

GREATER NASHVILLE CHAPTER AWARENESS

I would like to introduce our local Payroll Chapter to all that need Payroll, HR and Tax education. My goal is to interest you in becoming a part of our membership. I am Bonetta Bond, President of the Greater Nashville Chapter of American Payroll Association. Our membership drive is about to begin for 2014 - 2015. To date we have a membership of 153 people representing 99 companies in the city of Nashville and surrounding areas. The scope of our membership's varied industries range from Payroll to Tax to HR personnel, from staff to managers to directors, from one-person offices to self-employed people to small companies to large corporations. As you can see, we have something for everyone.

As a little history, I feel that our Mission Statement best describes why our Chapter was formed. It reads:

- *To PROVIDE economical, quality education and networking opportunities to Middle Tennessee Payroll Professionals*
- *PROMOTE excellence within our profession*
- *MOTIVATE and EMPOWER our members by providing the tools to be knowledgeable concerning the constantly changing and complex federal, state and local regulatory issues*

Some of the major benefits of becoming a member of the Greater Nashville Chapter are:

- You will have the ability to “network” with other Payroll Professionals both on a Local and a National level
- There are training and education opportunities
- You will receive constant notification of conferences, seminars and educational luncheons available
- Education regarding legislative developments for federal, state and local regulatory requirements is at your fingertips
- You can promote yourself and your department as you gain confidence as a Payroll Professional by obtaining your Certification through the CPP (Certified Payroll Professional) and FPC (Fundamental Payroll Certification) programs
- Your strengths will be increased as you bring Payroll Professionalism to your company
- Opportunities are there for you to participate in Community Service events

Speaking of the CPP and FPC certifications, typically the certification exams are held twice a year for those interested in advancing their career opportunities. Our Chapter offer study groups to help prepare for that exam. CEU's can also be earned by attending and/or teaching these sessions. The sessions as well as the test, covers predominantly the 14 chapters, in the Payroll Source.

We also hold an educational luncheon the third Thursday of each month at Second Harvest in Metro Center from 12:00 until 1:30 PM. During this time, a speaker will share

their expertise on a topic of interest. The fee for members to attend is \$20.00 and for non-members is \$30.00 each time. Everyone is welcome.

Each month we connect with the community. Our Director of Community Services find charitable organizations which need help in some capacity. Whatever their need is, our members supply items (including manual hours if needed) from the organization's "Wish List". Volunteers are always needed. There is a sample "Volunteer" form in your New Member packet. If you happen to go out on our website (www.apanashvilletn.org) and see a project that interests you, simply submit the filled out form, and someone will contact you.

There are two major projects remaining on our Chart of Events for this year which you can get involved with.

- One is our Tennessee Statewide Conference which rotates its location between Nashville, Memphis, Chattanooga and Knoxville. We are excited to say that it will be held in Memphis this year at the Holiday Inn University Hotel August 13th through the 15th and is "Elvis" themed "**Payroll...Always On My Mind**". There is still time to register. The registration material is on our Tennessee State website (www.tswb-apa.net). I invite you to at least review the workshop topics and I believe that you will see opportunities to gain a wealth of knowledge. Your registration fee includes all workshop materials, all meals, a Welcome Hour and a dinner/party with Elvis...
- Then there is National Payroll Week (known best as NPW) to celebrate. This is celebrated nationally the first week of September. This is the week that all Payroll Professionals come out of the dungeons and let everyone know who helps make their life work. We try to let America know that without us, this country would come to a halt. We do that a company at a time. Normally, your Payroll, Tax and/or HR Departments hold some sort of awareness event (even as small as giving out Payday candy bars or as large as a Payroll fair). Our Chapter celebration is usually linked to our Community Service Project. This year our Chapter will be fellowshipping with the temporary residents of the Hope Lodge (it is where families of Cancer patients as well as some of the patients in outpatient treatment stay) as we carry our NPW banner with us to cook dinner for the families housed at that time. Some of our members will also be going to high schools in the area to train students how to understand the deductions on their paycheck. Please keep this week in mind and take the time to introduce yourself to your company's employees.

Also, National APA helps you celebrate, by giving you a chance to win an average American's weekly paycheck and a trip for two to Las Vegas. All that you have to do is go to www.americanpayroll.org and look under the sub-page for NPW or go to www.nationalpayrollweek.com and take the five-minute NPW on-line survey called "Getting Paid in America". This will automatically enter you in the drawing.

So, I leave you with this challenge. If you need to meet more people in your field; if you need expert answers to your compliance questions; if you feel the need to boost your company's standing in the community, then come out and give us a try and enjoy the opportunities we offer. If what I have said in this article seems like something that would enhance your professional capabilities, then go back to your office and ask your boss to write us in to your budget under Education/Training because the Greater Nashville Chapter of APA really needs you!!!