



PROUD PROFESSIONAL PROFILES

Greetings IAWP members!

Here is our fifth monthly International Association of Workforce Professional (IAWP) **Proud Professional Profile**.

I contacted our active retiree member **Sheila Johnson-Teeter**. She began her career with Employment Security in August of 1985, and became an IAWP member in 1985! Currently, she is retired and a past president of the IAWP. She has held a number of positions over the years, including SW Sub Chapter President, Secretary, State President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair.

1. Tell me how you first got involved in with IAWP?

I was working at the then “Aberdeen Job Service Center” in 1985. I heard several people in the breakroom talking about IAPES (International Associate of Personnel in Employment Security, the name at that time) and what a great organization it is. I began asking questions and there was some literature about it that I read as well. The Administrator at that time (Johanna Robbins-Standish) was very supportive of the organization and a member as well. I liked what I heard and I am a “joiner” so I joined! I have never regretted it. Thirty-two years later, I am now an IAWP (International Association of Workforce Professionals) retiree member!

2. What do you find most challenging about IAWP?

Getting the word out and encouraging people to join AND be active members. In addition, gaining support from the agency leadership.

3. Tell me about some of the people you've met while working on IAWP?

They are committed, hard-working, energetic and encouraging. Other than school days I don't think I will find life-long friends like I have found here at this organization.

4. As a (client, volunteer, donor), what sorts of trends do you see?

Unfortunately the trend I see most is there seems to be a generational disconnect with young people (generation X and millennials primarily) joining any organization. I see that with benevolent clubs (e.g., Elks, Eagles, VFW, Moose, Grange, etc.). What is so interesting to me is that these organizations work hard in supporting their communities and the people who live there. This hard work benefits all human beings. I definitely see some young people that don't seem interested in becoming “joiners.” I am not sure what

the answer is but working together towards a common cause has to be in the formula to make any organization work.

5. What has surprised you most about working with IAWP?

The hard work and commitment shown by active members. We all know how busy our lives are in this world we live in now, but these members work so very hard to make this organization succeed and work extremely hard to bring to everyone training, brown bags, fund-raising, institutes and conferences. If every member became more active and committed we could take this to the “moon and back!”

Thank you **Sheila** and you do to help make IAWP a better association. You are an asset to our organization and we appreciate all of our great members and volunteers.