

# PAYTECH

## Chapter President Profile Meet Donna Michele President, NYS Capital Region Chapter

BY CAREN BENNETT

2021 is an exciting year for the NYS Capital Region Chapter as it celebrates its 20th year. As a founding member and now President of the chapter, Donna Michele is proud of how far the chapter has come.

“I recall the days when just a handful of us met in a small conference room at one of our employers to write and submit the chapter application,” Michele said.

The NYS Capital Region Chapter now covers the geographic region surrounding Albany, New York, as well as north of New York City all the way to the Canadian border.

“With the valuable guidance of the APA, we have sponsored several statewide conferences, provided study groups, and offered many educational opportunities to our members,” Michele said.

Along with offering education opportunities throughout the year, the chapter also gathers socially, which allows members to engage and have fun.

“We have attended minor league baseball games, professional hockey games, and even hiking excursions in the Adirondack Mountains,” she said.

The chapter also has gathered for several photo opportunities for the NPW Chapter Pictorial contest.

Michele is proud that the chapter has not lost its enthusiasm this year because of the pandemic. The chapter continues to conduct complimentary virtual education for members.

As Chapter President, Michele strives to guide and set the strategic direction of the chapter, while always advocating for the payroll profession.

“A chapter president must be able to collaborate with the chapter’s officers and to also maintain a high level of energy, positivity, and enthusiasm,” she said. “I have learned that you must be continually aware of the latest payroll



Donna Michele

developments to ensure we are fulfilling our members’ informational and educational needs.”

While running the chapter, Michele has found the APA website, publications, and the [Chapter Leaders Blog](#) to be extremely helpful.

“Several of our board members have attended the Chapter Leadership Summit, and we are also very appreciative of the support we have had from our regional advisors,” she said. “We share updates each meeting and recognize and promote certification at our chapter meetings.”

For Michele, chapter growth and retention remain at the top of her mind.

“Since our area is abundant with colleges and educational institutions, we are also looking

at ways to promote the payroll profession via outreach and social media,” she said. “We are also looking for ways to engage the millennials and Gen Z. I feel it is our duty to promote the chapter and the profession in our workplaces with the same enthusiasm we display during our chapter meetings. By mentoring, coaching, and sharing knowledge, these actions may assist in perpetuating the efforts of our local chapters and growing the interest in payroll.”

Outside of payroll, Michele is passionate about health and fitness.

“Although I have always made time for my own personal fitness and activities, this year I made a decision to pursue a channel that will enable me to assist others with their health and wellness journeys,” she explained.

Michele is currently studying for her Certified Personal Trainer certification.

“Perhaps with that credential, we can have more hikers join us in the Adirondacks!” ■

---

*Caren Bennett is the Editorial Assistant of the Editorial Division for the APA.*