

Chapter President Profile

Meet Melissa Hug, CPP, Santa Barbara Area Chapter President

BY CAREN BENNETT

As President of the Santa Barbara Area Chapter, Melissa Hug, CPP, has focused on developing personal relationships with her members and keeping them engaged in the chapter.

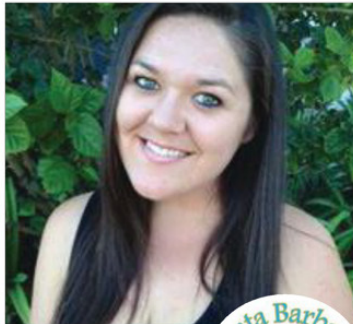
“Whether that be from getting volunteers for the board, getting attendees for our luncheons, or getting more members, it takes encouragement and that personal relationship you develop with people to keep them wanting to be a part of something so beneficial,” Hug explained.

Hug continually asks members which topics they would like to hear presentations on at monthly meetings. For board members, the chapter has T-shirts and sweatshirts made up for special recognition. The chapter also hosts an annual mixer as a thank you to members.

“I put my time, energy, and heart into our chapter and we are continually growing, learning, and becoming a great network of professionals and friends,” Hug said.

Hug, who is the Benefits and Wellness Administrator at PathPoint, feels that the best way to recruit new members to the Santa Barbara Area Chapter is through word of mouth in the local community. Recently, the chapter partnered with its local human resources association, which has generated great publicity. It also made postcards with the chapter logo, contact information, and a calendar showing six upcoming meetings. It mailed the postcards to local businesses in town, and recipients could

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receive a discounted price for the first chapter meeting. As a further incentive to join, new members receive high-quality tote bags as a gift. To give back to their community, twice yearly chapter members collect donations for their local food bank. They also donate to the Red Cross, and chapter members have participated in educating local high school students as part of Money Matters National Education Day during National Payroll Week®.

For Hug, the greatest reward of serving as President has been the relationships with members that she has made and continues to make. She is proud of the great group of “seasoned members” who have been with the chapter since it was founded.

“Year after year, whether at our high or low times, they are always there to step up and make sure we keep going,” Hug said.

In the future, Hug would like to see more chapter members become Certified Payroll Professionals (CPPs).

“A lot of our employers do not require a CPP or give their payroll department incentives to become a CPP, when in reality a CPP should be a requirement just like a college degree,” she said.

Serving as Chapter President has been a way for Hug to grow not only professionally, but personally.

“Before I became President, I was terrified of speaking up and giving my opinions, let alone speaking in front of a group,” she said. “But with this experience I have gained the leadership skills and confidence to not only do my job, but to stand out as an individual to my employer.” ■

Chapter Memo

Did you miss the 2018 Chapter of the Year Contest deadline? If so, not to worry as there is still time to enter the three other chapter contests: Chapter Pictorial, Best Chapter Website, and the Best Statewide or Regional Meeting Contest. These contest deadlines are quickly approaching (entries are due Friday, March 2), so here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. Questions have been added or changed; make sure to look closely at the contest flier.
2. Answer every question! Don't lose points for not answering all the questions.
3. Photos, photos, and more photos. The judges can never get enough of your beautiful faces.
4. Get creative with your entry. Add color, a fun template, or a theme to make it unique to your chapter.