

Member Spotlight

This quarter the member spotlight is on Sandra (Sandy) Selvidge, CPP. You all know her smiling face. She is the current Alamo Chapter President.

Sandy has worked at KCI USA, Inc. since 1989. She started out in Accounts Payable and moved to Payroll in 1990. Sandy processed Payroll for KCI until she was promoted to Supervisor in December of 1997. The Payroll Supervisor position then became divided in 2005 into different parts and Sandy took on the role of the Payroll Tax Accountant. Today she is responsible for all payroll related tax returns and provides additional support to the Payroll Department whenever needed.

Sandy has been married to husband Michael for 15 years and has two girls and two boys. She passed the CPP examination in April of 1999.

Sandy joined the Local chapter of the American Payroll Association in 1998 and in 2001 joined the board as the Government Liaison. She served as the President Elect for the 2002-2003 board and became President in 2004. During Sandy's time as president the chapter has gone through many positive changes such as:

- Incorporating and changing the chapter's name to The Alamo Chapter of the American Payroll Association.
- Offering two seminars per year to our members instead of just the fall seminar.
- Moving location for our monthly meetings to Dave & Busters.
- Updating the chapter's website and receiving an award for the best website at the National Congress.
- Offering members on-line payment options when registering for any chapter functions.

Sandy and her current board of directors have made a difference for our chapter.



Recognition of Payroll Professionals during National Payroll Week

National Payroll week was September 5th through the 9th. The Alamo Chapter NPW committee worked very hard to ensure that Payroll Professionals were recognized in and around the San Antonio area.

Below are a few ways that Payroll Professionals and the Alamo Chapter were recognized during NPW:

- Radio announcements were aired all week on the following radio stations: KCYY-FM, KELZ-FM, KISS-FM, KKYX-AM, KONO-FM, KSMG-FM.
- Rolling advertisement on the Marquee at San Pedro and 410 showing: "National Payroll Week, September 5 – 9, 2005. America works because...We're working for America".
- The Alamo Chapter received proclamations from the mayor in the cities of San Antonio, Windcrest, and Schertz.
- The Alamo Chapter of the American Payroll Association's name appeared on the scoreboard at the San Antonio Missions game and the chapter was recognized during the game.
- Organized a membership drive that concluded in the August meeting.
- Celebrated NPW at the August meeting with cake and each meeting attendee received the chapter's new mascot Armadillo to still be named in our "Name the Dillo" contest.

Our sincere thanks to the Alamo Chapter NPW Committee member for all of their hard work!

NPW Committee Chair: Emma Jackson, CPP

Committee Members:

Christy Witzel, CPP

Melissa Perez

Sharon Garis, CPP

Stephanie Fraga, CPP

Jan Peterson

Christie Whitted, CPP

Texas Payroll Conference

Submitted by Valery Noakes, CPP

The 16th annual Texas Payroll Conference was held September 1-3rd at the luxurious Gaylord Texan Hotel, Grapevine, Texas. This year, over 400 attendees from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana registered to attend and 168 were first-time attendees. Participants received top-quality educational workshops and general sessions – Legislative Update, Texas Pay Day Law, plus 48 other payroll-related topics – plus an Exhibit Hall featuring over 40 vendors.

From the Alamo Chapter, attendees were Sandra Selvidge CPP– President, Valery Noakes CPP – President-Elect, Christie Whitted CPP– Treasurer, Gloria Schillo CPP– Secretary, Bernita Helberg CPP, CPA– Public Relations, Jennifer Cordes – Speaker Coordinator, Emma Jackson CPP, Christy Witzel, Angie Reyna, Debra Norris, Valerie Fischer CPP, Michelle Schroder, and Melissa Perez.

The Alamo Chapter also sponsored a portion of TPC as a Bronze sponsor and had a booth in the Exhibit Hall decorated in the Western theme. Our “eye-popping ponies” were the hit of the Hall!



The Friday night event, “Wranglers ‘N Ropers” was held at the nearby Austin Ranch. Attendees enjoyed an evening of BBQ and “boot scootin”. Several members even tried the limbo contest. Six workshop sessions featuring eight topics per session were available. Topics ranged from Tips & Tricks for Excel Users to Multi-State Payroll. Valery Noakes, CPP, presented two different sessions; One-Person Payroll Department and California Update -- A Golden Opportunity.

Donations were collected to aid Hurricane Katrina victims and to support the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. On Friday, a 6am Walk for the Cure around the Gaylord Texan was held. In addition, attendees donated water and toiletries from their hotel rooms for the Star of Hope Mission in Houston, plus \$448 in cash. The Friday luncheon speaker, Bryan Dodge, sold his boxed set of motivational tapes to the attendees and \$50 of that price will be donated to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts – over \$5,000 was donated during the conference and those funds were matched \$1 for \$1 by a Dallas company.

TPC closed on Saturday with Dan Maddux, Executive Director of the APA, as our closing speaker. Dan spoke on the benefits of membership in the APA and local chapters as well as provided updates on APA’s training and services.

Next year’s TPC will be held at The Woodlands on September 21-23, 2006. Mark your calendars

Statutory Updates

IRS Increases Mileage Rates After Gas Prices Spike

One direct result of Hurricane Katrina has been a spike in the price of gasoline due to curtailed production in and around the Gulf of Mexico.

Because of this unprecedented increase, on September 9 the IRS increased the business standard mileage rate from 40.5 cents to 48.5 cents for all business miles driven from September 1 through December 31, 2005.

The medical and relocation expense mileage rate has increased from 15 cents to 22 cents for that same four-month period. Later in the year, the IRS will take another look at the factors that determine the mileage rates before announcing the rates for 2006 [IR-2005-99, 9-9-05].

Hurricane Katrina Information on APA's Web Site

Since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on August 29, federal and state agencies have responded by providing relief and assistance in several areas related to payroll, including delaying income and employment tax depositing and reporting deadlines, making extra efforts to get child support payments to custodial parents who have relocated, and providing disaster-related unemployment assistance.

The American Payroll Association, through its volunteer committees, has worked with those agencies to assist with their disaster response efforts.

As part of this effort, APA has gathered much of the payroll-related disaster relief information and included it on the APA Web site at www.americanpayroll.org/news/hurricane.html. There you will learn about a delay in the filing deadline for the third quarter Form 941 for employers affected by the hurricane, how you can help child support agencies in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi by providing information about custodial parents who have relocated, and a relaxation of the Form I-9 documentation requirements for relocated evacuees that you want to hire, among other news.

National American Payroll Association

Upcoming Meetings

Mark your calendars for the upcoming chapter meetings:

- Wednesday, September 21
Joshua M. Schechter, Online Business Services
Payroll Provider vs. In House, Pros and Cons.
- Wednesday, October 19
Greg Nix, IRS EP Customer Education & Outreach Analyst
Employee Benefit Plans
- Wednesday, November 15**
Angela Sanchez, Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison & Tate
Employment Law – White Collar Crimes
- Wednesday, December 14
Jim Medlock, American Payroll Association
Year End Legislative Update

**Meeting date changed

Other Events:

- Wednesday, September 21, 2005
Officer nominations.
- Wednesday, October 19, 2005
Officer Elections.
- Wednesday, October 26, 2005
“Texas Best “ Seminar
Dave & Buster’s

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