ziehl.



Utility Support Systems (USS) Founder and President Cathy Arnett, right, won the 'Boss of the Year' award. At left is Peggy Haines.

