

Fort Myers
CHATTER

April 2009



APOTY ISSUE
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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

“Sweet April showers do spring May flowers.” Thomas Tusser

What an amazing April we’ve had and how sweet the May flowers will be for our members! We have showered International with our Chapter of Excellence and Silver Certificate applications; some members are starting to receive the Member of Excellence certificates; some of us got to try our hand at acting at the Spring Fling Seminar at Cocoa Beach; we awarded three scholarships AND Mrs. Karen Distelrath CPS/CAP was voted as the new Administrative Professional of the Year! How much sweeter can it get?

As of May 12, 2009 the Cape Coral Chapter will begin to bloom. In the month of May our new Fort Myers Board of Directors will be voted on; we will conduct the spring educational seminar; the RTF fundraiser will be ending and our chapter website will be all new. Did I forget to mention that we are also preparing for our Krewe in Orlando on June 26th?! I’m sure a great time will be had by all and you won’t want to miss out on seeing what we have in store!

Well, my time as President is coming to an end and I wanted to make sure every member knew how much I have appreciated being bestowed the honor of being your President this year. None of the accolades and honors our chapter will receive this year would be possible without the work and dedication of our membership. I truly believe your attitude determines your altitude and my attitude is one of gratitude!

Vickie

It's Historic!

SECRETARY OF THE YEAR (SOTY)

1968 Thelma Keyes CPS
1969 Ruth Schmidt
1970 Sylvia Libby
1971 Ruth Drake Chamberlain CPS
1972 Elizabeth Ross O'Rourke
1973 Saundra Maupin CPS
1974 Margaret Powell Williamson CPS
1975 Rita Doshier
1976 Joyce Lally
1977 Virginia Cox
1978 Peggy Poole CPS
1979 Janet Lyon
1980 Barbara Miller CPS
1981 Lucy Shepard CPS
1982 Carol Franzella Osterhout
1983 Carol Ramer

1984 Carol Drueding
1985 Anita Decoteau CPS
1986 Karen Bennett CPS
1987 Freda Himschoot CPS
1988 Heather Coffman
1989 Louise Hicks CPS
1990 Mary Manning
1991 Thelma Lacy CPS
1992 Bessie Knedler CPS
1993 Mae Gemmill CPS
1994 -- none --
1995 Mary Jane McDowell CPS
1996 Stella Toomey CPS/CAP
1997 Carol Robb CPS
1998 Nan Grover

1974



1978



1987



1989



1995



1996



1997



1998



ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR (APOTY)	
1999	Renee Mongulet
2000	- None -
2001	Nan Grover
2002	Peggy Poole CPS
2003	Noemi Ruiz CPS/CAP
2004	Ann Kirby CPS/CAP
2005	Joellen Moore CPS
2006	Vickie Lane, CPS/CAP
2007	Linda Baumbach, CPS
2008	Wanda Heit CPS/CAP

2002



2003



2004



2005



2006



2007



2008



2009 . . . ???



And the winner is . . .

2009 will be remembered as The Battle of the Karen's. Karen Distelrath and Karen Royal as the finalists. On April 14, 2009, both candidates sat before a panel of judges and were asked a hypothetical question.

The judges were:

- Fred Morgan II - Edison Community College
- Don Manley, News Press
- Paul Lagrone, NBC-2.... (Filing in for Jamie Yuccas)



Finalists were judged on their poise, presentation and professionalism of their response. Both gave excellent responses, but unfortunately only one could win.

We are pleased to announce that the 2009 IAAP Administrative Professional of the Year is . . .

KAREN DISTELRATH!



Karen is the executive administrator at Pitman-Hartenstein & Associates, Inc., a Fort Myers civil engineering firm. She has been with Pitman Hartenstein since 2000 and has worked in the field for 26 years.

Karen has been a member of IAAP since 2005, is our current reigning Recording Secretary and has been elected as our Corresponding Secretary for 2009-2010. Karen gained her CPS certification in 2007 and CAP in 2008.

Karen found out early that this award is not just a title. On April 21, Karen went live on the Fort Myers News-Press website for an hour long interactive

'chat' session. Karen demonstrated her wit and experience with her lively responses. If you missed it, here are some excerpts (bold responses by Karen):

What do you view as the biggest challenge for today's administrative professional?

I feel that our biggest challenge is actually getting our Executives to take full advantage of our complete skill sets. In previous years our duties basically consisted of taking minutes and answering phones, today we do so much more, Admins are more of an asset then ever to their companies.

What advice would you give to someone just starting out in an office?

My advice would be to jump in with both feet and keep running! Don't be afraid to ask questions or make mistakes. One of the things I love about being an Admin is that my job changes daily. Have fun and find yourself the best mentors you can and then give back to the profession by becoming a mentor.

How did your boss react to the news of you being named Administrative Professional of the year?



My boss and company are very supportive in my involvement so it was very nice to be able to share it with him. He was very proud knowing that he also shared a part in my achievements.

What technological development has helped your job the most - and have any made your job more of a challenge?

I've seen the days of typewriters come and go so I'd have to say the computer was the best tech that helped me....when they work they help...it's when they don't work they become my biggest challenge

How has your membership and participation in IAAP helped in your career?

My IAAP membership has given me access to a world of mentors that I never knew existed. It's provided a straighter path to a career goal. As far as my participation helping my career - I find that the more active I am, the more I learn about my self and mentors - and learning new things is always a good thing.

With the economic downturn and everyone trying to do their best to survive in their positions, what advice would you give to admins to help them not only keep their jobs but to gain promotion.

This economic downturn could be the perfect time for Admins to shine. We have the knowledge and experience of how our companies run. My advice is to show your Executive what you can do - if your Executive can't see it - tell them - get verbal - let them know that you're willing to step outside of your comfort zone and learn new things/take on new task let them know that you're not above emptying the trash cans, be creative and find a way for the company to save money - even if it's a small amount, it's still saving. Some times call for creativity.

What advice would you give an admin professional that feels her work or achievements are never noticed by the executive?

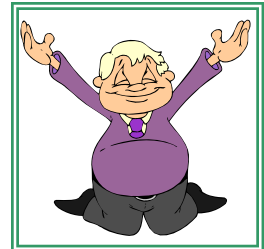
First of all don't stop doing a great job everyday just because your Executive doesn't let you know that you are.

I would have a closed door sit down with my Executive and let them know how I feel - it could be something as simple as they weren't aware that you wanted to know that - it could also be that they don't know how to express it.

But, most of all keep doing a good job - someday we're the only one that notices what a good job we're doing anyway - know you're not alone!

Karen - when this award was bestowed upon you - did it come with a tiara and sash???

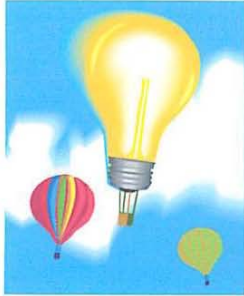
Weeelllll, it's a sad sad story - I was under the impression that I was to receive the tiara and sash that does indeed come with the APOTY award; however, I'm afraid that the last APOTY had either overlooked that detail or is hoping I forget about it....which I won't....Wanda....



Congratulations again to Karen Distelrath.

[Editors Note: Nice to see that Karen did indeed get her crown!]

Mark Your Calendars!



Up Up and Away Excellence for a day!

Fort Myers Chapter IAAP Spring Seminar

Date and Time

Saturday May 30, 2009
8:00-3:00

Topics Include

Sensitivity and Awareness in the Workplace
Optimism in the Workplace
The Flexibility Your Busy Life Demands
Avery Dennison Seminar

Location

Auxiliary Meeting Room
Cape Coral Hospital
636 Del Prado Blvd
Cape Coral, Florida

5 Recertification Points

Cost is \$40.00 (includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch)

Coordinators

Janet Baxter (madjaw@aol.com)
Dianne Reed (ddreed@aol.com)

Ways & Means tables will be available during this event at \$10.00 per table.

REMINDERS

Meeting:

Second Tuesday of every month

5:30 to 6:00 Networking

6:00 to 7:00 Dinner

7:00 to 8:00 Meeting

Hilton Garden Inn

\$20.00 for dinner*

No charge to attend the meeting

* dinner optional

Board Meeting:

4th Tuesday of the Month

5:30 pm.

Pitman Hartenstein & Associates

12701 World Plaza Lane

Bldg. 80

Ft. Myers, FL 33907

All Members Welcome!

2008-2009 BOARD MEMBERS

Vickie Lane, CPS/CAP
President

Dianne Reed
Treasurer

Karen Distelrath, CPS/CAP
Recording Secretary

Maria Fiore
Director



Wanda Heit, CPS/CAP
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Corresponding Secretary

Peggy Poole
Director