# Columbus Chapter Chat

September 2006



## As the Leaves Turn

*Even though summer is over, there are still plenty of things about fall to enjoy*

## Experience the Sensations of Fall

***The President's Letter, by Robyn Maslouski, CPP – President, Columbus Area Chapter***

Well, summer is now over. The lazy days of summer are now replaced by the cooler, shorter days of fall. Fall is a very sensuous season. You can hear the crunching of the fallen leaves on the ground. You can smell the apple cider warming on the stove. You can feel the coolness in the air. You can see as much football as you want to see. You can taste year-end sneaking upon you.

While you may not think of it, it truly is a blessing for us to live in a part of the country where we get to experience each of the seasons. There is one day during the season where the leaves on the trees are at their most beautiful. The colors are vibrant and there are still enough leaves on the trees to see them. The wondrous tree landscapes that the Columbus area provides allow you to see a pallet of reds, oranges and greens that give you a sense of warmth inside. Since we don't know what day this most vibrant of fall days is, make sure that each day you take a moment to look around to see if that day is *the day*. Once that day happens, the visual wonder may be gone, but then you get to enjoy the fallen leaves. Be a kid & jump in them!

I mentioned earlier the smell of fall. Whether it's the smell of the trees or the smell of seasonal items in the kitchen—apples, pumpkins, and so on—the smell also gives warmth inside. Last year was the first year I went to Lynd's Fruit Farm. It was a chilly day, but it brought back memories of my childhood. We cooked hot dogs on an open fire. Soups and stews were cooking in big kettles. You could smell kettle corn from the parking lot. There were games for kids to play. Of course, nothing says fall like a hayrack ride, so we went on one of those through the orchards. We got to pick apples and pumpkins. Whether it's Lynd's Fruit Farm or another place similar to it, consider experiencing it this fall.

I know for our area, football season is bigger than Christmas. Even though I'm a self-confessed non-Buckeye fan (please don't impeach me), I still get caught up in football fever. I didn't go to high school here and I don't have kids that go to high school here and yet I still find myself singing the "Football Friday Nite" theme song. I love college football...where real players play the game. Thankfully I have DirecTV that provides me NFL Sunday Ticket, allowing me to trigger between my favorite NFL teams, the Chicago Bears and the Indianapolis Colts.

If you look beyond fall and into winner, you see year-end coming upon you. Some of us just love year-end. We love the fast-paced action...the changing of regulations...the finality to a year behind us. Some of us fear year-end. We're afraid we won't get it all done...we'll miss processing something...we'll get the forms out late. As long as you're prepared, there's nothing to be afraid of. So what does being prepared mean? Start now: don't start in December. Get all stakeholders involved: Benefits, Compensation, Finance, HR, IT, your vendors. If you want a way to get folks involved and keep them involved is to have a theme to your year-end season. Last year, Cardinal Health had a theme of *Year End Mardi Gras: Don't Hide from Year-End*. Each team member was given a Mardi Gras mask *not* to hide from. Get a detailed project plan written for all tasks that need to be done not only for the last pay of the year and the first pay of the year. You can start now on drafting communications for employees: W-4 reminders, W-5 resets, change bulletins.

Whatever your choice, make sure you fall into something fun and enjoyable. Experience all of your senses during the season!



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# Community Corner

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

## CAC APA Shares When it Counts

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

As we approach the month of **October** which is **Breast Cancer Awareness month**, we wanted to take a moment to share with you some of the successes the Columbus Area Chapter has made in supporting one of our charities for this year, the **Susan G Komen Foundation**. In July and August, **Longaberger Company** kicked in the **Horizon of Hope** program which joins Longaberger with the American Cancer Society to make a difference in the lives of individuals fighting breast cancer. To date, the relationship has raised more than $12 million.

When a customer buys a Horizon of Hope basket, $2 from every sale of the basket goes directly to the American Cancer Society. This year CAC APA member **Ronda Dunlap**, a Longaberger consultant, also helped contribute to the cause. As a chapter, we raised **$120.00** that will be donated to **the Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Research**. A special thank you goes to **Ronda Dunlap** for coordinating the sales and for her generosity in donating her commission. Thank you to all who participated.

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, you can also help the cause by purchasing special edition products from **Yankee Candle** and **M&M**.











## Thank Heaven for Children

The other charity being sponsored by our chapter in 2006 is the **Ronald McDonald House**. Recently, the Columbus Area Chapter has helped support the House in two different manners. **Welcome Kits** for the Ronald McDonald House were purchased. The kits include personal care items—soap, shampoo, tooth brush, toothpaste, mouthwash and deodorant--for families that have very little notice that they will be staying at the house during their child's hospital stay. Thank you to Robyn Maslouski, CPP for purchasing and assembling the kits.

The kits were delivered when we hosted a **luncheon** for the residents of the Ronald McDonald House **on September 23rd**. CAC brought in food provided by Hoggy's.

There are also some upcoming ways for you to help contribute to our charity. We can't forget about the brothers & sisters of the patients in Children's Hospital! In **October**, we'll be putting together **trick-or-treat bags**. Please make plans to bring Halloween candy to our October meeting so that we can put Trick or treat bags together.

In addition, you can't think of **Christmas** without thinking of children. You can help make their Christmas special by donating goods to our **Holiday Toy Drive** in **December**.

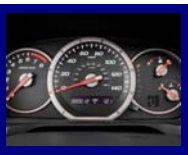







**Top Row**: CAC APA donated 20 welcome kits to the house.
**Middle Row**: The exterior of the Ronald McDonald House & a picture of the food provided
**Bottom Row**: Brad Patterson CPP & Amie Cherrington CPP help cleanup the kitchen when the lunch was over.

*For more photos, visit our website at*
http://www.apacolumbus.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&su



## Chapter Dashboard

| Fuel: | Speed: | Oil: | Horsepower: |
|---|---|---|---|
| $13,441.82<br>$1,820.00 in receivables | 186 members | 2 new members | 68 CPPs<br>29 FPCs |

## OCPP Early Bird Deadline Is Coming Soon!

There is an indirect benefit to being a Columbus Area Chapter APA member. Every two out of three years, the Ohio Conference for Payroll Professionals is hosted in our area. This opportunity comes around just once a year for you to get a day and a half of networking and educational fun! This statewide conference wouldn't exist without the support of Columbus members, so let's get a big hometown turnout this November!

Take advantage of having a fun-filled day-and-a-half conference in your backyard. The 2006 OCPP will be **at The Columbus, a Renaissance Hotel located downtown on Third Street just north of Broad**. Details are available at the OCPP logo from the CAC APA's home page at www.apacolumbus.org.

## MDJJF Scholarship Winners Selected

In June we announced that CAC APA was able to nominate eligible members and their relatives for the **Michael D Jones Jr. Foundation** scholarship. I am pleased to announce that two of our members were selected to receive $1,000 each for their education.

Our first winner is **Jillian Krauss**, who is the daughter of CAC member **Cheryl Krauss**. Jillian is currently attending OSU, pursuing a degree in the medical profession. She is a member of the OSU Honors Program and volunteers at the Church of the Resurrection in New Albany.

Our second winner is **Katelyn Weiss**, who is the daughter of CAC member **Beverly Weiss**. Katelyn is currently a junior at Marysville High School where she is ranked 1st in her class. She is a member of 4-H and Girl Scouts. In addition, she serves her faith as a lector, Eucharistic minister and church musician at St. Patrick's Church.

## Around the World Wide Web

**By Brad Patterson, CPP – CAC APA Technology Officer**

Last month we announced another new feature of our web site which was the **Career Center**. So far only three members have posted their resumes and that includes mine. Does that mean that the other 179 members are happy in their jobs or maybe don't want their resumes to be seen by recruiters? I don't know but I don't understand the reluctance to do so. During these times, I think it makes good sense to always have a Plan B where your career is concerned. Maybe your resume isn't up-to-date. If not, it should be because you just never know when an opportunity may present itself. I have looked and we are the only chapter in the country that offers this module to its members.

Among the other many useful resources our site offers is the CAC ListServ. Only 37 members (20%) have subscribed to this. I know that we all get inundated with emails each and every day but the ListServ is a valuable resource and allows those who subscribe to it to have a virtual chat room with the other subscribers. What a great way to tap the knowledge of other members on current issues as well as compare processes and practices among the various employers around the area. If you haven't subscribed to it please think about doing so. We haven't had a lot of activity on it so far but whenever someone does pose a question, they always receive answers or potential solutions. Join the CAC ListServ today!

Are you using the Related Sites that we have on our site? We have links to federal, state, and local sites as well as all of the useful sites that the APA has on their site. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't use one or more of those sites that we have linked and our web site makes it very easy to navigate to them.

I am proud of many things that our chapter has accomplished but certainly at the top of my list is how we have embraced technology. When I became President in 2002 the membership records were all on paper and the membership directory was so long it had to be taped together and was at least 3 pages wide! They easily could become outdated in a day and what a nightmare trying to keep them current. We published paper membership directories that were out of date as soon as they were distributed. I knew right away that my first objective was going to be to mechanize the record keeping and the administration of the chapter along with cleaning up the financial records which were in less than pristine condition.

Tim Carroll, CPP and I spent 12 hours (on conference calls) being trained on how to build content for the site and countless hours after that bringing the site to the point where we could launch it. He and I became addicted to working on it and we would send emails asking each other to take a look at our latest creation or idea. Often times those emails would be sent at 2 a.m. and the scary part was that we would answer each other right away as we were both up working on it! Those were the days and it really was a lot of fun and we both found working on the site to be very gratifying. Now other chapters seek my input and help with their sites and I am very happy to help.

So technology has dramatically changed the duties of the officers and improved the administration of the chapter. We have laid a solid technological foundation for future leadership for years to come!!



# Happy Birthday! September Birthdays

The following members celebrated a birthday in **September**!

- 1st: Bertha Yutzy – WD Partners Inc.
- 2nd: Cheri May – Chemical Abstracts
- 2nd: Tonia Curry FPC – Sequent, Inc.
- 6th: Beverly Weiss CPP – Cardinal Health
- 6th: Kimberly Shoemaker CPP – Aclohe LLC
- 10th: Jennifer Day CPP – Installed Building Products
- 15th: Jodi Graf CPP – Nationwide Mutual Insurance
- 16th: Ronda Jenkins CPP – Capitol Tunneling, Inc.
- 16th: Karyn Luke – Acloche LLC
- 18th: Karla Cupp FPC – M/I Homes
- 21st: Melissa McCotter – RHI/Accountemps
- 22nd: Toni Coon CPP – Exel Inc.
- 23rd: Mallory Michaels – BSI
- 29th: Amie Cherrington CPP - EDS

# Payroll Supporters

The following companies in the **Government** & **Education** industries proudly support their Payroll department's membership in the APA!

**Government Members**

- City of Columbus
- City of Dublin
- City of Hilliard
- City of Powell
- City of Reynoldsburg
- City of Upper Arlington
- Delaware County Auditor
- Dublin City Schools
- Franklin County Auditor
- IRS
- OPERS
- STRS Ohio

CAPITAL UNIVERSITY

Columbus State Community College

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



# Welcome New Members!

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

- Eric Tippie – Ohio Dominican University
- Janice Lombard – Kimball Midwest
- Lisa Johnson - Nationwide
- Joy Jackson Green – Delphia Consulting
- Lynne Stephens – Edison Welding Institute



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct 3rd – 5th:** You can attend APA's **Comprehensive Payroll & Tax Compliance**, a three-day class that provides a solid grounding in a wide range of complex compliance issues. For more details you can visit the national American Payroll Association website at http://www.americanpayroll.org/compliance.html.

**Oct 15th – 18th:** You can attend APA's **Educational Institutions Payroll Conference**. This is a four-day class that focuses on compliance issues for payroll professionals in secondary education settings. For further details, please visit the APA website at http://www.americanpayroll.org/conf.html.

**Oct 19th:** The APA is hosting an Audio Series on **Documenting Your Payroll Procedures**. For more details, please visit the CAC website at http://www.apacolumbus.org/cde.cfm?event=117696.

Be sure to keep up-to-date on all upcoming events by visiting our **Calendar of Events** on our website!

# Officer Changes

A special thank you goes out to **Sheryl Hatcher CPP**, who had to resign her post as CAC APA Treasurer due to personal and professional commitments. **Jenny Smith CPP**, current Government Liaison officer, will assume Sheryl's position.

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BRAVO! CUCINA ITALIANA — **Board Meeting**

Bob Evans — **CPP Study Group**

***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*** |

American Payroll Association Columbus Area Chapter The buck starts here!