Columbus Chapter Chat

March 2006



Who Needs Luck in Payroll?

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was captured by Irish raiders and held prisoner for more than six years. He was "lucky" to escape and credits visions with helping him get out of Ireland to Britain. Then, his visions told him to return to Ireland as a missionary. It is believed he passed away on March 17, 460 A.D.

Greetings from Across the Pond

The President's Letter

No, I'm definitely not writing this from "across the pond," but I thought I would bring you in this month's President's Letter a little taste of how members from my Irish roots handle payroll.

Maslouski? Irish? Really? Yes, I'm Irish, but not from my father's side of the family obviously. My mother's family goes back to the land of the leprechauns and potatoes. Irish or not, most people celebrate St. Patrick's Day in March, so here is a payroll spin of the Irish.

We have the American Payroll Association. Guess what Ireland has? Yes, you guessed it. They have the Irish Payroll Association, also referred to as IPASS. Headquartered in Dublin, IPASS claims itself as the premier provider of payroll training, PAYE training, PRSI training, VAT training, qualifications and consultancy services and is the only representative body for payroll professionals in Ireland.

You're probably asking…what is PAYE? PAYE is defined as Pay As You Earn. This is the method for workers in Ireland to pay income tax. Income tax is administered a little differently. The Irish tax office tells the ***employers*** under what tax code an employee should be taxed. There are ten different tax codes that can be assigned: NT if you don't pay tax; DO if you should be taxed at a higher rate; Y if you are aged 75 or older and have the full personal allowance, etc.. This is quite different from our tax method in the United States where the employee tells the employer how to tax him/her. What if an employer doesn't get a tax code from the government? In the same spirit as the IRS' guidelines of single with zero allowances, the tax office in Ireland has what's called an Emergency tax code which assumes an employee is only allowed the standard basic allowance. PRSI is Pay-Related Social Insurance.

Another commonality between US payroll and Ireland's payroll is certification. A payroll professional in Ireland can become a Certified Payroll Technician. This certification, much like our own, provides the individual with a nationally recognized qualification. The CPT covers two main areas: Employment Law and PAYE/PRSI Issues.

While there are obvious differences between payroll in the United States and Ireland, we have a lot of similarities. We have the APA; they have IPASS. We have a W-4; they have a P45. We have CPPs; they have CPTs. It's nice to see that "Payroll is Payroll is Payroll" can be an international language.

For more information on payroll in Ireland, you can visit the following sites:

www.ipass.ie

www.adviceguide.org.uk

www.education.ie

www.hmrc.gov.uk

www.iilgov.ie

www.revenue.ie

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Chapter Dashboard



Fuel:

$11,478.11

Speed:

169 members

Oil:

6 new members

Horsepower:

61 CPPs

25 FPCs



Community Corner

Our good deeds don't just stop at cutting a paycheck...

In case you haven't heard, the Columbus Area Chapter Board of Directors has agreed to sponsor two charities during the calendar year. Throughout the year you'll have the option to help donate to the **Ronald McDonald House** and **Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation**. During our February monthly meeting, we were able to raise $90 for our charities, and the March meeting brought in an additional $65.

As a reminder, if you're interested in being more directly involved with the charities, please email your interest to the charity sponsor, Amie Cherrington FPC, CAC APA Vice President at admin@apcolumbus.org.

Check out our Community Relations web page to get more information about the non-profit organizations we support and see letters of acknowledgement from them: http://www.apacolumbus.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=70 .



Irish Trivia

"Erin Go Bragh," a phrase heard often on St. Patrick's Day means:

A. I Love Ireland
B. Ireland Forever
C. Brave and Free
D. Ireland, My Home

Today, this number of Americans trace their ancestry back to Ireland:

A. Ten million
B. Twenty-five million
C. Forty million
D. Sixty-five million

*Answers at the bottom of page four



Around the World Wide Web

By Brad Patterson, CPP – CAC APA Technology Officer



Each month our Technology Officer will let you know what new features or updates are available on the CAC APA website at www.apacolumbus.org.

This month I want to highlight all the changes made to the Home Page designed to make your website navigation easier. Now, on the Right Hand Navigation menu (under the waving flag), you can quickly navigate to the current month's meeting information, renew your membership, retrieve your User Name and password if forgotten and update your membership profile. Check out the new "Why Join the APA?" page, the Community Outreach page, and the Career Center (under construction).

On the main navigation menu, I have created what are known as "fly out" or "rollover navigation" menus which provide quick access to second level sections of our site as well as new links to powerful and useful APA resources. All you need to do is roll your mouse over the main button and you will see what I mean. Check out the **About CAC, Vendor Directory, Related Sites**, and **Contact Us** buttons.

Roll over **About CAC** and now you easily go to our *Mission Statement*, *Bylaws*, *Leadership*, *Chapter/Member Awards* and *Community Outreach* pages.

Roll over the **Vendor Directory** button and quickly to go the *APA's Vendor Directory* and their *Products and Services Directory*.

With the fly out menu for the **Related Sites** button, you can quickly access the APA's *Federal Sites* links, *State Agency* links, *Local Agency* links (brand new!), other *General Sites*, and their other *Association/Organization* links. Also, you can quickly go to our *State of Ohio* site, *Public Employer* sites, and *Other Useful* sites. Target your chapter business questions to the officer who can best answer your question via the Contact Us button and choose from *General Information*, *Dues/Registration*, *Membership*, *or Web Site Feedback*. Enjoy!

National Networking

Bringing you the latest information from National APA

Re-Certification

Anyone whose certification expires in 2006 should have received an email from the APA's Certification department recently. The email reminds us that we can obtain our recertification in two different methods.

To recertify through continuing education for the Fundamental Payroll Certification designation, an individual must accumulate a minimum of 60 recertification credit hours (RCHs) over the three-year recertification period. For those whose FPC certification expires this year, your RCHs must have been earned between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2006.

To recertify through continuing education for the Certified Payroll Professional designation, an individual must accumulate a minimum of 120 recertification credit hours (RCHs) over the five-year recertification period. For those whose CPP certification expires this year, your RCHs must have been earned between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2006.

If you've been unable to accumulate enough RCHs to recertify through continuing education, you can still maintain your certification by taking the exam again. You must retake and pass the exam during the Spring 2006 or Fall 2006 testing windows. If you do sit for the exam for recertification, please indicate as such on your registration form.

Recertification by Reexamination doesn't sound fun, does it? Here are some ideas to obtain RCHs:

- Attend monthly chapter meetings
- Attend FPC and CPP chapter review courses
- Attend Congress
- National APA classes – about half a dozen are in Columbus this year!
- National APA audio seminars
- IRS Tax Talk Today
- Attend Statewide in November

M A R C H





Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to the following members:

- 2nd: Troy Hannum CPP, Alliance Data Systems
- 8th: Teri Fowler, Franklin County
- 12tH: Tom Fosgard, Spherion Professional Recruiting
- 15tH: Dedra Hall CPP, Delaware County
- 17th: Sherry Howard, Alliance Data Systems
- 17th: Scott Turner, M/I Homes
- 18th: David Hutchison FPC, Cardinal Health
- 26th: Jenny Smith CPP, Ohio Support Services
- 26th: Will Chatman FPC, Abercrombie & Fitch
- 30th: Pat Langley CPP, Nationwide
- 30th: April Kennedy, Sequent
- Diane Smith CPP, Alliance Data Systems

Welcome New Members!

Please extend a big welcome to our newest members of the Columbus Area Chapter!

- Kelli Thomas, Installed Building Products
- Amy Grand, Sequent Inc.
- Janet Stevenson, Sequent Inc.
- Will Chatman, Abercrombie & Fitch
- Jean Canini, Abercrombie & Fitch
- Donna Peterson, Accountemps



Upcoming Events

FPC Review Course It's exam time again! Yes, it's hard to believe, but it's that time of the year when the Columbus Area Chapter offers its FPC Review Course. Classes will continue on March 25th, and April 1st. **Worthington Industries** is once again gracious to host the review sessions at their facility.

March Monthly Meeting The Calendar of Events will be updated soon with the April Monthly Meeting. It will be a lunch meeting at Confluence Park on the third Thursday in April.

APA Training The American Payroll Association will be having their class "Payroll Issues for Multi-State Employers" in Columbus on April 4th. You can find more Details at http://www.apacolumbus.org/cde.cfm?event=117709.

Do you Pay Hard? Do you Play Hard? If so, you're a perfect fit for the APA's 24th Annual Congress in Orlando, Florida. Time's running out to register. Checkout the Congress details on APA National's website. Go to http://www.americanpayroll.org/congress24/congress2006.html.



Meeting Registration Reminder

Please remember that all monthly ***meeting registrations*** must be made via the website by ***noon on the Tuesday*** prior to the meeting. We must enforce this cut-off so that we can give an accurate count of meals to the location.

In addition, all registrations that have been made by noon on Tuesday are considered final. We understand that things may come up resulting in not being able to attend. However, since the chapter included your registration in the counts to the location, we will still be charged for your attendance. As a result, ***all registrations*** as of ***noon on Tuesday*** are ***considered final*** and ***payment*** will still be ***due***. If you realize prior to noon on Tuesday that you cannot attend, just email us at admin@apacolumbus.org and we will delete your registration and refund any dollars previously paid.



Irish Trivia Answers

"Erin Go Bragh," a phrase heard often on St. Patrick's Day means: B. Ireland Forever
Today, this number of Americans trace their ancestry back to Ireland: C. Forty million

Keep in touch with your payroll chapter:

Website:	***www.apacolumbus.org***
Membership Questions:	***membership@apacolumbus.org***
Treasury Questions:	***treasury@apacolumbus.org***
General & Web Questions:	***admin@apacolumbus.org***