

Chapter Kudo Award Winners for 2007/2008

Supporter of the Year: *Deb Steg*, Dynamic Metamorphosis

Mentor of the Year: *Mary Bresnahan*, The Bresnahan Group

Advocate of the Year: *Dr. Janice Moranz*,

Up and Coming Business Owner of the Year: *Stephanie Luna, Kristin Wallin*, Wallin & Luna Counseling Associates.

Rookie of the Year: Merri Jean Jones, Studio J Interiors, Inc.

Public Policy Advocate of the Year: Joan Schlueter, OnSite Hiring Consultants

Woman Business Owners of the Year: Deb Austin, Office Alternatives, LLC.

The KUDO Award Winners for 2007/2008 were announced by Mary Lou Christophersen of Designer Glass at the June 18 Dinner Program. Mary Lou, Chair of Awards Committee, and her volunteer committee put a great deal of thought into this year's awards. Special thanks to her and Sandy Cody (Resources for Excellence), Barbara Dawson (Balancing Work and Life) and Mary Rutland (Human Resources by Mary Rutland). The award item was a curved and beveled jade glass slab etched with the NAWBO logo, the name of the individual award and the name of the winner. The award was crafted by Bright Ideas owned by Lezlie Ann Kinney.

For those of you that were not able to attend the dinner program, the following script was authored and presented by Mary Lou Christophersen of Designer Glass

Supporter of the Year For the member who supports NAWBO women and provides the springboard that sets the standard as an idea developer and innovator of program.

This woman attended the renowned Hypnotherapy Academy of America in Santa Fe, NM, completing 400 hours of classroom training in hypnosis theory and practice. She has trained in professional past life regression and worked in the financial industry for over 12 years, working on demanding Wall Street trading floors and global projects. She now helps clients transform obstacles into assets and discover the infinite potential within themselves.

We have witnessed her creativity as she has energized Santa Fe about NAWBO with her satellite meetings there. She is willing to try new ideas, gets people interested and is smart, pleasant to work with and consistently inspiring to our members. She is a published author, board certified Clinical Hypnotherapist, talented Reiki Master teacher and gifted intuitive. She is also brave enough to take on the President Elect position next year for our NNM chapter. The winner of our Supporter of the Year Kudo Award: Deb Steg of Dynamic Metamorphosis.

Mentor of the Year For the woman who has given openly and graciously not only of herself, but also of her business knowledge.

This woman was a member of the Chicago Chapter of NAWBO, relocating to Albuquerque with her husband about 2 years ago. We are so happy she transferred her membership to our chapter and then jumped right into our chapter activities. At the first meeting she attended, she joined two committees – Member Services and Training & Education. Then she joined a Mastermind group; attended Business Days in Santa Fe in January; and then, after Sandy Cody made the initial contacts, took the lead in creating a chapter-in-formation in the Las Cruces/El Paso area. She made several trips down to the southern part of the state at her own expense to support that chapter's founding, growth and development. Happily, that group is now an official chapter and she can be considered it's "birth mother". She helped organize a Fraud Seminar last year and as the Director of Diversity and Marketing for our chapter, is a prime committee member of the Awards committee, working on our new

event, the Tough Cookie Awards to be held right here at the Embassy Suites on September 19. That's a Friday, but the event will take the place of our regular Wednesday meeting.

She is dedicated and committed to the principles and ideals of NAWBO and just an all around great person to talk with, bounce ideas off of, and she and I have a particular affinity to discussing the effect of the flooding on corn crops and hog farms in Iowa and Illinois.

Our Mentor of the Year is **Mary Bresnahan of the Bresnahan Group**

Advocate of the Year **For the woman who has been an ambassador for NAWBO no matter where she is.**

Our Kudo Award Winner has been a member of NAWBO since May of 2005. She has been a respected physician and dermatologist in the Albuquerque area for many years, and has a large patient load. When she joined NAWBO she immediately got involved in the Member Services Committee, and was willing to participate in almost all the committee meetings, new member gatherings, and calling guests after they attended an evening meeting. She continues to do the calling, which is an invisible job to most of the membership, but she does it well and is always reliable. She's someone who you can always count on to do what she says, when she says it. She served on the Board last year as the Facilities Director, and this year is Mary Bresnahan's right hand helper on the Diversity and Marketing Committee. She attends all member meetings and all new member gatherings, representing NAWBO NNM in the best way possible.

She is a devoted employer for her staff and has repeatedly supported them in their lives outside of work – including buying a town home for one of them, so that she will have a steady and secure place to live. Our winner is also an independent associate with USANA Health Sciences, and she uses the products to support many of the patients who are in her practice to maintain their health. She has a large team of associates in her USANA organization, whom she coaches, trains and mentors with weekly meetings and phone conferences. She is also a strong advocate and supporter in her synagogue and a past president of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico; and she and her husband have been honored for their philanthropic activities in the Jewish community. When you meet her, you think that she is a very low-key individual; and perhaps she is; but there is no doubt that this woman is an effective, key player in NAWBO and in the broader community.

This **Advocate of the Year** is **Dr. Janice Moranz**, who specializes in Dematology and Dermatologic Surgery.

Up and Coming Business Owner of the Year- For the person who has been in business less than three years and is not only successful, but has also achieved substantially in a very short period of time.

There are two winners in this category; representing one women-owned business. These two have taken over the "front desk" so to speak on our meeting nights, meeting and greeting members, organizing name badges, and front tables and sending information packets to prospective members.

The work these women do is dedicated to providing mental health counseling and therapy services, with a specialized focus on women's issues and reproductive health issues.

The first winner is a native New Mexican and a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with a strong background in women's issues. As a new NAWBO member, she became active as soon as she joined, from joining a mastermind right away, attending meetings continuously, joining the diversity and marketing committee, and volunteering to be a greeter.

Her personal experience with infertility and her passion for helping women and their families are what motivate her to do the work she does. Some common women's issues she has encountered in her career are self-esteem,

body image issues, abusive relationships, life transitions, substance abuse, depression and anxiety. In private practice she has worked with families, children, adolescents and adults.

She is a member of several professional organizations and also serves on the board of the New Mexico Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (NMAMFT).

In her spare time she enjoys reading, backpacking, playing soccer and relaxing with her partner and their dog, Jasper.

The second winner is also a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with 9 years of experience devoted to working with couples and families. She is the co-founder of their a private practice partnership with a specialty in infertility counseling utilizing mind/body techniques which have been proven to reduce physical and psychological symptoms associated with many women's health related issues.

She became interested in infertility when she was personally touched with her own unexpected difficulties starting a family. This has given her a deep, personal understanding of the stress, anxiety, and depressive symptoms individuals and couples struggle with.

These **Up and Coming Business Owners of the Year** are: Stephanie Luna and Kristin Wallin of Wallin & Luna Counseling Associates.

Public Policy Advocate of the Year **For the woman who has been a leader in support of NAWBO's public policy positions.**

This woman was one of the original members of the Public Policy committee as well as countless other local, state and national committees. As recently as April 2007 she was appointed chair of the National Advisory Council (NAC) of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

- She works tirelessly for the committee on behalf of women owned businesses
- She contributes to the committee in every way needed from helping to organize events such as the annual Speak Out to testifying at the legislature on issues that are important to us
- She was instrumental in growing the membership and interest in the Public Policy committee
- She was the key person in the committee's growing participation in business day in Santa Fe and our outreach to the legislators.
- She has been the leader in integrating our efforts at the state level with WIPP at the national level.
- She also serves as a bridge between NAWBO and ACI and SHRM to ensure that NAWBO's position on key issues is brought to the forefront at the legislature and in congress
- she has helped form numerous NAWBO chapters across the country

If you want to know how passionate this woman is about NAWBO and Public Policy, take a look at our August 2006 newsletter; she shared her views on why she does what she does for our chapter and for National.

Besides all her committee work in organizations, she is an astute business woman, devoted wife, mother and grandmother (just ask her about her granddaughter's Grade point averages!) and a loving pet owner.

Simply put, we are so grateful to her for helping to grow NAWBO and the Public Policy committee into the strong and recognized group that it is.

Our Public Policy Advocate of the Year is Joan Schlueter of OnSite Hiring Consultants.

Rookie of the Year For the new member who has been an active member of NAWBO for less than one year and who has become visible not only in NAWBO but in the community in a short period of time.

Having joined NAWBO in the fall of 2007, this award winner has really jumped in to participate in NAWBO committees and activities and has taken on a leadership role on the Board for next year. As a member of my awards committee, I can attest to her valuable contributions, dedication to the purpose and willingness to do what needs to be done.

I first met her when she provided centerpieces for our NAWBO auction. They were gorgeous, innovative and she did all the work and we got to enjoy them no charge. While on the awards committee, she has contacted venues, researched opportunities and even provided scrumptious scones for one of our meetings. As a business-owner, she provides complete residential and small commercial design services including space planning; selection of tile, carpet, light fixtures, and paint colors; selection of furniture, fabric, and accessories; custom window treatments.

Our Rookie of the Year is Merri Jean Jones of Studio J Interiors, Inc.

Woman Business Owner of the Year - For the business owner who has gone that extra mile with her business in the best interests of the community.

This winner is an entrepreneur of the highest sort; she identified a need within the community and provided the best possible solution, growing and expanding her business to 4 times the revenue in just 3 years.

In March of 2005, she opened her business to a variety of clients ranging from start-up companies operating on a very limited budget to long term businesses looking for an affordable method of expanding and increasing their productivity. This winner provided high speed computer hook-ups, faxing, mail service, photocopying, courier service and telephone reception that could transfer calls to an office, cell phone or voice messaging center. Office space, conference rooms and training rooms are available on a variety of terms and conditions. Virtual reception services are available for those clients who continue operate out of a home/office and don't need additional space, only the appearance of a business large enough to require a receptionist.

Starting with two people, \$5000 and an SBA loan, she has grown her business to a staff of 5 and added another 5,000 square feet.

Not content to bask in her success, she has served on numerous boards including NAWBO NNM and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce. She was appointed by Governor Richardson to the Small Business Regulatory Advisor Commission and was a winner at the 2007 Celebration for Excellent Women; she was also one of the Duke City Dozen in 2006.

All this was accomplished while continuing to support her son's school activities including raising money for the Los Amigos de Las Americas program.

Our **Woman Business Owner of the Year** is Deb Austin of Office Alternatives, LLC.

Congratulations to all these winners. They represent the best in our NAWBO chapter and are those people who rarely turn down a chance to make a difference; in NAWBO, in a friend's life, in a client's life or in the community. We are lucky to have such individuals in our chapter.