

A Joint Venture With One Voice

BUILDING ON A PROUD  
TRADITION

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# ITEMS

Published by the **Idaho Chapter of IAWP** "Partners in Workforce Development"  
*Formerly IAPES (International Association of Personnel in Employment Security)*



## International Connections

By David Washburn  
–Idaho Chapter International Development Committee Chair

Professionals working in the Workforce Professions from around the World learn from each other through the IAWP International connection. Our ties to IAWP chapters in other nations broaden our horizons and gives us access to more knowledge and more options. Our common goal of making lives better through workforce development provides us all with many interesting programs, topics of discussion and ideas to share with each other.

In this issue of the Idaho IAWP ITEMS we will explore the country of Lithuania and it's workforce development programs.

## LITHUANIA

Lithuania is situated on the eastern coast of the Baltic Sea and covers 65,3 thousand square kilometers which is slightly larger than the State of West Virginia. The country has 99 kilometers of coastline and is bordered to the North by Latvia, to the east and south by Belarus and Poland and to the southwest by the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation. The total estimated population of Lithuania as of January 2003 is 3,462,600 people. The capital of Lithuania is Vilnius a city with a

population of 553,300 people as of January 2003. The labor force is approximately 30% industry, 20% agriculture, and 50% services. The industries include: metal-cutting machine tools, electric motors, television sets, refrigerators and freezers, petroleum refining, shipbuilding (small ships), furniture making, textiles, food processing, fertilizers, agricultural machinery, optical equipment, electronic components, computers and amber. Agriculture products include: grain, potatoes, sugar beets, flax, vegetables; beef, milk, eggs and fish.

The Lithuanian Labor Exchange at the Ministry of Social Security and Labor consists of the National office and 46 local labor exchange centers. The institution began its activity on March 1, 1991. Lithuanian Labor Exchange provides: labor market information, assistance for job seekers in finding jobs, provides employers with the necessary skilled labor force, pays unemployment benefits and involves registered job seekers in employment programs including: vocational training and retraining, starting their own business, placement into public works, the works program financed from the Employment Fund, establishment of new jobs and job clubs.

Tripartite commissions functioning on a voluntary basis are set up at the labor exchanges for the consideration of employment issues. The

commissions consist of representatives of trade unions, employers and public authorities.

Large regional unemployment differences are one of the major problems of the Lithuanian labor market. The National unemployment rate was 9.8 % in December 2003. There are 4 municipal territories that exceed 18% unemployment, 7 that are between 15% and 18%, 7 that are between 12% and 15%, 12 that are between 9% and 12% and 16 that are 9% or less. Active measures aimed at stimulating the labor markets and enhancing employability in the regions with high unemployment rates, leading to the reduction of regional differences, is of high importance.



The Lithuanian Law on Support of the Unemployed that was enacted on December 13, 1990 and amended on January 15, 1998 but Lithuania does not currently have a law on Unemployment Insurance. The unemployed in Lithuania are currently getting unemployment benefit, next year it will be unemployment insurance benefits. Effective May 1, 2004 Lithuania will join the European Union and they must coordinate their laws with the regulations and directives from the European Union. The new Lithuanian law on Unemployment Insurance was approved on December 16, 2003 and will go into effect on January 1, 2005.

Effective January 1, 2005 in Lithuania an unemployed person could receive unemployment insurance benefits for 6 months if

they have less than 25 years of covered employment, 7 months if they have between 25 and 30 years and 9 months if they have more than 35 years of covered employment. Currently not all unemployed individuals can receive unemployment benefits. To be eligible an individual must in the last 3 years had insurance for 24 months (this means that in the last 3 years they would have worked 24 months). The next time they can get unemployment benefits only if they have worked or have been involved in active labor market measures for 180 days in one year. The unemployment benefit is very small in Lithuania, from 135 Litass to 250 Litass. This is about \$50 to \$93 United States dollars. The benefits are paid on a monthly basis for no longer than 6 months in a 12-month period. An individual shall be disqualified for unemployment benefits if prior to the granting of the benefits the individual refused to accept an offer of work which suits his professional qualifications and state of health, also if travel by urban or suburban transport to and from the place of the offered work does not take more than 3 hours or 2 hours in the case of women with children under 8 years of age and men who are single parents with children under 8 years old. An individual shall also be disqualified if they refuse enrollment in a vocational training program in a profession in demand in the local labor market.

The unemployed individuals report to one of the 46 Employment Service offices to register and apply for their unemployment benefits. There are counselors available there to assist those individuals who are

unskilled, long-term unemployed and not prepared to enter the labor market. There are also placement officers who assist the skilled individuals who are ready to return to the labor market, with job placement. Individuals on unemployment benefits must report to the Employment Service office once a month to receive job proposals or proposals to participate in active labor market training activities.



### **LIETUVOS DARBO BIRZA**

For additional information on the Lithuanian Labor Exchange system go to their web page at: [www.ldb.lt/ldb\\_site/en/index.aspx/en/information/?menu\\_id=109](http://www.ldb.lt/ldb_site/en/index.aspx/en/information/?menu_id=109) or just click on the green icon above.

“Don't be afraid of opposition. Remember, a kite rises against -- not with -- the wind.”-- Hamilton Mabie, American writer and editor (1846-1916)



## **International Development on the Move**

By David Washburn  
--Idaho Chapter International  
Development Committee Chair

The International Development Committee pen pal program has begun with e-mail contacts being made between two Idaho Chapter members and the Chapter Presidents from two different countries. Idaho Chapter President

Craig Smith has established e-mail communication with Baja Mexico Chapter President, Miguel Valenzuela and David Washburn has established e-mail contact with Liongina Beinoraviciene, the Lithuania Chapter President. This activity facilitates sharing of ideas, knowledge, program successes and information with our counterparts in foreign countries. The article on Lithuania that appears in this issue of the ITEMS was set in motion through this International pen pal program. If you are interested in participating in this beneficial activity please contact David Washburn at [dwashbur@jobservice.us](mailto:dwashbur@jobservice.us) for possible names and e-mail addresses of IAWP members from other countries.



## Membership Contest

By Lu Lineberry,  
Membership Chairperson,  
State Chapter Vice President

We are heading towards the end of our January Jumpstart Contest, with it winding up the end of February. To date, we have 10 new members!! This contest between local offices and Central Office cost centers, started in November 2003 and goes until February 2004. As a reminder, the local office or Central Office cost center that recruits the largest number of new members during that time will be served breakfast by members of the IAWP/IAPES Idaho State Chapter Officers. We will actually come to your office and serve you breakfast between 7am-8am, the day to be arranged through the winning office's management team. This will be a

breakfast that no one wants to miss! Every member is encouraged to recruit at least one member, but remember, the more you recruit, the more likely your office will be declared the winner and receive the yummy breakfast we have in store for you!

For those smaller offices that think it is not fair due to the membership possibilities, let me remind you that the International President's theme this year is A Joint Venture with One Voice. The idea behind this theme is that it is time to bring in all those involved and interested in the Workforce, thus the name change from IAPES to International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP). This includes employers, city chambers of commerce, Voc Rehab, One Stops, Health and Welfare, etc, anyone who would have an interest in Workforce Development. So this means that even if your office or cost center is small, the potential for growth is still out there.

Every member has countless resources and contacts that could be potential members. We just need to find them and introduce them to IAWP (formerly known as IAPES). So "jump" in, help our cause, and win a delicious breakfast! You'll be glad you did!!

## Mark Your Calendars!

by Pam Pearson  
Educational Chair/Idaho IAWP

Greetings Everyone!  
Ever heard of Abby Shields? If you haven't....you will want to mark this email for future reference, because the Idaho Chapter of IAWP is proud to bring her to our State Conference in

April, 2004. When you get a moment, please be directed to the IAWP website for information about Abby. She is an international speaker and author who is sure to inspire you to achieve. Abby has been acclaimed from coast to coast and her client list spans from the Mobil Oil Company in Louisiana to the Social Security Department in the country of Belize. We are both very fortunate and excited to welcome Abby to our State Conference. Mark your calendars for April 29th & 30th to attend this highly inspirational and educational event....you won't want to miss this!

For more info about Abby:  
[www.abbysields.com](http://www.abbysields.com)

Conference specifics will soon be available:  
<http://www.jobservice.us/portal/go/iapes/0/DesktopDefault.aspx>

## Legislation

By David Hunter, Legislative  
Committee Chair

Do you want to be in the KNOW about funding, policy decisions, changes being considered, and what is happening that will affect your career? For the best and current information go to [http://www.workforceatm.org/legislative\\_news.cfm](http://www.workforceatm.org/legislative_news.cfm)



## Idaho Legislative Update

By Dwight Johnson

Just wanted to give you a quick update on a couple of Department bills for your information.

HB 607 - Merges the Department of Commerce and Labor. It had a print hearing today in House State Affairs Committee and will probably have a full hearing in that committee next Monday. We also briefed the House Commerce and Human Resources Committee this afternoon on this legislation. FYI - I've attached some talking points that for this legislation that we are using for these hearings.

SB 1226 - The bill would eliminate "SUTA Dumping," a tax evasion scheme that businesses can currently legally use to manipulate their Unemployment Experience Rating and thereby artificially lower their UI tax rates. This bill will probably be up for a full hearing in the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee next week. ("SUTA" stands for State Unemployment Tax Act)

Roger Madsen will be presenting the Department of Commerce budget to the Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee (JFAC) Weds. morning at 8:00. The Department of Labor budget is on an "every other year" cycle with JFAC and we presented last year, so we will not be presenting the Labor budget to JFAC this year.

## Subchapter Activities

Treasure Valley SubChapter  
By Milt Smith.

Canyon County enjoyed the "Hot Dog Days of Summer" in July. All proceeds went to the Veterans Standown in September.

All Local Offices in the SubChapter participated in the IAWP Back to School Roundup. Employees of our Job Service Offices made various items for

youngsters that were members of families unable to provide the basic essentials for school, paper, pencils, etc., available. The employees had fun and the school districts in each area were most gratified for our contributions.

Canyon County and Payette offices presented the Mike Schlappi video during a "Brown Bag Luncheon in September and November.

The Treasure Valley Subchapter conducted a costume contest for Halloween in October. The Canyon County and Meridian offices each produced a winner. Greg June was the winner from the Meridian Office and Carmela Ramirez was the winner from Canyon County. Their names were put into a hat for a drawing that would give the winner free year's dues for IAWP membership, paid for by the Treasure Valley Subchapter.. Carmela was the lucky winner.

Canyon County continues its project in collecting pop-tops for the Ronald McDonald House.

Canyon County hosted the IAWP Treasure Valley Subchapter January monthly meeting January 23rd. Member and guests were treated to a presentation by Idaho State Police officer Josh Green on Safety Tips in Winter Driving. 13 members and guests gathered to hear Officer Green spoke on defensive driving techniques, road rage and driving under the influence. Selected attendees were challenged to wear a pair of specialized goggles that when worn help to demonstrate how impaired someone is after only a few drinks. While entertaining and fun to see co-workers stagger around as though under the influence, it really brought home in seriousness of the importance of

not getting behind the wheel of a vehicle when in that condition. Attendees were also treated to a Rich Man's Chili and Cinnamon Roll feed to enjoy during the ISP presentation. The hour was filled to the brim of educational/informational discussion. All who attended were very gratified that their time had been well spent.



## People On the Move

### New Hires

Donna Masonholder.....	0610
Rachel Adamson.....	0540
Lucy Ballesteros .....	0010
Amanda Bolton.....	0270
Jessalyn Roehl .....	0720

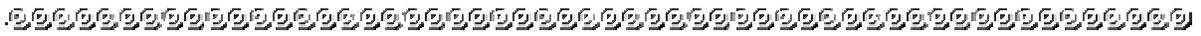
### Promotions

Carmela Ramirez, Job Service Manager 3.....	0080
Leandra Burns, Planner, Socioeconomic Senior .....	0790
Judy Cardenas, Technical Records 2 .....	0790

### Separations

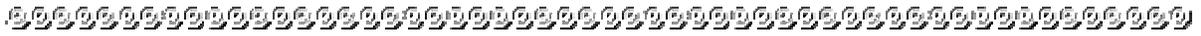
Shannon Mills, Retirement ....	0090
Pat Burton .....	0130
Kellie Gray.....	0540

"Watch your manner of speech if you wish to develop a peaceful state of mind. Start each day by affirming peaceful, contented and happy attitudes and your days will tend to be pleasant and successful."  
— Norman Vincent Peale



## Get Ready for

# Thursday, April 29 ~ Saturday, May 1 At the Holiday Inn in Boise!



**Prepare yourself for a great experience!** The fun and networking opportunities start with the reception on Thursday evening. The following day is jam-packed with terrific speakers, networking and educational experiences, and the annual statewide IAWP meeting. Keynote speaker Abby Shields has earned an international reputation for her inspiring speeches. Friday evening's banquet ends the main events on a high note. Saturday's board meeting will help set the IAWP agenda for the coming year.



**Save yourself a space!** The registration form is on the next page. Register **by IAWP Recognition Day on April 16**, and you pay only \$50 for four meals and a great educational program. Don't forget to make hotel room reservations **now**. The Holiday Inn at the Boise Airport is holding block of room at the discounted rate of \$65.00 plus tax for double or single rooms. But the rooms will only be held **until April 5**; after that, it can't be guaranteed there will be rooms available. For reservations, call the **Holiday Inn** at **(800) 465-4329** and let them know you are attending the **Idaho IAWP Educational Conference** so you can get the discounted rate.

**Answers for your questions!** For more information about arrangements, e-mail or call **Milt Smith** at Meridian Job Service (364-7785 ext. 3610) *or* **Pat Paasch** at Lewiston Job Service (799-5000 ext. 3535). Over the next few weeks, flyers and e-mails will provide more information about the exciting educational program.

# The Idaho Chapter of IAWP 2004 Educational Conference

*Holiday Inn ~ Boise  
Airport*

## *Registration Form*

- Please print or type all information.
- Fees for registration should accompany this form. Please make checks payable to IAWP.  
Mail to: Kathryn Tacke, % Coeur d'Alene Job Service, 1221 W. Ironwood Drive Suite 200,  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

### Participant Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Location \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to request CDF Continuing Education Credit for attending the 2004 Idaho IAWP Educational Conference.

I am an IAWP Professional Development Program (PDP) Master.

**Received by April 16**

**Postmarked after April 16**

### Full Registration

\$50.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$55.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Includes Presidents Reception on Thursday evening, Educational Program, Continental Breakfast Friday, Lunch on Friday, Snacks, Friday evening Awards Banquet*

**Received by April 16**

**Postmarked after April 16**

### Partial Registration

\$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Includes Educational Program, Continental Breakfast Friday, Lunch on Friday*

**Award Banquet Meal Choices for Full Registration:** *Please check the menu of your choice.*

BAKED SALMON

TOP SIRLOIN WITH ROSEMARY BUTTER

### Awards Banquet Guest

\$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*Must attend with an individual who has purchased a Full Registration Package. The \$20.00 includes tax & tips.*

**Award Banquet Meal Choices:** *Please check the menu of your guest's choice.*

BAKED SALMON

TOP SIRLOIN WITH ROSEMARY BUTTER

### Room Rates & Availability at the Holiday Inn Boise Airport

Double or single rooms cost \$ **65.00** plus tax. Blocks of rooms at this rate will only be available **until April 5<sup>TH</sup>**. For reservations call **(800) 465-4329** and **let them know you are attending the Idaho IAWP Educational Conference.**