



ITEMS

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Newsletter of the Idaho Chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals



A Message from Your Idaho Chapter President, David Washburn

IAWP provides membership with many tremendous professional development, networking, educational and communication opportunities. In today's world of tight budgets, economic uncertainties and rising living costs, IAWP offers many excellent avenues to maintain continuous professional growth and increased knowledge to remain professionally competitive with the limited resources available.

International IAWP established a new and revised internet website which provides a great information resource for IAWP members. The website includes several new features to assist IAWP members in communicating and obtaining valuable IAWP information more effectively and efficiently. The new IAWP webpage has a "Members Only" portal that requires your IAWP membership number and your personally established password. The "Members Only" portal enables IAWP to ensure that the information exchange component of our association is truly a benefit of your IAWP membership. The International IAWP Workforce Professional newsletter and the IAWP Chapter Activity Countdown are accessed through the "Members Only" portal by current paid up IAWP members. There are also numerous surveys posted throughout the year for IAWP membership to provide their input and ideas on various programs and initiatives being explored and implemented by IAWP leadership to increase the overall value of our organization. The annual election of IAWP International officers is also accomplished through the "Members Only" portal each spring. Last year IAWP had contested elections for two of the elected international officer position, and we had most of the approximately 585 votes cast through the internet on the "Members Only" portal.

I encourage each of you to take full advantage of the new IAWP website, particularly the "Members Only" portal. There is a fantastic amount of useful information on the IAWP webpage at: www.iawponline.org. The members only portal contains the "My Information" link (found under the heading "Member Links"). This link enables members to update their contact information including keeping your e-mail address up to date so IAWP can effectively communicate critical and relevant information with members. Another awesome feature of the new IAWP website is the e-Alert system that enables IAWP leadership to send out information to all IAWP members electronically. It is very important that each IAWP member keep the e-mail address listed on their "My Information" profile updated.

Some of the information contained in this article was obtained from an article in the October 2008 Chapter Activity Countdown by IAWP President Elect, Daniel Hays.

"It's Your IAWP – Making a Difference, Working Together"

International Development on the Move

The International Development Committee activity planned for this year is an International e-mail pen pal program with IAWP members from international member countries.

This activity would entail sharing ideas, knowledge, program successes and information with our counterparts in foreign countries. If you are interested in participating, please contact David Washburn at dwashb@clarkston.com. There are e-mail addresses available on the International IAWP directory on the IAWP web page.



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District Conference '08
By Jan Roser

The IAWP District Education Institute was held in Boise this September. Participants from Oregon and Washington joined in with us Idahoans to learn a little and laugh a little. The topic of college football was bantered around-- imagine that this time of year. The camaraderie was evident from the get go with folks sharing information regarding such diverse topics as their state's labor market information and state voting norms to times when they used humor to defuse serious situations. The compatibility of shared career goals and situations somehow made strangers feel like old friends. I would encourage everyone to attend the next District event and meet some of these Ducks, Beavers, Cougars and Huskies that are old friends of us Broncos (and a few Vandals I suppose).

The listening topic was presented to us by Marty Downey, a retired BSU professor. It was great fun and truly interactive as a glorified game of grapevine involved members of the audience. A fairly lengthy joke was read to one participant and had to be verbally passed on to each successive individual with the audience tallying the errors and/or omissions. By the time our last participant heard the rendition, the joke was lost and so were many of the details adding to the hilarity. It was determined that the key is to truly focus on the person speaking and not use our filters to change the message or add interpretation to it. Many of our common missteps in listening and communicating were brought to our attention by our presenter and just reiterates that we need to pay attention to the other person and not our inner voices --- c'mon, we've all got them!!!!

The business meeting topics were fairly serious this fall with the discussion of whether it would be effective to combine some of the sub-chapters. It is unfortunate that participation has slipped to an all-time low with many of the sub-chapters leaving leadership positions unfilled. There are huge voids in education, training and service activities in all of the offices, including Sage and Sawtooth, which is witnessing some neglect but nothing compared to the other five sub-chapters. It is important that we hear from the members, and when there is an event that you particularly enjoyed, please communicate that to the planners. It is relevant that we also use our minds periodically and review what we could use refreshers on - for instance, customer service or organizational tips are always useful for work, as well as, personal lives. The training on "How to Say No" will not be offered anytime in the near future.

VA LOANS REMAIN A STRONG OPTION FOR VETERANS
News Release, September 19, 2008
Submitted by Johnny Moreno

More service members and veterans are using their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home loan guaranty benefit, as the VA's loan program remains a strong option in today's housing market. The VA is experiencing a significant increase in home loan volume, with more than 162,000 home loan

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guaranties provided this year, an increase of more than 31% over the same period last year. "VA attributes this increase to the favorable terms traditionally offered with VA loans and the elimination of many no-down payment products in the conventional mortgage market," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake.

No-down payment loans are increasingly difficult to obtain with conventional financing. Under recently enacted legislation, the VA now uses a locality-based approach in determining ceilings on its no-down payment home loans. The VA no-down payment loans are available for as much as \$729,000. Larger VA loans may be obtained with relatively small down payments. Not only is the VA program one of the few remaining no-down payment programs in the market today, but lenders and veterans using the program are finding that it provides a timely and user-friendly product.

Focus in recent years on improvements in information technology has helped streamline the loan process and has made the program more accessible. Veterans no longer need to obtain a VA Certificate of Eligibility prior to contacting a lender. Lenders can access the program's web portal to use VA's online Automated Certificate of Eligibility (ACE) system and obtain the certificate for the veteran. Many times, lenders can receive the certificate within seconds. VA lenders have the authority to process and approve veterans' loan applications. Lenders can order appraisals online, review and determine the appraised value of the property themselves, electronically submit the information VA needs to process a loan guaranty, and then receive the guaranty electronically within 24 hours.

Promotions -		
Hartz, Tony	Supply Operations Supervisor	Accounting
Lehan, Caleb	IT Network Analyst, Senior	IS Support
Wood, Christopher	IT Network Analyst, Senior	IS Support
Meyers, Gemma	Research Analyst, Senior	Research & Analysis
Ruiz, Elizabeth	Financial Specialist, Senior	UI Compliance
Cullen, Laura	Technical Records Specialist 2	UI Compliance

The VA is also revolutionizing its loan servicing activity through implementation of a new web-enabled and rules-based "smart" system called VALERI (VA Loan Electronic Reporting Interface). Standardized servicing criteria on par or ahead of industry norms and instant access to acquisition and claim payment status make it easier for servicers to work and communicate with the VA. It also allows servicers to help veterans who are experiencing financial difficulty avoid foreclosure.

VA-guaranteed home loans are made to eligible veterans, service members, and surviving spouses through private mortgage lenders throughout the United States. Since 1944, when home loan guaranties were first offered with the original GI Bill, the VA has guaranteed more than 18 million home loans worth over \$965 billion. Last year, about 135,000 veterans, service members, and surviving spouses received loans valued at nearly \$24 billion.

More than 90% of VA loans were made without any down payment. To obtain more information about the VA Loan Guaranty Program, veterans can call VA at 1-877-827-3702. Information can also be obtained at www.homeloans.va.gov.

Preserving Life's Memories
By Jami Whited

Many of us have a corner, table, closet or even an extra room filled with stacks of paper, scissors, stickers and other embellishments, not to mention those great tools like the Cricut, paper cases, eyelet setters and more. To the chagrin of many a husband, these materials often get in the way of, say, finding their shoes.

Shirley Lee, a consultant with Heritage Makers, recently presented information to the Sawtooth & Sage subchapter on how to take care of that “clutter.”

The web-based system is easy to use and relatively cheap when you compare the price of the project and the monthly premium membership fee of \$20 a month, or the no-cost option for basic membership, with what you would pay on glue, paper, copies of photos and other things to make your creation “just right.”

Heritage Maker’s mission is to strengthen family history by preserving family heritage, Lee says. A unique feature that lets you do just that is the company’s memory story books. Several people have used this project to create stories on their families. For instance, one woman created a book on her mother who was suffering from Alzheimer’s. She wanted her children to know their grandma as she was, not as someone who didn’t know them. Through this type of project, families have the opportunity to learn who their family, their heritage, was if they never get the chance to meet them. These books can be completed with as many pictures or journaling as you wish. “It’s important to get the memories before they’re gone,” Lee said.

So, for those of us that can’t draw a straight line with a ruler, let alone cut an even border with those snazzy scissors, Heritage Makers might just be the way to go. No more using our ink to print off copies of pictures, no more cropping too much or wasting precious paper because it didn’t look quite right.

Now you can mix, match and undo as much as you want - all without losing the homemade touch - or your husband’s shoes.

Explore the Many Benefits of IAWP membership by David Washburn, Idaho Chapter President



The International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP) is a worldwide professional association available to all individuals with a common interest in workforce systems. IAWP equips members for success providing the highest quality of education, leadership, information exchange, and recognition of excellence through a network of local, regional and international chapters preparing members for the workforce challenges of tomorrow.

IAWP is a nonprofit professional educational association representing over 10,000 professionals from around the World who work in public and private workforce development and economic programs or have a strong interest in workforce development. IAWP’s objectives include enhancing job competence, supporting administrators in program improvement and fostering a close working relationship with partner organizations.

The Idaho Chapter IAWP was chartered in 1946 and is now in its 62nd year of existence. The Idaho Chapter of IAWP has a proud tradition of providing quality service to employees of the Idaho Department of Labor and its partners in Workforce Development. From member recognition to community service projects, IAWP provides superior educational opportunities and social networking activities for everyone who participates.

There are many great benefits of being an active member of the International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP). To grow as people and to grow in our careers, we need to be lifelong learners. IAWP is committed to helping its members achieve their education and training goals and grow in their careers.

IAWP encompasses five major activity areas of focus.

- * The first area is education. In order to remain the best in our careers we must continue to educate ourselves about the various facets of workforce development, economic development and other services available through partner agencies from throughout our communities and our state. As members of IAWP we strive to learn and provide educational opportunities that best help the people

we serve. IAWP constantly strives to increase members' educational opportunities through learn-at-lunch workshops, educational conferences, the Professional Development Program and scholarships to pursue job-related study at accredited schools. IAWP helps empower workforce professionals with knowledge and experience. There are several educational scholarships and grants available to IAWP membership including the International IAWP Logan S. Chambers Individual Scholarship and the W. Scott Boyd Group Grant that helps chapters present an array of educational programs to groups of members and nonmembers. The Workforce Professional Development Program (WPDP) is a series of study guides and examinations designed to give workforce professionals an opportunity to enhance their professional knowledge and career growth.

- * The second area of focus is legislative awareness. We are, "We the People" and we can have a collective voice in guiding decisions made by the Idaho Legislature and the US Congress, especially in terms of legislation that affects state employees and Labor programs. IAWP is aware of legislative activity that affects the many aspects of workforce development. The IAWP Education and Legislative Liaison maintains communication between IAWP members and national policymakers.
- * The third area of focus is community service. One of the best feelings you can receive is by giving your time, your knowledge, your talent and monetary donations to worthy causes that develop and strengthen the bonds within your own neighborhood and community.
- * The fourth area of focus that IAWP provides is an excellent recognition award program. The IAWP award program facilitates superior recognition of outstanding service provided by individuals and groups for the various customer groups, the department and the community.
- * The fifth area of focus is professional communications and networking. Idaho Chapter of IAWP members receive two informative newsletters six times each year. The International IAWP newsletter the "Workforce Professional" focuses on current legislation, the state of workforce development related programs in the United States and around the world, people in workforce development and training and the association. The Idaho chapter "ITEMS" newsletter provides statewide news of workforce and economic development related programs, subchapter news and information on our association and membership. There are also numerous professional networking opportunities provided through IAWP membership at local, state, regional and national educational conferences.

Please refer to the Idaho Chapter of IAWP webpage at:

<http://labor.idaho.gov/DNN/Default.aspx?alias=labor.idaho.gov/dnn/iawp>

and the IAWP International web page at: <http://www.iawponline.org> for additional detailed information.

On behalf of the Idaho Chapter of IAWP, I would like to invite you to become an IAWP member or if you are currently an IAWP member and start taking full advantage of IAWP membership and enjoy the many benefits and activities available through IAWP membership. If you would like to become an IAWP member or know someone that might want to become a member of IAWP please fill free to contact the Idaho Chapter President, David Washburn at: (208) 746-9565, e-mail: dwashb@clarkston.com or Idaho Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Chris Orders at: (208) 735-2500 X 3722, e-mail: christine.orders@labor.idaho.gov.

IAWP International Friends and Acquaintances
David Washburn, Idaho Chapter President



Mei Chuan Chuang, is an Executive Officer, for the Economic Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States based in Washington, DC and is responsible for Labor Affairs.

She attended her first IAWP International Educational Conference in Richmond, Virginia, June, 2008 and participated in a very informative educational International panel at this Conference. The theme of the International panel was "The World Market Place, Working with Foreign Companies". Ms. Chuang's presentation was very well received; she presented interesting information about the workforce in Taiwan.

It has been a great honor to get to know Mei Chuan Chuang and share ideas and information about Workforce Development in both Taiwan and the United States and share information on our work and personal lives. Ms. Chuang has worked as an Executive Officer dealing with labor affairs at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington DC since January 2008. For many years prior to arriving in the United States and starting her current position, Ms. Chuang served in various positions in different departments of the Council of Labor Affairs, in Taiwan and dealt with employment relationships issues including employment contracts, collective agreements and labor cooperation.



Mei Chuan Chuang Speaking at the 2008 IAWP Conference

Mei Chuan Chuang was selected for her current position by the Council of Labor Affairs of the Republic of China through a process that created 2 positions to deal with international affairs related to labor issues. One of these positions is in the United States and the other is in the European Union. These 2 positions are for 3-year appointments. The Council of Labor Affairs of the Republic of China welcomed and encouraged all CLA staff to apply for these 2 positions to contribute to international labor affairs. As a senior staff member with the Council of Labor Affairs, Mei Chuan Chuang thought this position would be a good opportunity to enrich her career experience and contribute positively to international labor affairs. She thus submitted her application and went through a series of selection processes and was successful in obtaining her new job opportunity working in the United States.

Mei Chuan Chuang enjoys her position as Executive Officer of Labor Affairs, in Washington, DC, as she can contact many different organizations, agencies and people in the United States. This helps her to expand her international vision and sharpen her labor affair ideas.

Ms. Chuang received her Bachelor's Degree in Economics from FuJen Catholic University in Taiwan and holds her Master's Degree in Labor Relations from the Institute for Labor Relations, National Chengchi University in Taiwan. She is currently a PhD Doctorial Degree candidate in Human Resource Management through the Institute for Human Resources Management, National Sun Yat-Sen University in Taiwan.



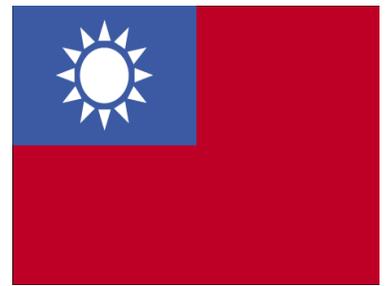
Mei, as she prefers to be called, says that her favorite American food is hamburgers, and she enjoys reading in her free time. She says the thing she likes best about working and living in the United States is the opportunity to experience different cultures. Mei's homeland, the Republic of China, is also referred to as Taiwan and Taipei.



Mei's family is very close and family relationships are very important in the Taiwanese culture. Mei has one older brother and four younger brothers.

She indicates that her overall impression of the United States and their culture is that the people from the United States display confidence and passion in their life activities including work and leisure. Mei feels that the Taiwanese culture and people tend to not

promote themselves as well and are a little shy and more reserved than Americans in general. Taiwanese people are very kind and like Americans but do not have as much of a spirit of adventure as Americans. One thing that Mei has noticed about American workers is that they may tend to follow procedures and not initiate change as efficiently as possible, even when change may make them more effective.



*The Flag of the Republic of China
Taiwan*

In my conversation with Mei, I asked her what she thought I would experience as the biggest differences between Taiwan and the United States if I was to visit Taiwan and decide to live and work there. She felt that the biggest thing I would notice would be the different types of food. The aspect that I would like best about Taiwan, would be the friendly people of Taiwan.

After attending her first IAWP International Educational Conference this year in Richmond, Virginia, Mei accepted the position of IAWP District 18 Director for the Republic of China and will serve in this position for the next 3 years. She states she was impressed that IAWP members who attended the Educational Conference were so involved in the conference and the agenda because the conference was so diverse and provided very relevant information and topics related to workforce development. She says that the most memorable part of the 2008 IAWP Educational Conference was the IAWP Awards presentations.



*Tea with Mei at her
office in Washington DC*

When asked what she felt IAWP could do to become a better professional organization, she replied continue to strive to have the IAWP membership continue to work together to accomplish their worthy goals. She feels that it is important to continue make our IAWP Educational Conferences available to IAWP members with 2 or 3 strategically planned main topics that accomplish the overall goals statement for the conference.

I wish to give my sincerest thanks to Mei Chuan Chuang for sharing her knowledge, insights and personal information with me to make this International article a reality. When people around the world share, become acquainted and take the time to listen and communicate, the World and the International Association of Workforce Professionals will grow and prosper.



Halloween

Halloween, or **Hallowe'en**, is an international holiday celebrated on October 31. Halloween activities include trick-or-treating, ghost tours, bonfires, costume parties, visiting haunted attractions, carving jack-o'-lanterns, reading scary stories and watching horror movies. Irish immigrants carried versions of the tradition to North America in the nineteenth century. Other western countries embraced the holiday in the late twentieth century. Halloween is celebrated in several countries of the Western world, most commonly in the United States, Canada, Ireland, Puerto Rico, Japan, New Zealand, United Kingdom and occasionally in parts of Australia. In Sweden the All Saints' official holiday takes place on the first Saturday of November.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia





International Association of Workforce Professionals

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2008

IAWP Educational and Legislative Liaison Lee Foley announced to the IAWP leadership the House and Senate during the week of September 22nd passed a continuing resolution (CR) that will fund the federal government until March 6, 2009. At that time there will be a new administration and a new Congress. Continuing Resolutions are an important part of the annual budget process. *Why is a CR so important?* For more information visit the web to learn more http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continuing_resolution

The IAWP Legislative Steering Committee collaborated with Educational and Legislative Liaison Lee Foley to prepared letters and faxed them on September 30th to key Congressional offices. The letters were addressed to the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee; the Honorable Tom Harkin, Chairman, Appropriations Subcommittee, Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies; and the Honorable Dave Obey, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee. The letters are posted on the IAWP website for all members to review at <http://www.iawponline.org/legislativeaction.html> This is one more example of your professional organization working to assist the Workforce System.

The official 2008 theme - "**America's People, America's Talent... America's Strength!**" - for the National Disability Employment Awareness Month was announced by U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. The National Disability Employment Awareness Month is observed each year in October. For additional information right click to view <http://www.dol.gov/odep/faqs/ndeam.htm> As a matter of perfect timing on September 25th, President Bush signed into law the ADA Amendments Act. For more information visit the Society for Human Resource Management's (SHRM) website at http://www.shrm.org/hrnews_published/articles/CMS_026707.asp

Linda K. Amos, Chair, IAWP Legislative Steering Committee

Articles for publication in the next issue are due by November 8, 2008

**Please send to
chris.orders@labor.idaho.gov**

ITEMS Editor – Chris Orders