

The "Ally Mo" News



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3rd Quarter

September 2009

Quarterly Quotes



*Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves... **Carl Jung***

*Whenever there is a hard job to be done, I assign it to a lazy man; he is sure to find an easy way of doing it... **Walter Chrysler***

*When you dance, your purpose is not to get to a certain place on the floor. It's to enjoy each step along the way... **Wayne Dyer***

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

3rd Quarter New Members

Liz Coleman
Whataburger Restaurants

Javier Guerrero
Pioneer Drilling Services

Maria Guerra
Injury Sciences

Randy Moore
Robert Half Financing

Martha Simpson
Frost National Bank

Deanna Perez
Pioneer Drilling Services

Jenna Mayer
Frost National Bank

Norma LeVan
Argo Group US

Karen Steinbring
Rod East Volkswagen

Lee P. Whetherhult
Self Employed

Dora Cantu
Arts Center Enterprises

Santiago Serra
Whataburger Restaurants

Sharon Haley
CCC Group, Inc

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

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National Payroll Week Celebration

September 7-11, 2009

National Payroll Week celebrates the hard work by America's 156 million wage earners and the payroll professionals who pay them. Together, through the payroll withholding system, they contribute, collect, report and deposit approximately \$1.8 trillion, or 65.7%, of the annual revenue of the U.S. Treasury.

The Alamo Chapter of the American Payroll Association celebrated National Payroll Week with a fun-filled luncheon on September 10, 2009 with Payroll Jeopardy, cake, prizes, and a complete celebration of the payroll profession!

Alamo Chapter NPW Celebration



NPW Cake



NPW Jeopardy Game Winners!



2009 Texas Payroll Conference

By Valerie Noakes

The Texas Payroll Conference (TPC) is an annual statewide conference with approximately 300-400 attendees from Texas and surrounding states. In 2009, the 20th Anniversary TPC was held September 15th-19th at the Westin La Cantera Hotel and Resort in San Antonio, Texas. Participants were offered five general sessions led by keynote speakers and were able to personalize their development and educational needs with 47 top-quality payroll-related workshops plus the largest statewide Exhibit Hall featuring over 40 vendors.



In 2009, the Alamo Chapter of the American Payroll Association supported TPC by providing a Hospitality Booth to the conference. The Hospitality Booth was manned by Chapter volunteers and was open to attendees starting on Tuesday the 15th. The Alamo Chapter gave attendees several AC-APA items inside of their drawstring backpack plus a coupon for a door prize drawing. The Hospitality Booth table also displayed brochures on the Chapter, "Things to Do in San Antonio", the San Antonio Travel & Leisure magazine, discount coupons for attractions, maps and much more.



The Chapter also hosted a booth in the Exhibit Hall themed "Celebrate San Antonio." The booth was manned by Alamo Chapter Board members and volunteers and was decorated in "FIESTA" – a colorful Mexican blanket, piñata and other San Antonio-themed decorations graced the table.

A total of 39 Alamo Chapter members were scheduled to attend this year's conference. Attendees were: Dana Mirabelli, CPP – President; Valery Noakes, CPP – Public Relations Officer; Elvira Cervantes, CPP – Membership Officer; Stephanie Garcia – Government Liaison; Karen Brown, CPP – Speaker Coordinator; Jennifer Cordes, CPP; Christie Whitted, CPP; David Anes, CPP; Risa Lundquist, CPP; Rebecca Lynch, CPP; Lorraine Hellums, CPP; Bernita Helberg, CPA, CPP; Don Barham, CPP; Angie Reyna; Peggy Nolan; Lisa Jimenez, CPP; Bridgette Leopold; Delia Rosas; Diana Roensch; Renee Kierstead; Rachel Thompson; Patty Privett; Sharon Garis, CPP; Sharon Haley; Stacey McAllister; Tiffany Anderson; Kim Marshall, CPP; Pam Marshall, CPP; Michele Mozuch; Margaret DeLeon, CPP; Karina Lopez, CPP; Mary Quintanilla; Lisa Jimenez, CPP; Gloria Schillo Autrey, CPP; Diane Kilborn, CPP; Emma Jackson, CPP; Irene Ochoa, CPP; Rosalie Lozano, CPP; and Barbara Biri, CPA, CPP. Two of our members served on this year's Board of Directors for the Texas Payroll Conference -- Valery Noakes, CPP – Volunteer Chair; and Risa Lundquist, CPP – Board Advisor. Three of our members were conference speakers – Bernita Helberg, CPP, CPA; Gloria Schillo Autrey, CPP; and Valery Noakes, CPP.

The conference opened on Wednesday afternoon with a pre-conference opening and general session on "ID Theft Watch". Six pre-conference workshops followed and the evening ended with an Exhibitor Reception in the Exhibit Hall from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Thursday's opening general session presented the keynote speaker, Marilyn Sherman. Marilyn is a well-known author and speaker and her dynamic presentation "Why Settle for the Balcony? How to Get a Front-Row Seat in Life!" certainly encouraged all attendees to take action. Three milestones of six workshops each followed with lunch served in the Exhibit Hall. The Alamo Chapter sponsored a "cocktail hour" get-together at the Westin La Cantera for members and guests on Thursday from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. The turnout was great and everyone enjoyed appetizers, libations and the opportunity to chat. The day officially ended with a candlelight "Chocolate and Champagne" celebration in the Westin's Emily's Rose Garden at 9 p.m. Attendees were able to view past conference memorabilia while sipping champagne and nibbling on Dove chocolates.

Friday's opening general session was an awards breakfast and ceremony at the Westin's San Saba area. Attendees were seated al fresco at tables decorated elegantly and everyone received a TimeLink "spooner mug" containing the awards ceremony program and TPC history. Past Presidents and Texas Payroll Professionals of the Year (TPPY) were recognized and each awarded a flower bouquet. The Premier Volunteer, Special Recognition, TPPY and Special Friends awards were also presented. Three milestones of six workshops each followed with lunch served in the Exhibit Hall.

The Friday Night Gala was held at the Westin La Cantera Hotel and Resort. Everyone was encouraged to dress in formal or "after-five" attire. Attendees enjoyed a plated steak or chicken dinner, music, and dancing.

On Saturday, William Dunn, CPP with APA provided a Legislative Update for all attendees and the Closing Session featured Patrick Henry, as the keynote speaker and entertainer. His topic on "Keeping Your Team in Tune" was full of music, laughter, and educational.

See you next year for the Texas Payroll Conference in The Woodland, TX, September 15-18, 2010!

Compliance Update

Social Security Wage Base Remains at \$106,800 in 2010

The Social Security Administration (SSA) announced on Thursday, October 15, 2009, that the 2010 social security wage base will be \$106,800, unchanged from 2009. As in prior years, there is no limit to the wages subject to the Medicare tax; therefore all covered wages are still subject to the 1.45% tax.

The FICA tax rate, which is the combined social security tax rate of 6.2% and the Medicare tax rate of 1.45%, remains at 7.65% for 2010. The maximum social security tax employees and employers will each pay in 2010 is \$6,621.60. This is unchanged from the 2009 maximum.

The social security wage base for self-employed individuals in 2010 will also be \$106,800. There is no limit on covered self-employment income that will be subject to the Medicare tax. The self-employment tax rate remains 15.3% (combined social security tax rate of 12.4% and Medicare tax rate of 2.9%). In 2010, the maximum social security tax for a self-employed individual will be \$13,243.20. This is unchanged from the 2009 maximum.

Source – American Payroll Association, 2009

FICA coverage threshold unchanged for domestic, election workers

The threshold for coverage under social security and Medicare for domestic employees will be \$1,700 in 2010, unchanged from 2009; the coverage threshold for election workers will be \$1,500 in 2010, also unchanged from 2009.

Source – American Payroll Association, 2009

EITC Notice Requirements Established

Effective 9-1-09, Texas employers must provide information by March 1 each year to all employees regarding the general eligibility requirements for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The information must be provided to employees: (1) in person; (2) electronically at the employee's last known e-mail address; (3) through a flyer included, in writing or electronically, as a payroll stuffer; (4) by first class mail to the employee's last known address. An employer may not satisfy this requirement solely by posting information in the place of employment. In addition to the information required above, an employer may provide federal forms or publications related to the EITC or information prepared by the Texas Comptroller [H.B. 2360, L. 2009]

Source – American Payroll Association, Payroll Currently Volume 17, Issue#16

Preparing for Year-End and 2010

Reduce the risk of noncompliance penalties with this information-packed, one-day class specifically addressing the complex compliance issues of year-end payroll processing. *Preparing for Year-End and 2010* brings you up to date on the latest changes in legislation and regulations that affect the close of 2009 and the beginning of 2010.

Topics

- Year-end processing tips
- Year-end forms
- Fringe benefit taxation and reporting
- Implementing new tax laws and regulations

Who Should Attend

Payroll, human resources, systems, accounting, and finance professionals responsible for payroll operations and involved in year-end processing.

Sign up today at <http://www.americanpayroll.org>

Alamo Chapter Calendar

Monthly Luncheon

OCTOBER 15, 2009	Shawn Badger – Paperless Pay Corporation Topic: <u>Online Pay Statements</u>
NOVEMBER 19, 2009	Mike Ruf - ADP Topic: <u>Team Building</u>
DECEMBER 10, 2009	Steve Hodgson – American Payroll Association Topic: <u>Year-End Legislative Update</u>

2009 Alamo Chapter Sponsors

Alamo Sponsor



Riverwalk Sponsor



Bluebonnet Sponsor

