

## **UPS Becomes First IAAP Platinum Sponsor, Helps Launch Online Community Network**

IAAP Headquarters is proud to announce that UPS, the world's largest express package delivery company, has joined the family of IAAP corporate supporters as the association's first ever "Platinum Level" sponsor. The designation also establishes UPS as the "Official Express Shipping Company" of IAAP.

"This relationship is a natural fit for UPS given our daily interaction with the tens of thousands of administrative professionals around the world each day," said Dale Hayes, UPS Vice President of Customer Relationship Management. "UPS also supports the ideals and educational mission of IAAP for 'turning jobs into careers,' and we look forward to helping IAAP and its members reach that goal."

As a part of its sponsorship, UPS is providing financial support for the launch of the IAAP Online Community Network, a new service developed by IAAP Headquarters staff and a web development team in Kansas City.

"UPS's participation in the debut of the Online Community Network makes perfect sense given their focus on technological innovation within the express shipping industry," said IAAP Executive Director Don Bretthauer, CAE. "IAAP chapters and divisions will now have a financial incentive to join this effort during the launch phase, which will help ensure the rapid development of a vibrant association community and dramatically increase the IAAP networking opportunities for those involved," Bretthauer said.

Because of this support, the hosting cost for IAAP chapters/divisions during the initial launch period (from February until June 30, 2007) has been reduced by nearly 50 percent-- to a flat fee of \$60 (U.S.). This reduced hosting cost during the launch period will allow chapters and divisions to develop their web content and seek additional funding for their local website while paying a reduced rate. Beginning July 1, 2007, the regular annual hosting fee to participating divisions and chapters has been set at \$300.

The Information Technology department staff at IAAP Headquarters has been working with a programmer to develop a sophisticated online community network and website hosting service for the association's 36 divisions and nearly 600 chapters worldwide. The new online system is designed to integrate every level of IAAP into a very robust online community.

Services include:

- An interactive platform to share expertise, learn, communicate and utilize sophisticated tools to experience the full potential of the IAAP membership network. The system will allow internal communication with peers through direct access to one-to-one messaging, online discussion forums and blogging.
- Secure "members-only" Web pages with built-in members-only access area. IAAP divisions and chapters will be able to create feature-filled pages and online newsletters quickly and easily with various templates and editing tools.
- Low-cost web-hosting services. Chapters and divisions will have a very affordable "home" for their websites, using the latest technologies, servers, and knowledgeable staff.

The IAAP Online Community Network is a relatively inexpensive, feature-filled communication tool to provide information and increase personal connectivity with IAAP members from around the world. It is also important to note that that IAAP owns the code to this software, which allows the Headquarters staff to make changes, improvements, and add new features later on.

The goal of the initial phase of the IAAP Online Community Network is to set up the main infrastructure for existing IAAP chapters and divisions. Later, during the next phase, there will be various topic "channels" set up within the system based on particular interest segments. As the online community network progresses, regular communications regarding new developments and added features will be announced in IAAP publications and notices posted on the IAAP international website, [www.iaap-hq.org](http://www.iaap-hq.org).

If your chapter or division would like to sign up or inquire about the IAAP Online Community Network, contact IAAP Information Technology Department Manager Scott Adamson, e-mail: [sadamson@iaap-hq.org](mailto:sadamson@iaap-hq.org) or call (816) 891-6600, ext. 2253.