

Date: Sun, 14 Jun 2009

"P. G. Grodzka" <grodzka@huntsbama.us>

Subject: 09 POY Dinner – Summary – Thanks

The Professional of the Year (POY) dinner Thursday was great! Frank, Nicole and Beverly really did a terrific job with the decorations that set a warm and relaxed atmosphere. The continuing slide show of past HATS events (in recognition of HATS 40th anniversary) that ran all evening evoked a family-like feeling. Woody, Cindi, and Melissa took care of the additional meeting logistics in manners that made for a smoothly flowing and professionally managed program schedule.

Greg Screws (co-anchors WHNT NEWS) was a terrific MC and Dr. Williams (UAH President) delivered an inspiring speech on the importance of networking. ... Hearty applause followed and one fellow even stood to applaud.

LaRonda, Woody, Paul A., and myself rounded up 10 teachers on very short notice to fill a table at the event. Their presence was inspiring and showed as nothing else could one very important benefit of HATS. Every speaker lauded the attending teachers, resulting in hearty applause each time. The teachers too appeared to be inspired by the event. When asked to stand and give their name and their project title some went on about the project itself and how grateful they were to HATS for the grants.

Giving out the certificates proceeded as usual, but the Moquin Award turned out to be somewhat of a sensation. The winner, Jan Phillippe Eiras, was the POY from HASBAT (Huntsville Association of Small Business in Advanced Technology). Those at the HASBAT table were thrilled out of their minds. They and the rest of the audience gave Mr. Eiras a standing ovation, and he delivered an acceptance speech worthy of an Academy Award winner.

Afterwards many expressed to me how much they enjoyed the event. A number also indicated that they would be more active in HATS and STEDTRAIN. One informed me of a donation his organization will be making to STEDTRAIN.

Thanks to Frank Parris, POY Chairman, and to all the others who undertook this challenge on short notice and met it exceedingly well.

Gratefully,
Philomena,
HATS Interim President