



Lisa Hobbs photo

Administrative Professionals Day is set aside to recognize the hard work done behind the scenes by assistants and secretaries. The McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce recognized nominees Wednesday and named Carol Cantrell as

Administrative Professional of the Year. Pictured, from left, are Warren County Executive John Pelham, administrative assistant Carol Cantrell, Chamber president Alicea Weddington, and River Park CEO John McLain.

# Carol Cantrell named county's top administrative assistant

By LISA HOBBS  
Staff Reporter for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tenn.)

Administrative assistant Carol Cantrell was named 2010 Administrative Professional of the Year during a banquet held Wednesday at McMinnville Country Club to honor nominees.

Cantrell, who serves as administrative assistant for Warren County Executive John Pelham, was nominated by Pelham, who presented the award in humorous and heartfelt fashion.

First, Pelham congratulated all the nominees and took the chance to dispel a myth.

"Sometimes it is said, usually in a joking way, that it is a man's world. That's not true," said Pelham. "In fact, my wife, Rhonda, tells me there's a secret club and women are in fact taking the world over. And, I want you to know that you are completely capable of doing that. Without these ladies men, where would we be? I don't want to find out."

In regard to Cantrell, he added, "I have three sisters. I lost one to cancer in 1984. I have two who are still living. One is my blood sister and one is my adopted sister. That's how I feel about this lady from the bottom of my heart."

In his nomination letter, he referred to Cantrell as "truly an asset to our county as she exemplifies professionalism, consistency, and dedication to her work, with a caring and giving spirit everyday, without exception," a "go-to person," and the "glue that allows our government to work effectively."

Cantrell also received a second nomination from Industrial Development Board director Jeff

McCormick.

"She is very efficient and strives to help anyone even if it does not pertain to her job," said McCormick.

River Park CEO John McLain announced the nominees and read some excerpts from the nomination letters.

- Beverly Smith was nominated by McMinnville Police Chief Charlie Sewell as "self-motivated, cross-trained in all aspects of her job, dedicated, and hard working."

- Barbara A. Page, from Security Federal Savings Bank, was nominated by the bank's president Joe H. Pugh. He referred to her as "very loyal, competent, and eager to learn all aspects of banking."

- Cheryl Watson Mingle was nominated by Pam Curlee and the staff at the Senior Center. She is "dedicated, compassionate, knowledgeable in her field of work."

- Andrea Martin was nominated by Jon Flanders of Botanico, Inc. "Andrea prevents trucking disasters before they happen, creates calm out of chaos, and keeps our product moving," said Flanders.

- Rachel Gauger-Byars was

nominated by her employers at Accu-Router, Inc. "She is very detail oriented and excels in finishing tasks. She also is pleasant, energetic, and professional."

- Vanessa Hillis, who works at Martin-Glenn Glass, was nominated by Justin Randolph who says, "She is professional and reliable" and a "team player, timely, confident, works well with public."

- Debbie Sain was nominated by Jason McKay and Debbie Kell from Regions Bank. "Professional, takes ownership, team player, willing to help others at any time," were among the reasons given.

- Rhonda Martin, who works at West Elementary, was nominated by principal Marsha Newman. She is "organized, cheerful, helpful."

- Linda Bost was nominated by Robbie Hitchcock at Dibrell Elementary. "Grace under pressure, her balanced and objective work ethics, and her excellent management skills make her truly invaluable," said Hitchcock.

The event was presented by the Chamber of Commerce as a way to honor administrative assistants and secretaries. River Park Hospital catered the luncheon.

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