

Chicago Chapter - APA

November 2009
Volume 3, Issue 11

Newsletter of the Chicago Chapter of the American Payroll Association

2009 Calendar

January
No Meeting

February
7- CPP Review Class
19-Chapter Meeting
A Strong Career
21- CPP Review Class

March
7- CPP & FPC
Review Class
21--CPP & FPC
Review Class

April
4- CPP & FPC
Review Class
11-CPP Review Class
22- Payroll Frequency
Changes & direct Deposit

May
19-23 - 27th Annual
Congress,
Long Beach. CA

June
12 - Chapter Meeting
Garnishments
27-28-Relay for Life
Westchester

July
16 - OTSC Camp evening
18- Volunteer Meeting

August
20 - Chapter Meeting
Tax Day All Day
Meeting
Officer Elections

September
6-11 National Payroll
Week Celebration
10- NPW Legoland

October
8-9-- 16th Annual
Illinois Statewide
29-Chapter Meeting
Preparing For Year End
31 -Greater Food Depository

November
7- Holiday Party

Official newsletter of
the Chicago Chapter

Building on a Solid Foundation



Welcome!

As we enter the most hectic season for our profession, we pause to give thanks for all the year has provided. As of this newsletter our educational meetings are completed for the year. On November 7, 2009 we will gather to recognize the invaluable support from vendors, volunteers and presenters. The long time support and guidance from past Chapter presidents, Sue Darring, CPP, Emily Rook, CPP and Jenny Provenzano, CPP will be celebrated in Lifetime Membership awards.

Amongst the blessings for our Chapter was the honor bestowed on us for the first time in receiving the American Payroll Association, Chapter of the Year award. Under the great leadership of past president, Christine O'Hara, CPP our professional peers across the country voted our achievements in 2008 deserved this prestigious honor. The December edition of Paytech Magazine will feature the Chicago Chapter's accomplishments.

If you still would like to join the Chapter in counting our blessings at the Holiday Event, just email the Chapter mailbox at chicago_chapter_apahotmail.com We will be gathering for dinner, cocktails, recognitions and celebrations at Manzo's Banquets in Des Plaines.

In true Chicago fashion, we education, appreciate and celebrate. Join us and be a part of this festive evening and see what surprises we have planned. Special guest APA President Dennis Danilewicz, CPP will be joining us in or celebration, along with some surprise special guests!! Hope to see you there.

Annual Holiday Event! Saturday, November 7, 2009

This years Holiday and Recognition Event holds a special meaning of "Thanks" & Celebration as we Celebrate the highest honor from APA
The COTY!
Make plans to attend an evening that recognizes chapter supporters, presenters and members!

Special Guest & Recognition Presenter:

**APA President
Dennis Danilewicz, CPP**

**Dinner, Awards and Entertainment!
at
Manzo's
1571 S. Elmhurst Rd
Des Plaines, Illinois
Invites have been mailed!
Deadline has been extended
RSVP by November 4, 2009**

Last Chapter Meeting of 2009

The final chapter meeting was hosted by Kronos Inc on October 29, 2009. Special thanks to Marc Epner and Connie Strands for their hospitality to our Chapter. We appreciate our ongoing relationship with Kronos. Presenter, Nancy Parkinson, CPP from Huron Inc, provided our 46 attendees with valuable year end information. Through the sharing of her knowledge and experiences our attendees are better equipped to handle the demands of year end.



2009 Chapter Officers

President
Mary Kazmierczak, CPP

Vice President
Paula Black, CPP

Recording Secretary
Kathy Mizejewski, CPP

Treasurer
Hank Mazik, CPP

Gov. Liaison
Open Position

Correspondence Secretary
Mary Weiner, CPP

Education Director
Katie Staffeldt, CPP

CAPA COG

Off the Street Club - Education Assistance Award



At the October our chapter members supported the Educational Assistance Award Program through participation in a 50/50 Raffle for the Off the Street Club. To date the fund has \$329.00 The EAA will be presented at our Holiday event on November 7, 2009. The Chicago Chapter will be matching the proceeds from the raffle and donations. Thank you to all that participated in the success of this initiative. Through your support a brighter future is on the horizon for the recipient of the award.

We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men.
~Herman Melville

Supporting our Troops , Veterans and Fallen Soldiers

The Chapter has been communicating with the local USO office and reviewing different outreach opportunities. We are currently looking into ways to support the troops through the USO "United through Reading" program. This program collects children's books for the soldiers to read while being recorded and have that recording sent to the children at home to view via DVD. Books and magazines are also collected for the soldiers.

The other opportunity is to share our time and create care packages that are provided to deployed soldiers. "Enduring Care Packages" program provides a variety of kits for the soldiers. The program also provides kits for soldiers on R & R, and special children's kits for families that lose their loved ones. We will be volunteering in December. Watch for details and an invite the middle of November and in the next newsletter.



Chicago Food Depository Day - October 31, 2009 1st Annual Travis Darring Day

We dedicated this day in honor of Travis Darring, loving husband of Susan Darring, CPP.

On Halloween morning, 11 chapter members and friends wore aprons and chefs hats to volunteer to make bags of food for hungry kids in the city of Chicago. The aprons had Travis' picture on them, thanks to the hard work of Katie and Keith Staffeldt. Sue Darring and Chris O'Hare were the official "bag ladies" of the day. The remainder of the volunteers; Marcus Darring, Margaret Yakush, Laurel White, Mary Kazmierczak, Mary Weiner, Kim Childress, Rachel Brooks, Keith and Katie Staffeldt were "replenishers". We worked with volunteers from other organizations to fill bags with raisin bran cereal, granola bars, crackers, peanuts, cans of tuna fish salad, chocolate milk drink and apple sauce. We worked for 3 hours and made up 1840 bags.

We would like to thank everyone who donated canned goods at the meetings, everyone who participated in this event and especially Cliff Whitman at Edward Don for donating the aprons and chef hats to the chapter for this event. And we would like to thank Katie Staffeldt for putting together this event. We plan on making this an annual event.

Ongoing Outreach Opportunity

The Chapter continues to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Tabs can be brought to any Chapter meeting or event or mailed to us at:

Chicago Chapter
4740 N. Cumberland Ave #355
Chicago Illinois 60656

Do you have an organization held dear in your heart that you would like the chapter to support? E-mail us at chicago_chapter_apa@hotmail.com

**Upcoming
Chapter Meetings**

June 12

Garnishments

*One O'Hare Center
6250 N. River Road
Rosemont IL 60018
8:30 a.m. – Noon*

Continental Breakfast
8:30 am

June 27-28

6:00 pm-6:00 am

Relay for Life

American Cancer
Society
Westchester

July

Volunteer Meeting

TBD

August 20

9:00 am-4:00 pm

Tax Day

Officer Elections
Continental Breakfast
8:30 am
White Eagle Banquet

**NPW Celebration
September 9**

Lego Land
Schaumburg

October 29

9:00-12:30 pm

**Preparing For Year
End**

Kronos Corp

November 7

Holiday Party

Manzo's Banquets

1571 S. Elmhurst Rd
Des Plaines IL 60018

GOVERNMENT CORNER

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services - New Hire Reporting

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services would like to offer the Chicago Chapter of the American Payroll Association an opportunity to partner in providing information regarding the Federal New Hire Reporting law to small business members.

New Hire Reporting is the most successful means for locating parents, establishing orders and collecting child support. With your assistance, we hope to inform your members about the new hire reporting process, and how to accurately and efficiently report their new hires. There have been many recent enhancements and improvements to the Illinois New Hire Reporting website. Your members will be interested in knowing about the new options to report their new hires (see "Illinois Child Support Enforcement - New Hire Reporting Home page" link below for more information).

We have many tools to provide information to your members. We can provide your organization with handbooks (see "Employer Handbook" link below for an online version), a script for an email blast or newsletter, webinars or in-person presentations.

Please feel free to contact us about how you would like us to present this information to your members. Thank you for your assistance in helping to provide child support to the children of Illinois.

Sincerely,

Nicole Ferguson
New Hire Outreach and Compliance Specialist
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Phone: 800.525.8303

Fax: 866.291.2598



**Holiday Event a time for formal
Recognition**

Dennis Danilewicz, CPP the American Payroll Association 2009 President will be joining us at the Holiday Event on November 7, 2009. Dennis and the Board will be formally inducting two members, Jenny Provenzano, CPP and Emily Rook, CPP with The Chapter Lifetime Membership Award. Jenny and Emily have displayed exceptional leadership as past presidents to the chapter and been recognized through the APA for their dedication and accomplishments on a national level. Currently the Chapter has one member with the Lifetime Member status, Sue Darring, CPP our Chapter founder and first President.

The Chapter will be celebrating our success as Chapter of the Year, with many additional awards and recognitions.

**Social Security for Wounded Warriors--
Webinar Reminder**

Don't forget to join Social Security on November 4, 2009 at 2 p.m. EST to learn about our disability programs and the expedited processing of disability claims available to our country's Wounded Warriors. The total length of the webinar will be about one hour and will include an opportunity to ask questions.

We also ask that you submit any questions you may have about these benefits and we will try to incorporate your questions into the webinar. To do so, simply go to www.socialsecurity.gov/survey/woundedwarriorsquestions.htm.

Please let us know if you'll be joining us! You can RSVP at www.socialsecurity.gov/survey/woundedwarriorsrsvp.htm . If you have already done so, thank you!

Mailing Address:

Chicago Chapter
APA
4740 N Cumberland
#355
Chicago, IL 60656

Phone:

(773) 631-8480
{24-hr. Recording}

E-mail :

[Chicago_Chapter_ap
a@hotmail.com](mailto:Chicago_Chapter_ap
a@hotmail.com)

**Come Join in the
Building of our Chapter!**

***"Teamwork divides the task and multiplies
the success." ~Author Unknown***

If you would like to join our extended board family, as a committee member, we welcome your energy and vision! Committees are being formed in the following areas:

COG- Chapter Outreach Group - members will work on community and charitable outreach events

Educational Committee- Arrange and/or present at schools, youth and adult organizations on the importance of education and providing knowledge and clear expectations about their paycheck. As well as seeking and recommending creditable speakers for meetings.

Hospitality Committee- handling registration at meetings, responsible for gathering and distributing communications provided from members at meetings to the board for follow up, Welcoming members at Chapter events.

Membership Committee—Making wellness calls to our members, working to increase membership and communications to our members

National Payroll Week- Assist in mailing requests for proclamations, planning of Chapter contest and celebration for membership

Nomination Committee- Verify officer nominations for valid APA membership, and act as election officials for Chapter Officer Elections

Statewide Committee- Assist with the planning and preparations for the annual Illinois Statewide Conference.

Vendor Support Committee- Contact vendors and prospective vendors for support of our organization.

***"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping
tog-ether is progress. Working together is
success."
~Henry Ford***



The Chicago Chapter values each and every one of our members. Our sincerest appreciation for your ongoing support and dedication to our organization and profession.

Kudos Korner

Our thanks go out to Cathy Peterson, of Quantum Professional Search, for advertising APA, Our Chapter and the Illinois Statewide on "Chicago's Hometown Station" WJJG - 1530 AM on Thursday, October 8, 2009. This was Cathy's second appearance on WJJG's weekly hour long talk program "JOB TALK", where she discussed the current job market place and the job search process. Cathy was also a speaker at our Illinois Statewide Conference where she did an outstanding job at the "Interviewing Skills" session. She gave us crucial info on developing skills and being prepared to make the best impression on that important interview for the position you may be seeking. Cathy has been asked to return to "JOB TALK" on WJJG in the spring. We will update you when we know the date of her appearance so that we can all tune in.



2010 Relay for Life

Save the date: June 26th to June 27th
Mayfair Park
Westchester, IL

www.relayforlifewestchester.com

We have a team in place for 2010 already. The website is open, ready and waiting for you to join.

The American Cancer Society is a proud sponsor of Birthday's. That's right, I said Birthday's. Today 11 million American's are celebrating their birthdays thanks to your help with Relay for Life. Because of your hard work and dedication to the cause, cures are being discovered; our loved ones are being treated and are surviving.

Looking forward to seeing you at Relay for Life 2010

Any questions, feel free to contact me.

Katie Staffeldt
630-742-7747

Chicago APA Chapter Membership 2010

Interested in Joining the Chicago Chapter APA?

Annual Chapter Dues for 2010 are \$50.00. Join today and begin receiving chapter benefits immediately! If you join the Chicago Chapter from September 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, you can take advantage of Chapter benefits from the time you join through December 31, 2010. A great deal! So join today!

Current Members - It's time to renew your Chicago Chapter Membership for 2010!

To maintain benefits, members are required to renew their membership each year. Annual Chapter Dues for 2010 are \$50.00. Take advantage of the Early Renewal Special and renew at a discount by December 31, 2009!

Early Renewal Special!

If you renew your membership between *September 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009*, you can do so at the **Early Renewal rate of \$40.00**. (Only available to 2009 members; New members are not eligible for this promotion.)

Pay for your Chicago Chapter Membership - Join/Renew

- Online with a Credit Card using PayPal at www.chicagopayroll.com or
- Send a check payable to Chicago Chapter APA to Chicago Chapter APA, 4740 N. Cumberland Ave #355, Chicago, IL 60656. Be sure to include your name, company name, address, email and phone number and APA National Membership Number.

Chapter Benefits include:

- **Organization website** www.chicagopayroll.com - featuring chapter educational events, compliance updates, job opportunities, networking events and vendors; links to National APA site and other key payroll websites
- **Monthly Newsletter** - keeps members up to date with the latest and upcoming events
- **Hotline Service** - assistance with payroll topics provided by member volunteers
- **Education and training** - members receive admission discounts and recertification credits for attending quarterly educational sessions, FPC & CPP review and study groups and the IL Statewide conference
- **Access to 200 local Members** - networking with professionals in your same industry, size, software services and expertise on various payroll topics
- **Participation in award-winning Chapter** that is acknowledged at APA National level for their achievements; past presidents who have also become presidents at the national level
- **Promote community service** through payroll education for various groups and charity events
- **National Payroll Week** - chapter participates in special events and community education events that recognize payroll professionals and their support of the payroll withholding system.
- **Annual Recognition & Holiday Party** - celebrate/award member and chapter achievements; members receive discounted admission

National APA Membership 2010 Current Members - It's time to Renew your National APA Membership!

Don't forget to renew your National APA membership for 2010! Membership renewal for One Year is \$195; Two Years \$390. Don't let your membership lapse! Go to www.americanpayroll.org and renew today! Send us an email at Chicago_chapter_ap@hotmail.com and let us know when you enrolled and your National Number so that we can update our database

Not a Member? Let Your Membership Lapse?

If you have not joined the National APA Membership or you were a member and let your membership lapse (90 days or more), now is the time! You can join or rejoin, and APA will waive your \$35 enrollment fee! (Note: this option is not available for current members.)

Now through December 7th, 2009 APA is waiving the new member \$35.00 enrollment fee! This means instead of enrolling for \$230, you can enroll for just the One Year Membership fee \$195.

- Payment by Credit Card can be processed online at www.americanpayroll.org/promo and enter the Promo Code: MEMBRMGM or
- Fill out the new member application form and send check in by mail. The application can be found at www.americanpayroll.org/pdfs/chapters/09_member_application_final.pdf

By December 7th, send us an email at Chicago_chapter_ap@hotmail.com and let us know when you enrolled and your National Number (if you have it) so that we can update our database!

One More Great Deal . . .

Want to be able to attend an educational session and earn recertification credits for free?

Beginning September 1, 2009, any Chicago Chapter Member who joins or renews their Chapter Membership by December 7th, 2009 AND who joins or renews their APA National Membership by December 7th, 2009 can receive [one coupon for free admission to one of our chapter payroll educational sessions held in 2010](#) (excludes review classes, NPW Celebration, Statewide Meeting and Annual Recognition & Holiday Party).

To receive your coupon, you must provide us with proof of membership join/renewal to Chicago Chapter and APA National. Two Proof documents are required:

1. Chicago Chapter Dues Payment Confirmation or Acknowledgement Email and
2. A copy of your National APA Dues Order Confirmation

Membership payments to both organizations must have been made by or on the December 7th, 2009 deadline - no exceptions!

All proof records must be submitted by December 11, 2009 to be considered using one of the following methods:

- Email proof documents at www.chicago_chapter_ap@hotmail.com (proof documents must be attached; scanned documents accepted)
- Send proof document copies to Chicago Chapter APA at Chicago Chapter APA, 4740 N. Cumberland Ave #355, Chicago, IL 60656.

Once the documents are verified, a **free admission coupon will be sent** to you by January 8, 2010. You must bring the coupon to the session of your choice, in order to receive free admission that session.

APA Access Corner

IN-HOUSE TRAINING

APA can bring any of our courses to your site, or we can customize a course for your staff's specific needs. Contact us at inhouse@americanpayroll.org.

It is never too early to start planning attendance to the greatest event of the Payroll Year!

2010 Congress

APA's 28th Annual Congress features workshops, payroll and finance exhibit hall, networking and much more.

May 25-29, 2010 in National Harbor, MD

AMERICAN PAYROLL ASSOCIATION 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.

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.

NPW Corner :

Tell us what you are planning for NPW

Statewide Conference – Review

Special notes of appreciation to our vendor attendees for their ongoing support of the Chicago Chapter:

ADP
APA
BNA
Ceridian
Citibank
Commeg Solutions
Diversified Service Group
Global Cash Card
Honkamp Krueger
iHouse
Kronos
National Bond & Trust
Ultimate Software
US Bank

Educational prizes provided by APA, and the hosting Chapters will allow attendees to continue their Paths to Prosperity beyond the conference.

Lucky ticket holder Virginia Stanton received a 2009 Payroll Source. Through the generosity and support from APA, Fox Valley founder, Janet Richardson, CPP won a free webinar in 2010. Janice Arres will gain valuable knowledge about the payroll profession through the APA provided "History of Payroll".

Attendee Dawn Van Sipma, became the "Top Traveler" as her completed "Path to Prosperity" was drawn from the entries. Dawn won a complimentary attendance to the 17th Annual Illinois Statewide Conference to be held in 2010.

Many vendors enhanced our raffle and closing session with prizes ranging from Gift Cards, Garmen GPS, iPod Nano, Gift Baskets and a Waterman Pen. We appreciate your generosity in enhancing the conference experience for our attendees.

Thank you to all the attendees, for the high energy and participation in the conference. You made this experience very motivating and rewarding to all of us behind the scenes.

Special Thanks to Central Illinois Chapter and Fox Valley Chapter for sharing in the planning and execution of a successful 16th Annual Illinois Statewide Conference. Through the outstanding support and teamwork the two day conference provided our 77 attendees a wealth of educational opportunities as they Paved their path to Prosperity! Karen Keiper, CPP created a great networking game that enhanced the vendor hall conference enthusiasm. . Our fourteen vendors participated in the game by providing the visitors to their booths with an adhesive flip flop for their path. Our attendees provided us valuable feedback on their conference experience. The survey results will be shared in more detail in the December newsletter as we provide a complete overview of the year and provide you with our 2010 calendar of opportunities.

THE UN-COMFORT ZONE with Robert Wilson

How Cool are You?

My sons recently started talking about being *cool*, and I recalled my own teenage years and the need to be *cool*. That driving desire dictated the clothes I wore, the music I listened to, and what subjects I became conversant in. And, yet despite all my motivation and effort, it remained elusive.

When I look back, I can see that all I really wanted was to be accepted, liked and admired. But, whatever I tried, I never quite felt *cool* enough. The problem was that I didn't really understand the term until I'd spent a few years living and working in the real world.

So, I explained to my kids, "*Cool* is when there's a problem and you do not get upset by it. When everyone else is panicking, rushing around and over reacting, the *cool* person is the one who stays calm, assesses the situation, then makes a reasoned decision on what to do."

One day, I'll tell them about Frances Healan, my friend who completely owned this concept. Mrs. Healan walked with a limp, and I learned that she had suffered a severe injury to her hip and pelvis. Her doctor told her she would never walk again. His diagnosis was unacceptable. She had three daughters and two sons, all less than two years apart, with whom she had to keep up. Instead she ignored the pain and struggled with crutches, then canes, before walking under her own power again. I never once knew her to mention the great pain she continued to endure.

I met her when my friend Tony started dating Becky, the wildest of her children, and I dated Becky's best friend. It was while Tony and I waited for our dates to get ready, that I learned what an amazing conversationalist Mrs. Healan was. She would talk of her family and friends, of movies and novels. Pleasant stories that had no impact on my life or the world, and yet they were irresistibly soothing and peaceful. Meanwhile, with five rambunctious kids and their friends, hers was the house on the street where everything happened. It was a tumultuous environment of laughter one moment and tears the next as young personalities came together then clashed. Nothing ever seemed to rattle Mrs. Healan, she was always calm and relaxed.

Tony and Becky didn't last very long, but I refused to give up those wonderful conversations and started showing up just to hang out. Over the years, I realized that whenever my own life got a little stressed, I was drawn to the Healan household. Once there I would just sit and listen to Mrs. Healan's stories and absorb her serene energy. I was rejuvenated by her presence.

I never planned any of those visits. I would just start to feel the need, and before I knew it, was in the car driving. Those visits continued for years. Eventually the cumulative responsibilities of work, marriage and children made my life too busy for the simple pleasure of spending an afternoon with Mrs. Healan.

A few years ago she died of lung cancer. Frances was never a smoker, but a critical spot on her lung was missed on a routine chest x-ray. Her oncologist said that if he'd seen the x-ray when it was taken he could have saved her life. Despite that Frances Healan was never bitter.

Continued on Page 8

AAPA Corner

Tell Your Accounts Payable Colleague

AAPA Meeting
With
Guest Speaker
Emily Rook, CPP
Immediate Past President American Payroll
Association
Discussing:
B-Notices
Taxation Issues common to AP& Payroll
Business Expense Reporting
Personal Use of Company Car
November 11th, 2009
8:30am-12pm
Jones Lang LaSalle, Inc
1111 Pasquinelli Drive, Suite 100
Westmont, IL 60559
Member Price \$10.00
Non-Member Price \$15.00
Space is limited so get your reservation in
early!!!
Registration begins promptly at 8:30am

Official Chapter of AAPA
Visit Our Website to
Register for the
Meeting.
www.chicagoap.org

The Un-comfort Zone, Continued:

Even though I had not seen her in years, her children called me to visit on her last day. When I arrived, her daughter Judy said, "Look Mama, it's Bobby Wilson." Mrs. Healan raised her head and said, "Bobby Wilson! Who's dying?" We all laughed. That moment sums up her life for me. Facing death she maintained her sense of humor. She was quite simply the coolest person I've ever known.

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs please visit www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.

**You see things and say, 'Why?', but I
dream things and say, 'Why not?'**
George Bernard Shaw



??? Ask a Member ??

Are you curious about a specific best practice? Interested in how other payroll professionals handle a specific task? Here is a new way to receive your answers and maybe make a networking connection.

Please share your experience. Send an email to the Chapter mailbox and we will forward the information on to the requesting party to create the new networking connection and post the answer to benefit the membership curiosity.

