

Quad City Chapter of IAAP 2009-2010 Association Year Update

It has been an exciting year for the Quad City Chapter of IAAP. Last spring the chapter's officers met with Marie Herman and Debra Leonard-Porch for a strategic planning session. We changed our name from the Rock River Chapter to the Quad City Chapter to better reflect where our members live and work. With the downturn in the economy, the Quad City Chapter board set as a goal for 2009-2010 to grow by attracting new members, and to provide speakers/topics at our monthly meetings that would provide our members with the skills and professional development that they would need in these tough economic times.

The board organized a very successful *Impact Event* last June which featured Marie Herman as our keynote speaker. We acquired six new members from that event. We discovered another opportunity to provide a great event for attracting members in this tough economy and we organized a successful networking event in July! This event featured Monica Forrett, PhD a professor from St. Ambrose University who had been a guest on Oprah Radio speaking on the importance of networking! Dr. Forrett has studied, taught, and written on the topic of networking. She spoke on the importance of being an *involved* member in any organization to increase your networking benefits!

To give our new members a great start in IAAP, the chapter's officers hosted a **New Member Orientation Brunch** in mid-September. We invited our new members to learn about IAAP and our chapter and how they could make the most of their membership! Each new member was given a binder with our chapter's 'yearbook,' CPS/CAP certification information, as well as the chapter's, National's and Illinois Division's bylaws and information.

To meet our strategic planning goal to provide as many recertification points as we could for our members at our monthly meetings, all but three of our 2009/10 association year's meetings' topics offered recertification points. We encouraged members who are not yet certified to save their certificates in their binder to track their professional development. To find these speakers, the Quad City Chapter board contacted the area's colleges, universities, other organizations, and community speakers' bureaus. We found some wonderful speakers that provided great skills and professional development for our members. We are already lining up speakers for next year. We acquired a new member last month, Kathleen Riley who will be sitting for the certification exams this May!

The Quad City Chapter sponsors a student chapter at Black Hawk College. We invited our student members to our monthly meetings. Several Quad City Chapter members have been sharing their *Admin Wisdom* with the BHC students through mentoring assignments for one of their BHC classes. Our hope is this association with the BHC student chapter will continue to advance the students into their career choice and they will make the transition from student member to professional member and join the Quad City Chapter.

The Quad City Chapter has not grown as much as we had hoped in this first year of our strategic plan. We had several longtime members 'retire' from the IAAP, but with the addition of eight new members who seem eager to contribute to the chapter's growth, I feel the Quad City Chapter has a stronger foundation to build upon. We are working hard to get our name out in the community each month, and we are planning a membership recruitment event for July 12th. I am sure you will hear great things from the Quad City Chapter during the next association year!

Vivian Force

President
Quad City Chapter of IAAP