



Metro Phoenix Chapter  
American Payroll Association

# Pay

Vol. 1, No 1 January 2006

## President's Corner

*Judie Aranyos*

Wow!!! The past year is over and it was quite a year. I want to thank each of you, especially the 2005 Officers for their help and support.

The Chapter had quite a year! The State Conference Committee headed by Cheryl Hookey did an excellent job – the committee received accolades from attendees, vendors and speakers on the location and the choices of seminars offered.

Thank you to all that attended the Holiday Dinner on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson Hotel. There were 32 people who took time out of their busy holiday schedules to spend an evening celebrating the holidays with great food and an ornament exchange. A heartfelt thank you to all that donated to the toy drive for the children at St. Vincent de Paul, we were able to raise enough toys for 20 children.

There have also been some lows – our attendance at our monthly meetings has been down due to some of active our member's changing jobs. We hope that changes will settle down and everyone can spend more time with their families and become more active in the Metro Phoenix Chapter.

Again, I want to thank each of you for your membership, your involvement and hope that 2006 will meet your expectations!

## Government Updates:

### IRS Releases 2006 Federal Income Tax Withholding Tables, Pub 15

The IRS has released the 2006 Circular E, Employer's Tax Guide (Pub. 15), which includes the federal wage-bracket (pp. 38-57) and percentage (pp. 36-37) method withholding tables effective for wages paid in 2006.

The Publication also includes the wage-bracket (pp. 60-65) and percentage (pp. 58-59) method tables for determining advance earned income credit (EIC) amounts.

The Circular E (Publication 15) can be downloaded by going to the [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) web site and then under Most Requested Forms and Publications – More Forms and Publications - Publications number.

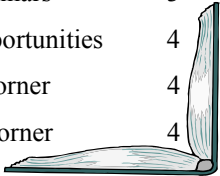
In September, the IRS announced that business mileage rate for transportation would be **48.5** cents for the remaining months of 2005. This temporary increasing of the standard mileage rates by the IRS was a response to the increase in gas prices in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Effective January 1, 2006, the new rate will be **44.5** cents per mile. "The 2006 mileage rates reflect that gas prices have dropped," according to IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson

### President Bush Signs Gulf Opportunity Zone Act

President Bush signed into law the "Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005" on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005. This law expands on the Katrina Emergency Relief Act of 2005. For full details of the act see the December 15 issue of ePayXpress,

#### Inside this issue:

President Corner	1
Government Updates	1
CPP/FPC Study Group	2
Local Payroll Update	2
Fun Facts	2
Metro Phoenix Needs	
You	3
Audio Seminars	3
Career Opportunities	4
Member Corner	4
Birthday Corner	4



## CPP/FPC Study Group

Thinking about taking the APA's certifications tests for CPP or FPC? Cari Bellairs, CPP of Stantec has volunteered to facilitate the Study Group at her work location.

The first meeting of the Study Group will be January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at 8211 S 48<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, AZ 85044.

If you are interested, Cari's contact information is on the Metro Phoenix's web page under CPP/FPC Study Group.

## One-Day Seminar Contest

Have you ever wanted to go to a National American Payroll Association's One-Day Seminars that are held through out the year, but your employer with not cover the cost of the seminar? Well here is your chance to go to one and it will not cost you or your employer!!!!

At the February 21, 2006, the Metro Phoenix Chapter will be holding a drawing and giving one chapter member a certificate for the **Multi-State One-Day Seminar** being held in Phoenix on April 3, 2006.

To be eligible for the drawing the winner must be a current member of the Metro Phoenix Chapter of the APA and be present at the February 21, 2006, meeting.

To renew your membership or if you are interested in joining the Chapter, download the Membership Application from the Metro Phoenix's Web page.

## Local Payroll Update

### February 21, 2006 – Meeting

**Topic:** An overview on COBRA, HIPPA and ERISA

**Speaker:** **Judy Penman –Department of Labor**

Do you know what happens to an employee's medical and pension benefits when they are terminated or they leave their job?

Judy Penman, from the Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration, will present how COBRA, HIPAA and ERISA affect your employee's health and pension benefits when they are laid off or leave their job.

### March 21, 2006 - Meeting

**Topic:** Why Should Payroll be Part of Fraud Examination?

**Speaker:** **Larry Adams, CPA, CFE,**

Fraud is a global business problem that extends far beyond your cubicle or office. The median loss for a payroll fraud case is US \$140,000. One payroll scheme exceeded US \$83 million before it was discovered.

Find out how easily you can be duped by payroll schemes, and how you can improve internal controls. Find out what your payroll department can do to keep the employees, managers, and clients of your organization from becoming victims.

Learn how you can assist a fraud examination team to discover the evidence of fraud and the perpetrators.

## Fun Facts

- The amount of copper on the roof of the Arizona Capitol building is equivalent to 4,800,000 pennies.
- Visitors account for \$4 billion in expenditures each year.
- Ninety percent of companies use temporary help services. In 2003, this industry generated more than \$62 billion in revenue - \$56 billion from temporary help services and \$6 bill in permanent placement services.
- In 2005, the Arizona Lottery contributed \$116.4 million in net profits to the state.
- By AZ law, 30 percent of unclaimed state lottery prize money goes to help protect abandoned, abused, and neglected children in the state.
- Of the \$21.9 billion collected for child support in 2004, 70% or \$15.3 billion came from employers through income withholding.



# The Metro Phoenix APA Needs You!

The Metro Phoenix is planning a very active year, the committees below need you. It takes many people to make our chapter successful. Take a moment to think about what it is you would like to do or have been wanting to do, but never did. Now is your chance, the committees below need volunteers and chairpersons to lead the committee.

Volunteerism makes you understand and enjoy the Metro Phoenix Chapter even more than you already do. Don't worry if you do not like to speak in front of groups or you are concerned that it will take a lot of your time, most positions don't necessarily require you to speak in front of groups and a position can be found to fit your talents and your schedule. If you are interested contact any of the board members.

### Membership Responsible

Responsible for increasing and maintaining membership, new member's relations, member recognition, and developing and executing new member recruitment and referral reward program.

### Community Relations Committee

Responsible for coordinating charitable activities, fund-raisers, and community outreach programs

### National Payroll Week

Responsible for coordinating events, getting state and local NPW proclamations and media/publicity coverage during National Payroll Week Also develops and oversees Metro Phoenix NPW contest.

### 2007 State Payroll Conference Committee

Conference Committee members needed to help secure vendors, speakers, and to coordinate the State 2007 Payroll Conference. Contact: **Chairperson: Cheryl Hookey, CPP**

### Speaker Committee

Responsible for working with the Vice-President to secure speakers for our monthly meetings and working with National APA to secure the needed confirmation of the RCH credits for the members attending.

### Chapter Communication Committee

Responsible for working with the Secretary to keep various print and electronic materials updated, including, but not limited to the following: web page, calendar, newsletter, and advertising.

### Finance

Responsible for working with the Treasurer for developing committee budgets, providing monthly financial statements to committee chairs, reviewing budget vs. actual, auditing chapter financials, filing tax returns...



## Audio Seminar Series

Not able to leave the office for training? The APA Audio Training Seminar Series provides the very latest on payroll, human resources, and benefits topics. The teleconferences are 90-minutes and are also excellent resources to prepare for certification exams and to earn continuing education credit.

All programs at  
1:00PM – 2:30 PM ET  
unless otherwise noted

**Date:** January 26, 2006  
**Time:** 11:00 AM 12:30 PM  
**Location:** Your office  
**Event name:** What's New for 2006?

**Date:** February 9, 2006  
**Time:** 11:00 AM 12:30 PM  
**Location:** Your office  
**Event name:** Form W-4-Every Question You Ever Wanted to Ask and More

**Date:** March 16, 2006  
**Time:** 11:00 AM 12:30 PM  
**Location:** Your office  
**Event name:** Auditing Your Payroll Records for Compliance.

For more information log on to [www.americanpayroll.org](http://www.americanpayroll.org)

## CPP/FPC Exams

**Date:** April 1 – April 29, 2006

**Note:** The Spring 2006 certification exam test questions should be answered based on laws and regulations as of January 1, 2005



## Career Opportunities

Whether you're an employer or a potential employee, the Metro Phoenix Job Posting is for you! Anyone can post jobs or review the current listing!

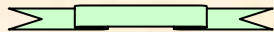
Go to [www.metrophoenixapa.org](http://www.metrophoenixapa.org) and click Payroll Jobs



## Member's Corner

Help us keep you informed! If you change your employer, e-mail address, or phone number, make sure you send an e-mail to Cheryl Carstensen at [ccarst@cox.net](mailto:ccarst@cox.net). Staying in contact with our members is a priority and we can't do it if the information we have is outdated!

Please e-mail any board member if you have news to share about our members such as, births, weddings, promotions, recognitions, obtaining your CPP or FPC – we are interested and would like to share your good news with the membership.



## Birthday Corner

*Happy Birthday to our January and February members.*

**January - Cheryl Carstensen 16<sup>th</sup>**  
Carol Naylor 23<sup>rd</sup>

**February - Karen Peterson 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Nancy Hendron 8<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Hookey 26<sup>th</sup>



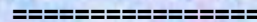
For more information go to Metro Phoenix home page:  
[www.metrophoenixapa.org](http://www.metrophoenixapa.org)  
and click on the APA link at the APA home page click on Congress and you will be taken to all of the information regarding this year's event

## Pay ✓

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American Payroll Association



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