

The Nashville Chapter  
of  
The Association of Information  
Technology Professionals

December 2011  
Chapter Newsletter

## Christmas in the Mountains

Our December program is **Guest Night**. This means that the program is non-technical and that spouses and significant others of members have a free dinner.

Our December program features **Patsy Hatfield Lawson** who is a professional story teller. She gave us a great evening at our December 2008 meeting. Patsy will be joined by **Hunter Carmen**, a talented musician, who will weave his music into each of Patsy's stories.

Patsy will tell us two original stories. The first story looks at the seasonal nature of farm life and the lessons learned as Patsy's Aunt Ruby and Mama worked through conflict and cooperation. The second story, **The Melungeon Gift**, is based on the true



story of a unique race of people found exclusively in the **Appalachian Mountains**. It's a story of struggle and hope. The music part of the program features **Hunter Carmen** on vocals, guitar, and harmonica. Hunter grew up in **Murray, Kentucky** very near the **Memphis** music scene

where he learned from some of the best **Delta blues** musicians. By carefully choosing lyrics and mood, Hunter is able to weave his music into each of the stories to give them their emotional impact.

Both Patsy and Hunter are retired professors from **Volunteer State Community College** in **Gallatin, TN**.

This should be a great program. Remember that **AITP** members can bring their spouses/significant others at no cost. If you bring someone, do remember to register them in advance.

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Region 7:	<a href="http://members.tripod.com/aitpregion7">http://members.tripod.com/aitpregion7</a>

AITP  
P. O. Box 22038  
Nashville TN 37202

## Dinner Reservation and Cancellation Policy

AITP members will be notified by electronic mail one week prior to the Chapter meeting. Reservations can be made by responding to the electronic notice or by calling *Mary Simpson at 615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775* Dinner reservations can be canceled up to 24-hours prior to the meeting without cost.

**Since the Chapter pays for reserved meals, No Shows will be billed at the reservation price of \$20.00 for Members, and \$30.00 for Guests.**

Members are responsible for their guests' reservations. *If you are a member and have not been receiving this notification, please contact Mary Simpson at:*

**615/367-8083 fax: 615/367-7775**  
[msimpson@genesco.com](mailto:msimpson@genesco.com).

### December Chapter Meeting

**Holiday Inn Vanderbilt**  
**2613 West End Ave.**  
**Nashville, TN 37203**  
**615-327-4707**

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Quarter Page	(4" x 5")	\$150 for 12 issues
Business Card	(2" x 4")	\$ 50 for 12 issues

Contact Mike Eischen for more information! 367-7068

President's Message

President's Message



Brian Bowman

We work in a technology environment; we impact the working and leisure activities of others through what we do, day in, day out. Last month was more introspective, looking at how technology affects our careers as technologists. It's all too easy to look beyond what we do and how it also affects our careers and leisure activities. We are certainly not immune, and maybe even more affected than the average citizen or netizen.

Up until recently technology changed at a pace that would we could digest as technologists, however the rate of change keeps on accelerating beyond our ability to comprehend all that is going on. I remember an interview in the 70's when a hiring manager lamented that he could no longer keep up with all the product announcements and technical documents that WANG published internally. Keeping a handle on what's occurring in our sphere of influence has become increasingly difficult to keep up with. Brian came to our collective rescue giving us some sage advice on how to prepare for and manage the arte of change we are part of.

Technology threatens our very livelihood's if we are unable to reinvent ourselves and make ourselves more relevant to potential employers. Many positions are now outsourced overseas, leaving US workers out in the cold. So what do we need to put into our war chest to remain relevant?

Line management is less relevant than it used to be, so we need to develop skills like consultants, proving a facilitative approach to decision making and problem solving. Being able to work in an ambiguous environment where we need to be versatile to react to the situation as it reveals itself, this why agile software development is now in vogue. Ambiguity can appear like chaos, surviving in a more chaotic environment requires focus to achieve something before moving on and considering the next while things are changing around us. A single tech skill is less relevant, we will be asked to work outside of the area of our expertise, so need to be able to keep up with other technical fields should we be required to switch gears and do work outside of our comfort zone.



Patsy Hatfield Lawson

Many businesses and individuals find themselves in a challenging financial situation during this prolonged recession. AITP is responding to that reality and will reduce monthly meeting fees as of the first of January. Look out for the next newsletter for the new meeting prices. Of course early bird discounts will still apply.

December brings us a fun program involving southern stories and blues music. Patsy Hatfield Lawson will keep us amused in between the blues music songs of Hunter Carmen. Don't worry, it's not like rock concert, ear plugs won't be required, it promises to be a great program. Be sure to know that members can bring their significant other for free, please be sure to do so!!

Be sure to mark the second Thursday in December on your calendars.

JP White

President, AITP Nashville Chapter

<http://www.aitpnashville.org>

### MEETING MANAGEMENT

**We all attend too many meetings. Some meetings are more productive than others. The following points on meeting management are not new but should be reviewed every once in a while. Suggestion: Make a copy of this list and attach it to the agenda for your next meeting.**

- 1. Explore alternatives to meeting – conference call, FAX, E-mail, correspondence, etc.**
- 2. Limit attendance to only those involved in a project/assignment.**
- 3. Keep the participants to a minimum.**
- 4. Choose an appropriate time. (Late meetings are usually the least productive.)**
- 5. Choose an appropriate place/environment.**
- 6. Define the purpose clearly in your own mind before calling the meeting.**
- 7. Distribute the agenda in advance and give fair notice (2-4 days in advance).**
- 8. Time: limit the meeting and the agenda.**
- 9. Start on time.**
- 10. Assign minutes-taking responsibilities.**
- 11. Hold a stand-up meeting if appropriate.**
- 12. Start and stick to the agenda.**
- 13. Control interruptions – allow only for emergencies.**
- 14. Accomplish your purpose – make assignments or obtain approvals/agreements.**
- 15. Restate conclusions and assignments to be carried forward at the closing of the meeting.**
- 16. End on time.**
- 17. Expedite the preparation and distribution of the minutes.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**The above “mini” article was submitted by AITP member Paul Saunders. If you have an article appropriate for the AITP Newsletter, please forward it to Robert Wright, Newsletter Editor.**

# Calendar of Upcoming Events 2011

## AITP Calendar of Upcoming Events - 2011

Date	Event	Location	Information
November 24	Thanksgiving	U.S.A.	Give thanks and eat turkey
December 1	AITP Board Meeting	TBA	JP White, President
December 8	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Vanderbilt	Guest Night – Patsy Lawson, Storyteller
December 29	Folding party	Saunders' House	Come network with other AITP folks
January 12	Chapter Meeting	Holiday Inn Vanderbilt	TBA

### SPEAKERS

We are always interested in good speakers to make presentations at our AITP Chapter Meetings. If you know someone who is interested in making a presentation on a topic, on their company, or company's products, please contact Paul Saunders at (615) 367-1717 or [Paul@SaundersSystems.com](mailto:Paul@SaundersSystems.com).



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## AITP Business

**AITP has membership discounts for everyone! Please read through our various programs at [www.aitp.org/join](http://www.aitp.org/join) and try to take advantage of them. AITP is a valuable resource for any IT professional or student and a great investment in their own career, both now and in the future!**

**Multi-Year Professional Membership Discount: Save money by joining or renewing for 2, 3 or 5 years.**

**Unemployed Member Initiative: Reduced association dues for those members who are temporarily unemployed, on family leave, on medical leave or on education leave.**

**Enterprise Membership Program: Significant dues discount for companies with 3 or more employees as AITP members.**

**Student to Professional Membership: Upon graduation, students are able to join AITP with all the rights and privileges of a Professional Member at a significantly discounted rate for 3 years.**

**Student Membership Dues Reduced to \$30: Take advantage of the new lower rate to join and participate in an AITP Student chapter, attend the National Collegiate Conference, and apply for scholarships exclusively for AITP student members.**

**Faculty Advisor Membership Initiative: Significant reduction in Association dues for faculty members who agree to serve as a student chapter faculty advisor for a year.**

On June 22nd, the Association Board of Directors unanimously approved renewal of the popular Unemployed Professional Discount to be effective for a full year - from 9/1/11 until 8/31/12. To qualify for this discount a person must have been previously employed in the IT profession and must now be unemployed.

Current AITP members may use the discount when their membership comes up for renewal anytime in the coming year, but new members are welcome at any time, provided they meet the qualifications above. The discount of \$50 reduces the Association dues to \$55. Chapter and Region dues (if applicable) must also be paid and are not discounted.

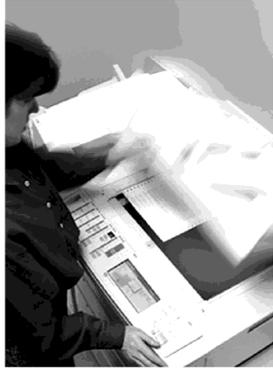
Last year, over 200 individuals took advantage of the program and extended or joined AITP. Naturally the association leadership wishes that all IT Professionals regain and retain full employment, but we also realize that there is currently a nationwide unemployment rate hovering around 10%, and the economy has been slow to recover.

What better way to network among your peers, than at a chapter, region or national event? Most chapters meet every month from September through June, and some meet throughout the entire calendar year. The opportunity to network and share your professional interests and talents could assist you in getting back on track to gain full time employment.

The association dues have been reduced to \$55; which is a savings of \$50 off of the normal amount. Local Chapter and Region dues if applicable must be paid and are not reduced. Members who previously took advantage of this Unemployed Membership Discount will be eligible for this promotion as long as they are able to validate that they are still unemployed. This membership discount will not be available online.

Be sure to take advantage of this limited offering. The total membership or renewal for the Nashville chapter will be \$85, compared to the regular \$135 membership fee.

For more information, email [memberservices@aitp.org](mailto:memberservices@aitp.org).



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## AITP Nashville is located on



You can find us in the Group Directory. If you have a question, please contact Walker Morrow at **[wmorrow@laserone.com](mailto:wmorrow@laserone.com)**

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