

PAYTECH

Meet Lisa Wachter, CPP, President of the Greater Nashville Chapter

BY CAREN BENNETT

The Greater Nashville Chapter first affiliated with PayrollOrg (PAYO) in 1986 and has been going strong for 38 years. As Chapter President, Lisa Wachter, CPP, is working to keep the chapter thriving.

“We are constantly looking for ways to keep our chapter active, maintain and grow membership, and be sustainable for the long term,” she said.

The Greater Nashville Chapter hosts monthly meetings, partners with the Tennessee Statewide Payroll Conference, collaborates with other local Tennessee chapters, plans National Payroll Week® celebrations, and participates in PAYO chapter contests. The chapter has been recognized more than once in chapter contest categories such as Chapter of the Year (COTY) and Best Statewide or Regional Meeting.

The Greater Nashville Chapter is unique due to its central location, where it can serve the numerous cities and counties that surround Nashville.

“As the area continues to expand, Nashville has become one of the fastest growing cities in the country,” Wachter explains. “Many new businesses have relocated to our downtown area, and we are able to connect with new members as Nashville continues to expand.”

The chapter is planning to implement hybrid meeting options this year to meet the needs of their current members.

“I am very excited to be able to meet in-person while still offering virtual options to those who may find it difficult to commute,” Wachter said.

The chapter has also begun to explore and test new meeting locations in surrounding cities. Through her experience serving the chapter, Wachter has learned the importance of fostering communication with chapter members and chapter board members.

“When your board operates as a team, everything about your chapter operations flows smoothly,” Wachter said. “Make sure



Lisa Wachter, CPP



each person has a voice at the table and collaborate to continue to evolve and grow your chapter.”

In her years of chapter leadership, Wachter has learned that PAYO has a “wealth of resources” readily available to help chapters.

“I’ve really enjoyed the Local Chapter Guide,” she says. “This publication provides great information and reminders along with contact information to help officers run their chapter. Everyone in PAYO’s Chapter Relations Department has been extremely helpful when we have needed to reach out.”

The Greater Nashville Chapter is dedicated to philanthropic efforts and has partnered with organizations such as the Nashville Zoo, the Wounded Warrior Project, Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society, and the Monroe Carroll Jr. Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital.

“We’ve cooked meals for some organizations, had members participate in run and walk events, and even helped make a quilt with the Hope Lodge one year,” she said. “The chapter sets aside funds in the budget to match donations that we have collected throughout the year at our events.”

Wachter’s goal as Chapter President is to reach out to the younger generation of payroll professionals. She encourages payroll professionals anywhere on their career path to get involved with a local chapter.

“Volunteering with your local chapter is worth the time and commitment, and you will receive tremendous rewards,” Wachter said. “You will form personal and professional relationships that will last a lifetime. Volunteering at the chapter and national level with PAYO has been one of the most important highlights of my career as a payroll professional.”

Wachter enjoys photography and has even volunteered as chapter photographer. In her free time, you can find Wachter traveling, spending time with her grandson, and attending sporting events, like the University of Tennessee college football and the NFL’s Tennessee Titans, with her husband. ■

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