

Special Interest Articles

February Meeting
Information

Foster Children Pajama
Drive

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President's Message

John Lestock, CEBS, CPP



"Snowmageddon" has come and gone. Hopefully, everyone has their power back on at home. Although I didn't like the idea of cancelling our January meeting, I felt it was a prudent thing to do given the extremely unpredictable nature of the weather. Why Mother Nature felt compelled to inflict a nasty snowstorm on the Seattle area during the week of our monthly meeting I will never know. I'm hopeful that the weather will be more manageable for our meeting in February.

Speaking of meetings, by now everyone should have received an email with a link to the membership survey. If you haven't done it yet, please take a few minutes to complete the survey to provide us feedback on how to better serve our members when it comes to our membership meetings and opportunities. Don't forget – all entries completed by February 10th will go into a prize drawing to be held at our February meeting. If you didn't receive the email with the survey link, please let me know and I'll be sure to have it sent to you again.

Although year-end busy

season has just begun for our friends in pension administration (working with actuaries to finalize valuation data for use in calculating plan minimum funding, preparing and sending annual benefit statements, and sending out annual funding notices), year-end season should be winding down for many of us in payroll. Of course, just as we wind down from 2011, we have to get prepared for 2012. A great resource for keeping up-to-date with the numerous compliance requirements in payroll is The Payroll Source. The 2012 edition of The Payroll Source will be available for our members to purchase at a discounted price. We'll update everyone once the books are available for purchase.

It's not too early to start thinking about our spring CPP Study Session. If you're thinking about taking the CPP exam this spring (the spring testing window is from March 31st through April 28th), or you need to earn additional RCH credits, then this study session will be most beneficial for you. We're planning on having the spring study session in early March. We're looking for volunteers to either help prepare materials to use at the study session or to present a particular topic at the study group. If you're interested in volunteering your time and talent, please contact Elaine Burt and the Education Committee at rc_apa_educ@hotmail.com or me at

john.lestock@millman.com.

Another opportunity for earning RCH credits while networking with fellow payroll professionals and even having some fun is at one of our upcoming On-The-Road Meetings. Meetings are scheduled for April, June and October. We'll provide more details about these soon – stay tuned!

Don't forget that our local chapter has a group on LinkedIn and a page on Facebook. Please join our LinkedIn group and "like" our page on Facebook. These social media forums are excellent for networking with other payroll professionals, asking payroll-related questions to the group, and getting updates about our monthly meetings. Also, our local chapter website has a membership directory. Please be sure to check your contact information on the membership directory and verify that your information is correct. If your information needs to be corrected, please contact either Kristine Willson at kristiwillson@msn.com or me at john.lestock@millman.com.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next monthly meeting at the Embassy Suites in Tukwila.

John D. Lestock, CPP,
CEBS
President

This Month's Meeting Venue



Embassy Suites Tukwila

15920 West Valley Hwy
Tukwila
(425) 227-8844

Open Board Positions

Elections
Historian

February Meeting Details

How Healthcare Reform Impacts Employee Benefits In 2012 and Beyond

By Bob Bentley
Propel Insurance, Technical Resources and Compliance Manager

The only constants in life are death, taxes and change. This talk will focus on how the payroll professional will be impacted by the changes in the employee benefits landscape due to new federal regulations.

- Not New, But Often Misunderstood Fringe Benefits
- Changes In Taxes, Reporting And Limits
- PPACA's Impact On Employee Benefit Plans
- PPACA's Impact On Decision Making
- Future Of PPACA

1 RCH for attending this meeting

February Dinner Menu/Costs

Two Entrée Dinner Buffet

Mixed Wild Garden Greens, Selection of Dressings, Chilled Pasta Primavera, Fresh Fruits, Oven Roasted Red Potatoes, Rice Pilaf, Steamed Vegetables, Freshly Baked Rolls
Choice of Two Entrees:
~Seared Salmon with Seasonal Fruit Relish~
~Chicken Caprese
Chef's Selection Dessert
Freshly Brewed Starbucks Coffee, Select Tazo Teas

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Networking 5:45 p.m.
Dinner 6:15 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Cost per person:

Rainier Chapter
Member:

\$39.00

Non-Rainier Chapter
Member

\$46.00

RSVP via Cvent by
Tuesday, February 14, 2012

To avoid being charged for the cost of a meal, all cancellations must be received by noon on Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

You can cancel via Cvent or contact kristiwillson@msn.com

Upcoming meeting locations/dates

3/15/2012 Best Western PLUS Executive Inn ~ Seattle

4/19/2012 Coast Hotel ~ Bellevue

5/17/2012 Embassy Suites ~ Tukwila

6/21/2012 TBD

7/19/2012 Coast Hotel ~ Bellevue

8/16/2012 Embassy Suites ~ Tukwila

9/20/2012 TBD

10/18/2012 Coast Hotel ~ Bellevue

11/15/2012 Embassy Suites ~ Tukwila

December ~ No meeting

Community Outreach

Nancy Keller

Foster Children Pajama Drive: Jan 2 – Feb 26, 2012

Foster children in our community are often removed from their Homes with only the clothes on their back. For foster families, this means replenishing important items like new clothes, shoes, coats, and even pajamas.

That's why Rainier Chapter Community Outreach is supporting the Sleep Country USA Pajama Drive for Foster Kids this year. With 15 nonprofit foster organization partners, the program is designed to take in donations and disperse them to those children most in need. Our goal is to collect many pairs of new pajamas for children of various ages and sizes and your help is needed!

Donations can be dropped off at any Sleep Country Location or I will be collecting them at the February Chapter Meeting. I will take them to a Sleep Country Store. I know I have fun shopping and always manage to find great deals that allow me to buy one or two more items, but if shopping isn't your cup of tea, you can always donate cash and someone will do the shopping for you.



How'd we do?

Larry Hirata, CPP

January 2012 Meeting Expenses	
Receipts	\$ -
Receivable	\$ -
Total	<u>\$ -</u>
Food	\$ -
Beverage	\$ -
Audio/Visual	\$ -
Refunds	\$ -
Refunds - Prior Mtg	\$ -
Room Rental	\$ -
Merchant Fee	\$ (48.69)
Paypal	\$ (1.43)
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>\$ (50.12)</u>
<i>Net Income/Loss</i>	<u>\$ (50.12)</u>

And the Survey Says!

Bekkijo Kahler

Thank you for your membership in the Rainier Chapter of the APA. If you have not done so already, we would like to encourage you to take a few moments and complete the survey on the following link to give us feedback on how to better serve our members when it comes to our membership meetings and opportunities. All entries completed by February 10, 2012 will go into a prize drawing to be held at the February 2012 membership meeting.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8LRTT3L>

Government Updates

Susan LeMaster, CPP

NY Changes Personal Income and MTA Payroll Tax Rates

On December 9, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo signed a tax reform bill into law that will create new personal income tax (PIT) rates and brackets, effective for wages paid on or after January 1, 2012. [Read about](#) how the new law will also reduce and eliminate the MTA Payroll Tax for certain employers, effective April 1, 2012.

Employment Laws Assistance

The Department of Labor has developed a series of online advisors that help employees and employers understand their rights and responsibilities under federal employment laws such as pay and overtime, workplace poster requirements, health benefits, and more. Consult the elaws Advisors at the [Department of Labor's website](#).

Business Mileage Rate to Stay at 55.5 Cents in 2012

The IRS has announced that the business standard mileage rate for transportation expenses paid or incurred beginning January 1, 2012, will stay at 55.5 cents per mile, where it has been since July 1, 2011. [Read an article from APA](#) about all the mileage rates for 2012.

Consider attending the Capital Summit

Receive the latest updates on new and pending federal laws and regulations from government officials at APA's [Capital Summit](#), March 26-27, 2012, in Washington, D.C. Protect your payroll compliance! [Register](#) now. The program sponsor is BNA.

Employers Subject to the Reporting Requirement

The APA noted that many employers use third-party sick pay providers to handle Forms W-2 for short-term and/or long-term disability payments; however, the IRS failed to provide guidance as to whether the health insurance reporting obligation extended beyond the "employer." In response, the IRS created Q&A-39, which states that the reportable amount is not required to be included on a Form W-2 provided by a third-party sick pay provider.

Conference

Don Cardwell, CPP

We are looking for volunteers for this year's 24th Annual Northwest Regional Payroll Conference. The conference will be held September 13 – 14, 2012 at the Coast Hotel in Bellevue. We are looking for volunteers to help plan the conference. Last year's conference was an overwhelming success with the highest attendance in years.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me at dondawg@msn.com

Rainier Chapter APA
 PO Box 55715
 Seattle, WA 98155

Membership

Annual membership renewals are due the first of the month the year following your enrollment date. An electronic invoice will be sent via Cvent. For your convenience, payment can be made using any major credit card through Cvent, PayPal (click on the link found on the homepage of the Rainier Chapter website or mail a check to the

address noted on the left hand side of this page. There are two types of memberships available. An individual membership is \$50.00 per year and a Corporate membership is \$125.00 per year. The corporate membership allows for up to three people from that corporation to attend meetings at the

member rates. All recruiting companies must have a Corporate membership in order to post jobs on the Rainier Chapter job board. If you have any questions please contact Kristine Willson, CPP at kristiwillson@msn.com

About Our Organization

The Rainier Chapter of the American Payroll Association was founded in 1982 by a dedicated group of payroll professionals who sought to provide an informative and educational environment to share and exchange information with other industry professionals. Our chapter meets monthly to discuss changes within the payroll industry, share ideas and plan for the annual conference.

By meeting monthly we are able to provide keynote speakers that help to more precisely address specific areas of change within the industry, whether those changes are technological, administrative or legislative.

Apart from our monthly meetings the chapter produces a monthly newsletter to ensure that all chapter members are well informed and up to date on the latest industry

information available.

As a chapter of the American Payroll Association, we are governed by the by-laws set forth and headed by a Board of Directors. This dedicated group of individuals ensures that our chapter is not only moving in the right direction, but also providing beneficial and useful information that payroll professionals seek.

We're on LinkedIn!

See us at:

APA – Rainier Chapter

We're on Facebook!

See us at:

Rainier Chapter of the APA



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rainierchapterapa.com

What's going on at APA?

Payroll Issues for Multi-State Employers ~ Seattle	April 20, 2012
Annual Congress	May 6 – 10, 2012
Payroll Tax Forum ~ Seattle	June 15, 2012
Leadership Certificate Program ~ Seattle	July 18, 2012
Garnishments Forum ~ Seattle	August 10, 2012
Rainier Chapter Conference	September 13 – 14, 2012
Fall Forum ~ TBD	September 19 – 21, 2012