

The Founding of the Nashville Chapter of the American Payroll Association

By Connie V. Spivey

Ever wonder how a local chapter of a national organization gets started and evolves into an award winning national chapter of the Year?

Look no further for insight on this intriguing question than our longtime chapter member and supporter, Nancy Lilly.

I met Nancy for lunch several weeks ago to pose this question to her:

How did our chapter get started?

Several payroll professionals, led by Jim Conner (employed at the time with Nissan) and Linda Kelly, discussed the idea of starting a local APA chapter. Jim discussed the idea with Nancy, who was working at the time at Aladdin. Jim called National and asked them how to go about starting a local chapter.

Linda Kelley also was interested in starting a chapter. When she called National they gave her ^{Jim's} home phone number. Ironically, Jim accidentally left Nancy off of the call list for the first meeting. Jim and Linda started calling people they knew. The first meeting was held on September 11, 1986 at Freeman Properties. The initial members at that meeting consisted of Jim, Joyce Gregg of FISL, Linda Kelley (now Linda Dickens) of Harvey Freeman and Sons, Marie Melvin of HCA, Janet Roco of Corroon & Black, Jim Sewell of Kantus Corp., Burton Smith of Murray Ohio Mfg. Co., Eunice Steinson of Hartmann Luggage, and Frances Viviano of Service Merchandise Co. The meetings lasted from six to eight o'clock. Freeman supplied refreshments for the group meeting. One of the first events held by the Chapter was an invitation by Jim Conner to tour the new Nissan plant. The monthly meeting followed the tour, which included a guest speaker for the meeting.

The officers of the Chapter for the first year are shown on page ten. Nancy Lilly served as Secretary treasurer for ten years. Jim Conner was the Chapter's first President. To get involvement, the use of committees was put in place. Everyone was put on a committee. The original set up for the organization was a tough job. The National Chapter gave them a methodology to follow.

Linda Kelley, Nancy Lilly, Paula Banner (ADP), Joyce Gregg, Jim Conner, and Frances Vivano were the chapter members that passed the CPP within the first year. I asked Nancy how she studied for it, since I assumed they had no study groups at that time. Her answer was: "I studied an IRS Circular E". There was no study group or study materials. They both thought "Well you can forget this, we are doomed to failure". They had to wait six weeks to get the results. They were both extremely pleased when they got the results. Frances Vivano hired Nancy at Aladdin. Frances left to go to Service Merchandise. Nancy went to JC Bradford and Brenda Owen took the position at Aladdin. Nancy has been Payroll Manager at JC Bradford for twelve years.

Concluding comments from Nancy: "I have been pleased with the growth of the Chapter and how it has evolved." With dedicated members like Nancy, I am sure the Chapter is destined for continued excellence.

