



## **Alabama Division HEROES**

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2004-2005 Alabama Division President  
Outgoing Remarks  
May 14, 2005**

What an awesome year this has been! This year has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Even though I am a little sad to see it come to a close, I am also ready to spend some time trying to slow down and relax a little bit (right mom?). I have had numerous opportunities to travel the state and visit with most of our chapters this year. I have enjoyed being able to spend time with my IAAP extended family and visit with all of you. I have had the honor of installing officers, attending seminars and special events as well as presenting programs. It is hard to believe that the year is coming to a close already.

It seems like just a few weeks ago that we were in Orange Beach and I was crying through my incoming remarks and trying to tell you about HEROES.

I used words to describe HEROES like:

H – Helpful

E – Energetic, Encouraging

R – Rewarding

O – Outstanding

E – Exciting, Effective

## S – Supportive, Successful

I told you that I felt like each of you were HEROES. Little did I know how many would emerge from the shadows and become HEROES this year.

Looking back, the Alabama Division has accomplished a lot in the past year and it's not over yet. We still have about 6 weeks left in this year and there is still time to reach the goals that were set at the beginning of the year.

I am proud to say that our membership increased from 397 on June 30, 2004 to 457 on April 30, 2005, a 15.11% growth. The Alabama Division has stayed in the Top 5 in membership growth most of the year and we held the #1 position in the Southeast District and in the Association during December 2004 and February 2005. At the end of April, we currently hold the #3 position in the Southeast District and the #5 position in the Association.

I've been all over the state this past year and have met many heroes. They come in all different kinds of packages. Some look like Gina Wood CPS and Kathy Wilkey who approached the President of Southern Company Services and gained his support of IAAP and their chapter. This boldness gained them the support of upper Management and also a large monetary contribution to the chapter. They have been making presentations at Management Meetings and are gaining members left and right and they expect to sponsor a new chapter in the next year at their offices in Inverness. And this is a chapter that isn't even 1 year old yet.

Some look like Bettye Presley and Susan Wadsworth who coordinated the First Annual Anniston Chapter Seminar and had 37 in attendance. This chapter just celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Some look like the Birmingham Chapter who sponsored not one, but two new Student Chapters this year.

Some look like Jackie Powell who was "chapter-less" and was instrumental in recruiting 24 new IAAP members to join her in starting

a new chapter on the ASU Campus. She also obtained the support of the President of the University in this endeavor.

Some look like Ame Parker, Monica Marthaler CPS/CAP and Yolande Gardner CPS who took a bold step and said we need a student chapter and I'm willing to serve as the Sponsor.

Some look like Brenda Kern CPS and Val Preyer who fought to keep the Tri-City Area Chapter alive for many, many years.

Some look like Cindy Anders CPS who has helped to lead the Decatur Chapter in growing from 4 to 15 members in 10 months... that is 73% growth and that number does not include the 4 new members that have been submitted to HQ and that will appear on the May report!

I can look around this room and see many heroes and I could keep going, but I know you don't want to stay all night and listen to me ramble on about how great all these chapters and members are.

This weekend started for me on Thursday evening when the 2004-2005 Division Board met together for the last time. It's been a great year and I've grown more and more attached to these HEROES every time we have gotten together.

Then on Friday at lunchtime, the Division Board met with more HEROES that also have the title of Past Division President. What a great group of ladies that have paved the road for this organization and have brought us to where we are today.

Then we attended the seminar on Friday afternoon where Beth Chapman & Associates talked to us about Heroes.

Next came our Division APY Event and you met some Chapter HEROES - Carolyn Drake CPS, Joellynn Heaton CPS/CAP and Carolyn Wilson.

Today we have met even more HEROES and we have honored many of them today.

I found an article in the Birmingham News back in January and it was titled "Words for the New Year: Never Give Up". It caught my attention and I kept the article because I thought it was so good. It was written by Roger Lovette, a retired Baptist minister. It quoted Chaim Potok who said, "I am neither an optimist nor a pessimist, I am a persistantist." The article went on to say... The optimists are likely to look at everything through rose-colored glasses. The pessimists are likely to see things so dark and despairing that nobody wants to be around them. Many of the situations we face are somewhere between the happy crowd and the gloom-and-doom brigade. One of the great biblical texts cautions us not to grow weary in well doing. The writer could also have said: Do not paint the picture always sunny because that is not reality either. The people I admire most are the persistantists. They don't let anything stop them. Prime Minister Winston Churchill repeatedly said that the secret of England's success during wartime was embedded in six words: "Never, never, never, never give up." After the war ended, Churchill gave his last commencement address. He stood before a graduating class and used the words that kept his country going. Three times he said "Never quit." And then he sat down. Persistantists find a way through what happens.

Many of our Chapters have been persistantists and had persistantists as members. I have received e-mails almost weekly that were singing the praises of one of their members because they had accomplished something great or had some fabulous ideas and wanted to share them with everyone. This is exactly what we need to help make our chapters successful.

I appreciate each of you... helping, encouraging, energizing, rewarding, being outstanding, getting excited and being supportive so that we as individuals, as chapters and as a Division have been successful this past year and will be in the coming years also.

If you attended the Huntsville Chapter Seminar you heard Judy Kehr CPS/CAP use this quote in her presentation and I want to share it with you tonight. George Knox said, "When you cease to be better, you cease to be good." We KNOW we are good, but there is always room for improvement. We need to be better and keep getting better all the time.

If you will look at your place, you will find a patriotic heart pin and a bookmark. I want you to remember what it takes to be a HERO and to strive for that each and every day and to also know that you all have a place in my heart.

I would like to say thank you again for this wonderful opportunity that you have allowed me to have by serving as your President for the Alabama Division. I am truly honored.

I would like to say a special thank you to the Division Board Members, Division Committee Chairs/Directors and Chapter Presidents who have worked diligently to make this year an overall success. There is absolutely no way that one person can do all these jobs and each member of the Division leadership team played a major role in our success this year!

I want to express my gratitude to Betty West, Terry Grimes and Leanne Worthington for all the hard work they have done in preparing this great weekend for us. They accepted the responsibility of hosting the Division Meeting and they have truly done an outstanding job as coordinators. Through the hard work of the coordinators, we all have enjoyed a very special time together, and one that I will never forget. Thank you.

Even though he's not here, I would like to thank my executive, Dr. Gregg Vaughn PE, Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UAB for his continued support, flexibility and generosity; he supports all of my IAAP activities and anything else that I feel will help me improve professionally. I was able to surprise him publicly at the Alabama Power & Lawson State APD Luncheon by presenting him with a plaque in appreciation of his support of IAAP.

I would also like to express my love and appreciation to my family that is with me tonight. Brian and I recently celebrated our second wedding anniversary so he's still kind of new to IAAP, but he understands how important IAAP it is to me. He even traveled with me 2 days during APW while he was between jobs and I thought for a minute I might even get him signed up as a new member! Thank you!

As I close tonight, I would like to encourage all of you to be persistantists, to always strive to be better and to be HEROES.