

The “Ally Mo” News



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2nd Quarter

June 2010

Quarterly Quotes



*My philosophy is that not only are you responsible for your life, but doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment.....**Oprah Winfrey***

*You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.....**Anonymous***

*Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless....**Mother Theresa***

*Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.....**T.S. Eliot***

If you have a quote you would like to share, please e-mail us at gov_liaison@apasanantonio.com

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Our Newest CPP's & FPC

Congratulations!!!

Anna Corriea – CPP
West Corporation

Amy Gerke – CPP
USAA

Ashley Ingle – CPP
Randolph Brooks FCU

Penny Maasberg – CPP
USAA

Delia Rosas – CPP
Clear Channel

Martha Simpson – CPP
Frost National Bank

Deborah Wilson – FPC
Clear Channel

We are proud of you all!!!!

New Members for 2nd Quarter

Joining us in April
Stacee Chambers – West Corporation

Joining us in May
Shelia Johnston – Johnston Industries, Inc.

Joining us in June
Robin Larson – Guadalupe County

WELCOME!!

APA's Education Grant Award At Annual Congress

The Alamo Chapter's Secretary, Valery A. Noakes, CPP was awarded the American Payroll Association's top Payroll Education Grant on Friday, May 28th during the APA's 28th Annual Congress at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Washington, DC.

The Payroll Education Grants were established by the APA in 1992 to honor its founder and first president, the late Donald W. Sharper, CPP, and are designed to encourage professional growth through APA's payroll training and educational offerings. The grants are presented each year to six outstanding members of the APA in recognition of their professional and personal commitment to continuing education. Valery was selected from a pool of over 50 qualified applicants, the largest number ever submitted.

As the sole recipient of the APA's Complete APA Payroll Training Package, Valery is entitled to:

- Registration, round-trip airfare, and hotel accommodations (up to 5 nights) for the 28th Annual Congress,
- Registration for any or all APA seminars for one year, and
- A complete library of current APA books and publications, plus *PayTrain*® (web-based training).

Michelle Ganzer, CPP, APA's Education Grant Committee Chair, discussed the award and introduced Valery at this year's top recipient. The award certificate was then presented by Dan Maddux, APA Executive Director, and Linda Obertin, CPP, APA President, to Valery before more than 2,000 Congress attendees.



Here is a short segment of Valery's speech presented at Congress:

I am incredibly honored to be selected as the recipient of the 2010 APA Payroll Education Grant established to honor the vision of APA's founder and first president, Donald W. Sharper, CPP. I was lucky to have met him when I first entered the payroll profession and his vision inspired me to embrace payroll as a career instead of just a "job". And his inspiration continues today.

APA's 28th ANNUAL CONGRESS EXPERIENCE

The American Payroll Association (APA) 28th Annual Congress "Pay Heroes" was held at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, from May 25th through May 29th. Congress is the largest educational conference that brings together payroll and accounts payable professionals and offers over 170 workshops in the fields of payroll, accounts payable, finance, HR, and benefits.



On Tuesday, Pre-Congress kicked off. Two workshop sessions were held in the morning that offered 10 different topics each. The luncheon entertainment was a return of "The View on Payroll – The Continuing Evolution" where a panel of five experienced leaders offered informative insights into the trends and best practices that are shaping the payroll profession. Five topics were offered during the Power Hour Workshop Session following lunch. The final workshop session of Pre-Congress offered another 10 topics, including "2009 Workforce Management/Performance Study Results". AC-APA Secretary, Valery Noakes CPP co-presented that workshop with Brian Koniuk from The Hackett Group and discussed her company results in last year's study.

The Congress experience began on Tuesday with the Opening General Session following Pre-Congress Workshop Session 3. Pre-show musical entertainment was provided by Sam Tsui and the Duke's Men, an a cappella group from Yale University. Executive Director Dan Maddux, Past-President Dennis Danilewicz, CPP and incoming President Linda Obertin, CPP officially opened Congress. The keynote speaker was retired Naval Captain Charlie Plumb presenting "Tough Choices in Challenging Times". His message paralleled his P.O.W. experience in Vietnam to the daily challenges we face and provided hope and inspiration to attendees.

On Wednesday, three more Workshop Sessions were held. At the luncheon, our own Chapter members, Bernita Helberg, CPA, CPP and Don Barham, CPP were stars of the APA's video on the value of FPC & CPP certification. They both did an excellent job and we are so proud and honored to have our own members on the "big screen".



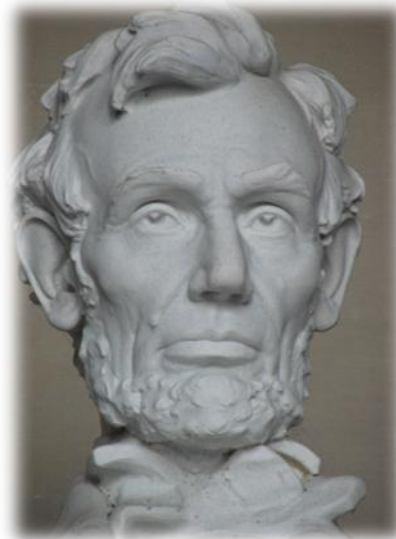
The 2010 Payroll Man and Woman of the Year Awards were announced, followed by the 2010 APA Chapter of the Year Awards. The Alamo Chapter again received Honorable Mention for our Chapter of the Year submission. Luncheon entertainment was provided by the Capitol Steps with "The Lighter Side of Politics" filled with bipartisan lampooning of our elected officials. During the Chapter Exchange, the Alamo Chapter also received 2nd place for the Chapter Pictorial Contest. (Great job to Board members Karen Brown and Cecilia Settle for all their hard work preparing the pictorial

presentation!) Containing over 100 vendors, the largest Expo had its Grand Opening that afternoon followed by the “Super Hero Supper” and Dessert Extravaganza.

The fun and learning continued on Thursday with three more Workshop Sessions throughout the day. During the General Session, Commissioner Douglas Shulman of the IRS gave the government address followed by the keynote speaker, Adam West (yes, the original Batman) presenting “Not All Heroes Wear Tights” who proclaimed that payroll works are the REAL heroes. A networking luncheon was held in the Expo as well as the Cocktail Reception after the final workshop session. The evening ended with the Pay Heroes “Ka-Pow!” Party and costume contest.

On Friday, two more Workshop Sessions were held. At the Awards Luncheon, the 2010 Meritorious Service, Special Recognition, Government Partner, and Industry Partner Awards were presented. The APA, Global Cash Card, and Kronos Payroll Education Grants were also awarded and Chapter Secretary, Valery Noakes, CPP, was the recipient of the top award from APA. See separate article. The day closed with a General Session. Assistant Director Mark Eichorn, Federal Trade Commission, discussed the importance of privacy and identity protection and data security as related to the payroll profession. The session closed with keynote speaker Kim Snider and her topic “Don’t Waste This Crisis – How to Thrive in the Midst of Economic Meltdown”.

Saturday morning finished up the final two Workshop Sessions before officially ending at Noon. AC-APA members attending were Christy Witzel, CPP – President, Harland Clarke Corp ; Valery Noakes, CPP – Secretary, Tesoro Companies, Inc.; Don Barham, CPP, Clear Channel Communications; Rosie Morales, CPP, Harland Clarke Corp.; and Narlen Morales, CPP – Valero Energy Corp.



National Education Day



**MasterCard Money Matters
National Education Day
September 9, 2010**



Become a Volunteer!

Help the American Payroll Association promote financial literacy by volunteering for MasterCard Money Matters National Education Day! Volunteers will teach more teens than ever before thanks to MasterCard Worldwide's exclusive sponsorship of Money Matters National Education Day 2010. Helping our kids understand their money has never been easier. All volunteer instructors receive an easy-to-use lesson plan and worksheets (for each student) to teach students at local high schools or youth groups about their paychecks, electronic payment methods like direct deposit and paycards, and the payroll withholding system.

Compliance Update

Provided by TALX

2010 Unemployment Taxable Wage Base

Situation

A "taxable wage base" is the annual amount of wages paid by an employer to an employee that are subjected to certain employment taxes. Wage base limits are reviewed and adjusted annually. There are three primary employment taxes which are impacted by a wage limit – FICA, FUTA, and state unemployment tax (SUI). For 2010, the Social Security portion of FICA wages up to \$106,800 (same as 2009) will be subject to tax and paid by both the employee and the employer. FUTA taxes are paid by employers on the first \$7,000 of taxable wages. State unemployment taxes are employer-paid taxes and the amount of wages subject to tax varies by state. Employers must consider wage base changes as they budget for 2010 employment tax costs.

Solution

Many states have recently published 2010 unemployment taxable wage base limits (see below).

State	Wage Base	State	Wage Base	State	Wage Base
AK	<i>\$34,100</i>	LA	<i>\$7,700</i>	OK	<i>\$14,900</i>
AL	\$8,000	MA	\$14,000	OR	<i>\$32,100</i>
AR	<i>\$12,000</i>	MD	\$8,500	PA	\$8,000
AZ	\$7,000	ME	\$12,000	PR	\$7,000
CA	\$7,000	MI	\$9,000	RI	<i>\$19,000</i>
CO	\$10,000	MN	<i>\$27,000</i>	SC	\$7,000
CT	\$15,000	MO	<i>\$13,000</i>	SD	<i>\$10,000</i>
DC	\$9,000	MS	\$7,000	TN	\$9,000
DE	\$10,500	MT	<i>\$26,000</i>	TX	\$9,000
FL	<i>\$8,500</i>	NC	<i>\$19,700</i>	UT	<i>\$28,300</i>
GA	\$8,500	ND	<i>\$24,700</i>	VA	\$8,000
HI	<i>\$38,800</i>	NE	\$9,000	VI	<i>\$22,200</i>
IA	<i>\$24,500</i>	NH	<i>\$10,000</i>	VT	<i>\$10,000</i>
ID	<i>\$33,300</i>	NJ	<i>\$29,700</i>	WA	<i>\$36,800</i>
IL	<i>\$12,520</i>	NM	<i>\$20,800</i>	WI	\$12,000
IN	<i>\$9,500</i>	NV	<i>\$27,000</i>	WV	\$12,000
KS	\$8,000	NY	\$8,500	WY	<i>\$22,800</i>
KY	\$8,000	OH	\$9,000	FUTA	\$7,000

Red Italics – Denotes increase in the unemployment taxable wage base over 2009

Blue Italics – Denotes decrease in the unemployment taxable wage base over 2009

2010 Alamo Chapter Sponsor

Alamo Sponsor



Alamo Chapter Calendar

Monthly Luncheon

JULY 15, 2010

Glen Hilton

Topic: Juggling, lion taming + Contortionism...essential payroll service skills

AUGUST 19, 2010

Mike Mohr and Scott Bankart - TALX

Topic: Unemployment Tax Management- Recent Updates

SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

National Payroll Week Celebration

Texas Payroll Conference



September 15-18, 2010

Conference Information

Companies are actively searching for ways to reduce spending that impacts their budgets. They want a huge return on investments they make. Employees ARE an investment. So companies are looking for the best ways to invest in their employees while at the same time receiving a significant return on that investment.

Training allows for employees to enhance their performance, increase their value to their employer, and improve their personal marketability. A trained employee is an asset to the employer. If that personal asset is also cognizant of ways to improve his or her performance while reducing the impact on the budget, that enhances their position in a company.

Bringing a training opportunity to your employer that provides not only value but is fairly priced – doubles your success at obtaining approval. The Texas Payroll Conference (TPC) gives you both! For the 18 RCH Credits received at TPC, you receive quality training at an affordable price.

Both you and your employer will be glad you did!!

We look forward to seeing you at The Woodlands Waterway Marriott, The Woodlands, Texas, for the Payroll event of the year!



Karen's Wonder-full World!

Welcome to Karen's Wonder-full World. Each issue I will share stories, trivia, puzzles or maybe even pictures in the hopes of showing that we truly do live in a World Full of Wonder.

This issue I want to ask you a question.....Do you have a maildrop? I know it sounds odd but it truly is relevant.

I mentioned several months ago that my first "real" job was writing bill of materials (BOM) for a manufacturing company in Oklahoma City. I did this for 10 years. These BOM's were used to calculate the cost of making the product which generated the selling price. It also aided in inventory and when to reorder the raw materials or the in-process materials along the manufacturing process. I would go out into the plant and observe and note how each product was made, from the raw material to the finished packaged product. During those 10 years, I modified, reviewed or wrote from scratch the BOM for every product they made and there were several thousands.

I was considered office staff, but my work took me out into the plant every day. I weighed, measured, counted and clocked each step to make the product. Now, there were some employees in the plant that didn't like me much, they called me "Easy Money". This bothered me tremendously. There actually came a time when I realized I was envious of them. You see, they worked in the maildrop department. I thought about it and when I came to this envious conclusion my thought was that at the end of the day they could hold that maildrop in their hands and say "I made this!" They had something physical to show for their labor.

It wasn't until I completed my very first BOM on a brand new product that the light bulb went off. I was walking through the plant holding my big print out (some of you may remember the green bar printer paper from way back) that it hit me. "This is my maildrop, I made this!" At that time I became extremely proud of my work and the purpose it represented.

I even got a giggle, when after I left and went to another company, I was asked to come back to work on converting the BOMs to the new Oracle system. [If you are reading this, send me an email with this code "SMED#1" by July 13 to be entered into a drawing for a special gift.] This required writing them again too. One day I went to the department that packaged the fasteners for all of the products to make sure we had the correct number of screws in the package for the item I was working on. An employee pulled out a sheet of yellow legal paper in a sheet protector with all of the fastener packages and what went into them and said "Here, this is what we go by". Lo and behold it was my handwriting from over 10 years earlier! I felt honored.

When I began processing payroll, I got the same little excited butterfly feeling when I finished a payroll process. I was proud of myself and I still tell myself that this is my maildrop. I may not have a print out or anything physical to hold in my hand, but it's still my maildrop.

So I will ask again. Do you have a maildrop?

NPW Puzzle by Karen Brown

C Z V B E C T R E T P A H C O M A L A Y D
V E D U C A T I O N R T R P M I E A G F M
O S L U D G U I D U T E H F S A K P Y R D
L E C E O H S N I L E S N O O L L A B X Y
I E H W B J T D S T U R B R B F P V S T B
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D R S X S T A U T S E T N O C D A N Y H R
O E S Z E H L T A S G T L E G A U B L E O
O A A H R O M Y E R G A A U A M K L Y A C
F G N E V E L M A D A M J R M C R E A L L
T N A T I O N A L P A Y R O L L W E E K A
A G N M C E D I C M E E C S T E Y A R T M
E D T T E O N D N D I N D E M L H U R P A
R Y O E B S H U D E C O R A T I O N S R T
G S N J N C O T I M T M K L S J Y T T E I
P E I G F M D R G S P W F C N U D I S K O
R V O S Y A K V E F N L O S G Z R B A D N
O B D L W L N Z D U V N Q R M P H V O E S
F A L A N O I S S E F O R P K S A G E N O
L A F R T R G D N M C A R H E W K I U Y F
T H S U P P O R T W S U B E H T F F U T S

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Alamo Chapter | <input type="checkbox"/> Money Matters |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Cake | <input type="checkbox"/> Prizes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Celebrate | <input type="checkbox"/> Proclamations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional |
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