IAAP celebrates 50 years

In Greg Byrne’s eyes, Tari Hayes had instant credibility.

Byrne, the city of Albany community development director, saw that Hayes has certification through the International Association of Administrative Professionals, “and it told me a lot.”

“I have seen what it takes to earn that,” he said. “I’ve looked at the book and I couldn’t pass that test.”

Hayes, who was with the city’s Parks & Recreation Department at the time, joined Byrne’s team in July 2011 as his administrative assistant.

“I knew I would get professionalism, competence and initiative,” he said. “I absolutely got that from Tari. I rely on her.”

She also serves as the IAAP president in its 50th anniversary year.

“Being part of IAAP means that we keep adding skills,” she said. “We offer training, support, mentoring and networking to others in our field.”

The association was originally the National Secretaries Association and the local chapter was founded in March 1962. There have been dramatic changes in five decades. Members get access to education, technology and a more diverse list of proficiencies.
IAAP members continue to improve their skills, according to Jo Ann Yonemura, who has been a member for 15 years since coming to Albany from her native Hawaii.

“We continually expand our technical and organizational abilities through our chapter,” said Yonemura, administrative assistant for the Samaritan Albany General Hospital Foundation.

Hayes agrees. “At all levels there are conferences, forums and seminars that are available,” she said.

Most members are certified in several areas, including as an administrative professional, in organizational management and more recently in technology. Hayes said tests for those are available for non-members, but being part of IAAP can be helpful for those wishing to gain certification.

The mid-valley chapter is sandwiched between chapters in Eugene and Portland and the three often combine for events. The local group has 14 members who attend monthly meetings.

Gina Burrese, an assistant in the city manager’s office, says meetings are convenient and informative.

“Life is busy. Meeting during the lunch hour is easy for everyone,” she said. “There is always something to be learned.”

The meetings combine the group’s business activities with networking and usually a guest speaker. They are open to the public.

“We want to reach more professionals in our field and add to the membership,” Hayes said.

To do that and in celebration of what is also the 70th anniversary for the national organization, Yonemura said the chapter has launched a recruiting campaign called “70 for 70.” It offers membership for $70, nearly $60 less than regular dues, and runs through the end of the year.

IAAP will hold its anniversary luncheon on Wednesday, March 8, 50 years to the day it was founded. The event will be at Cascade Grill, 110 Opal Court S.E. in Albany, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The group is looking for charter members who may wish to attend.

“It would be wonderful to have some of them there to honor,” Hayes said.

For information on the group and the upcoming anniversary luncheon, contact Yonemura at 541-990-1853 or jyonemur@samhealth.org.