

President's Corner – May 2013

**“Greater Nashville Chapter Rides High Again”** was the front page caption in the Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the *31<sup>st</sup> Annual Congress Today* newspaper. If you didn't get to attend Congress you might be curious as to what this means.....so let me explain.

Greater Nashville Chapter Members have much to be proud of following this year's Congress. At the annual Chapter Awards ceremony the GNC was awarded the prestigious honor of 2013 Chapter of the Year! We also were recognized for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row with 1<sup>st</sup> place honors for the Best Statewide Conference. There are more than 160 APA Local Chapters all across America, and I would like to commend each of our members for all the hard work and dedication you put into the chapter this past year. Without all the planning, monthly meetings, community service activities, NPW events, speakers, luncheons, volunteers, greeters, officers, fundraisers, website articles, and statewide events, we wouldn't have been able to submit an entry.

And the honors didn't stop there....We also were recognized for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row with 1<sup>st</sup> place honors for the Best Statewide Conference. Last but not least we received 3<sup>rd</sup> place recognition for the community service and educational outreach performed during NPW. A huge thank you goes out to each chapter member and all the guests and special friends that played a part in one or more of our chapter events.

The awards were amazing, but they were only a small part of the wonderful educational opportunities and networking events that were part of Congress. We were inspired by keynote speakers such as Vernice “FlyGirl” Armour who taught us that we can overcome our barriers and achieve success by having a can-do, breakthrough mindset. Her catch phrase “cleared hot” means that we are free to eliminate our obstacles and achieve mission success. Another great speaker, Steve Gilliland, spoke about “Making a Difference”. He used his personal stories along with humor to help attendees realize that our circumstances should not define and rule us. His catch phrase “bitter or better, stronger or weaker” encouraged the audience to focus on becoming better individuals. We all have an impact on the lives of others and we should strive to make the most of every encounter.

There were more than 200 workshops offered in the 4 ½ day event this year and a host of exhibitors who showcased the latest products and technology available to payroll professionals. If you missed attending Congress this year, you should consider the 2013 Virtual Congress and Expo that will be live all day Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and on demand until August 16<sup>th</sup>. The virtual event will consist of one general session and five individual workshops. National APA Members can attend free and earn up to 6 RCH credits. Details can be found on APA's website at [www.americanpayroll.org](http://www.americanpayroll.org).

Last but not least, I would like to encourage everyone to come out and support the Hope Lodge dinner that the GNC Chapter will be hosting on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Alexandra Faulk, Director of Community Service has made all the arrangements and all you need to do is support the event by helping serve the food, signing up to provide a food dish, or make a donation so we can provide enough food. Hope Lodge is a awesome, feel-good experience. It's so rewarding to take a few minutes out of our busy schedules to remember and help those who are dealing with serious illness either personally or perhaps have a loved

one seeking cancer treatment miles away from home. It takes many volunteers to feed 50 + people at the Hope Lodge 365 days of the year. What an honor that the GNC Chapter can help this wonderful organization again this year. This is our opportunity to impact someone's life. Let's make the most of it and showcase our volunteer spirit with the biggest community service event of the year!

Until next month, I hope each of you have a wonderful Memorial Day, have fun watching your children and friends graduate, perhaps take a few days of vacation, and enjoy the last few weeks of spring.