

2006 Congress Highlights

Denver Chapter Payroll Association Selected as Best of the Best

BY MARIA INES MARIN

Screams erupted from the audience as members of the Denver Chapter Payroll Association (DCPA) heard their chapter's name announced as the American Payroll Association's "2006 Chapter of the Year." The good news arrived during APA's 24th Annual Congress General Session luncheon on Monday, May 22, 2006.

In front of more than 2,000 attendees, APA Executive Director Dan Maddux announced the Chapter of the Year (COTY) as the final award during the luncheon. A large group of DPCA chapter members, including Immediate Past President Tracie Sawade, CPP, and President Christine Denio, CPP, floated up to the stage to receive the elegant purple and white Chapter of the Year banner and gold-cup trophy.

With much anticipation in the air from chapters seated in the audience, Maddux began by announcing the COTY honorable mentions, which were awarded to the Greater Nashville Chapter, Greater Milwaukee Chapter, Susquehanna Valley Chapter, and Metro Atlanta Payroll Association. Then, the third place award winners were announced as a tie—the Alamo Chapter of the APA and the Washington Metropolitan Area Chapter. Second place honors went to the Rainier Chapter.

The Denver Chapter Payroll Association was selected as Chapter of the Year for exemplary work in the payroll profession and impressive efforts on the local level in the areas of payroll education, community outreach and service, campaigns to



Denver Chapter Payroll Association takes home APA's Chapter of the Year award at APA's 24th Annual Congress in Orlando.

increase public awareness about the payroll profession, and significant contributions to local payroll professionals in the Denver and surrounding areas. The chapter had received second place in the 2005 COTY Contest.

"The Denver Chapter Payroll Association has set a standard that all APA local chapters can emulate," Maddux said. "Their integrity, enthusiasm, and professionalism represent all that is best about the American Payroll Association."



Above: 2nd Place—Rainier Chapter; Bottom Left: Third Place—Washington Metropolitan Chapter; Bottom Right: Third Place—Alamo Chapter.



Gavel Awards

Presented to Four Chapters for Excellence

BY MARIA INES MARIN

Four individual APA Gavel Awards are annually presented to APA local chapters for outstanding levels of achievement. The awards are selected in the following four categories: **Innovator**; **Facilitator**; **Mentor**; and **Communicator**. Each

award is based on a chapter's superior accomplishments in a specific area and is determined by the chapter's "Chapter of the Year" contest entry.

APA Executive Director Dan Maddux announced the 2006 Gavel Award winners during the Annual Congress General Session luncheon on May 22, 2006.



The Innovator Gavel Award was awarded to the West Michigan Chapter for their innovative and original ideas and projects in the areas of government, membership, meetings, and collaborations with other APA local chapters.



The Facilitator Gavel Award was presented to the Hawaii Chapter for its outstanding facilitation of government, certification, meeting, and chapter activities.



The Mentor Gavel Award was presented to the Dallas Chapter for their voluntary guidance and assistance of other chapters and groups in the areas of education, certification, community service, meetings, and inter-chapter activities.



The Communicator Gavel Award was presented to the Susquehanna Valley Chapter for their effective communication tools used to enhance membership campaigns, including newsletters, brochures, meeting notices, and the chapter Web site.

2006 Congress Highlights

Nelson Earns 2006 CHAMPS Mentor of the Year



Dee Nelson, CPP, recipient of the 2006 CHAMPS Chapter Mentor of the Year Award.

BY MARIA INES MARIN

Dee Nelson, CPP, NPW Chair for the Heart of Oregon Chapter and Founder of both the Northern Lights and Matanuska-Susitna Valley Chapters in Alaska, was awarded APA's **2006 CHAMPS Mentor of the Year** award during the May 22 General Session luncheon at the 24th Annual Congress in Orlando. Nelson later received her trophy at the Chapter Exchange in front of 150 local chapter members and officers attending Congress.

The APA "CHAMPS" Mentor Program, which stands for "Chapters Helping APA chapters Make Payroll Shine," was created to provide a national chapter-to-chapter networking program for chapter leaders. The CHAMPS network helps leaders

conquer challenges within their chapters in more than 85 categories.

The "CHAMPS Mentor of the Year" award was established in 2005 to recognize one individual chapter mentor for having a high level of volunteerism and dedication to mentoring other chapters through CHAMPS; for always showing enthusiasm and a willingness to assist other chapters, start APA chapters, and offer guidance to them; for continuous dedication to helping the APA Chapter Relations Department promote the CHAMPS program; for serving as a CHAMPS "role model" to other chapters by holding chapter leadership and volunteer positions, often longer than the term or role requires; and for paving the way for new or less experienced chapters to make their mark on the payroll profession.

Colleagues Network, Receive Awards at Chapter Exchange

BY MARIA INES MARIN

More than 150 chapter members from 137 APA local chapters throughout the country attended the Congress Chapter Exchange during Session 8 on May 24, 2006.

The program began with the presentation of APA's chapter contest awards during a special recognition ceremony. Attendees later participated in six table-topic discussion groups, networked with colleagues and CHAMPS committee volunteers, and met with APA President Vickie Majors, CPP, APA Past President Kathy Menda, CPP, and members of the APA's Board of Advisors. The workshop also kicked off the NPW 2006 season with a special NPW cake.



North Carolina State Chapter & Columbus Area Chapter Receive Top Awards in Web Site Design

BY MARIA INES MARIN

Winners of the Best Chapter CompuPay® Web Site and Best Chapter Non-CompuPay® Web Site were announced at the May 22 General Session luncheon during the 24th Annual Congress in Orlando. Winners received their special trophies at the Congress Chapter Exchange on May 24th. Best chapter Web sites were selected based on chapters' creative and organized use of graphics, payroll resources, special formats, chapter benefits, and links to APA and government agencies.

2006 Best Chapter Web Site Contest Winners

CATEGORY #1 – Best Chapter CompuPay® Web Site

- 1st Place:** North Carolina State Chapter www.apanc.org
- 2nd Place:** Heart of Oregon Chapter www.apaheartor.org
- 3rd Place:** North Jersey Chapter www.apanorthjersey.org
- Honorable Mention:** Northeast Indiana Chapter www.apafortwayne.org

CATEGORY #2 – Best Chapter Non-CompuPay® Web Site

- 1st Place:** Columbus Area Chapter www.apacolumbus.org
- 2nd Place (tie):** Houston Chapter www.houstonchapterapa.org
- 2nd Place (tie):** Richmond Chapter www.apa-richmond.com
- 3rd Place:** Dallas Chapter www.apadallas.com
- Honorable Mentions:** Susquehanna Valley Chapter www.apasvc.org
- Washington Metropolitan Area Chapter www.wmac-apa.org



www.apanc.org



www.apacolumbus.org



North Carolina State Chapter



Columbus Area Chapter

2006 Congress Highlights

Pennsylvania Statewide Conference Chapters Earn First Place for Dream Theme Contest

BY MARIA INES MARIN

Winners of the 2006 Dream Theme Contest—Promoting Your Statewide & Regional Meeting—were announced at the May 22 General Session luncheon at the 24th Annual Congress in Orlando.

The contest recognizes an organizing chapter or partnering chapters for the best “themed” promotional and onsite materials during a statewide or regional meeting. Entries were scored on the creativity and originality of materials that best incorporated the meeting’s theme or concept.



The following chapters and conference themes were selected as the 2006 winners:

1st Place: Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, Western Pennsylvania Chapter, and the Susquehanna Valley Chapter (2005 Pennsylvania Statewide Conference)—“Payroll Reality”

2nd Place: Washington Metropolitan Area Chapter (2005 Tri-State Conference)—“Payroll on Broadway”

3rd Place: Dallas Chapter, Houston Chapter, Galveston Bay Area Chapter, Fort Worth Chapter, Heart of Texas Chapter,

CenTex Chapter, The Alamo Chapter of the APA, and the West Texas Chapter (16th Annual Texas Payroll Conference)—“Blazin’ Trails”

Honorable Mentions: Northeastern Oklahoma Chapter and Oklahoma City Chapter (5th Annual Oklahoma Payroll Conference)—“Learnings, Earnings, and Deductions”

Atlanta Chapter (2005 Georgia Statewide Payroll Conference)—“Travel Through Payroll”



Speakers Review APA’s Online Resources at Chapter Workshop

BY MARIA INES MARIN

Power Hour Workshop Session 1 at APA’s 24th Annual Congress, “How Your Chapter Can Better Serve Its Members—Use Chapter and APA Web Resources to Grow Your Chapter,” provided a valuable

online demonstration to local chapters on available resources and APA chapter benefits and services available through APA’s Members Only Web site.

Presenters Barbara Youngman, CPP, Past President of the Dallas Chapter, and APA’s Director of Technology and

Information Services Steve Fine, Esq., gave more than 50 attendees a guided “live tour” through the Chapter Network section of APA’s Web site and visited other useful online chapter links. The presentation also highlighted the new APA online chapter profiles.

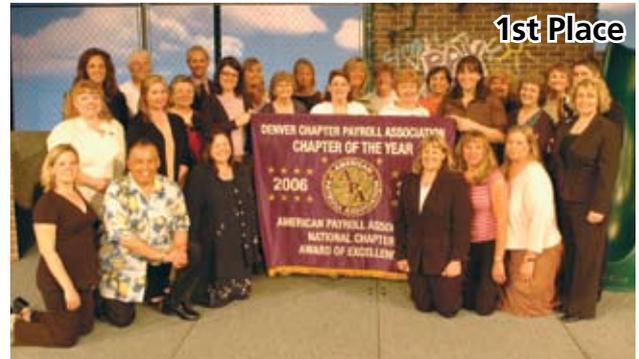
Denver Chapter Payroll Association's Pictorial Wins First Place

BY MARIA INES MARIN

Numerous entries from chapters throughout the country arrived at APA National in San Antonio, Texas, last March to be judged in the 2006 APA Chapter Pictorial Contest. The creativity and originality of the displays effectively represented the spirit and innovation of APA's chapters.

The entries, created as single, double, or tri-fold displays, were exhibited in the Southern Hemisphere foyer of the Swan and Dolphin Hotel in Orlando, Fla., for the duration of APA's Annual Congress. At the May 22 General Session luncheon, APA Executive Director Dan Maddux announced this year's Chapter Pictorial Contest winners.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to the Atlanta Chapter, Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter, and Dallas Chapter. **Third Place** was presented to the South Bay Area Chapter, **Second Place** was awarded to the Metro Atlanta Payroll Association, and **First Place** was presented to the Denver Chapter Payroll Association. All received their trophies at the Chapter Exchange.



Congress Attendees Pull out PJ's for Costume Contest

Congress attendees and chapter members had a chance to re-live precious childhood memories by dressing up in their favorite pajamas for the Congress Costume Contest. Contest enthusiasts competed for prizes in 10 "pajama party" categories: Best Character, Sports, or Super Hero pajamas; Best Mismatched pajamas; Wildest House Shoes or Slippers; Grandma's Favorite "Muumuu" or House Dress; Most Creative Use of Flannel; Most Glamorous Robe; Best Animal-print or Animal pajamas; Best Use of Blanket or Sleeping Bag; Cuddliest Comfort Toy for Bedtime; and Best-dressed Pajama Party (group or chapter category). Judging took place in the Exhibit Hall, just prior to the Congress party on May 23.



Above: The Hospitality Booth provides refreshments and goodies.

Below: Attendees take part in the costume contest.



Florida Chapters Team Up at Hospitality Booth

An unprecedented five chapters hosted this year's 24th Annual Congress Chapter Hospitality Booth. The chapters that organized the effort and manned the booth each day included the Orlando Chapter, Jacksonville Chapter, Gulf Coast Chapter, SunCoast Bay Area Chapter, and Broward County Association of Payroll Professionals.

The booth had non-stop traffic during Congress and distributed free giveaways to more than 2,000 Congress attendees in addition to conducting door-prize drawings. The booth also offered complimentary "fresh-squeezed" Florida orange juice and set up complimentary massage tables on Monday and Tuesday during Congress.