

This edition of NOOZ is sent to the President, Vice President, Director, Secretary, Treasurer, APCUG Representative, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Membership and Program Chairs of each APCUG-member User Group.

I have attached a file done in Microsoft Word 2007. It has been saved in Microsoft Word 2003. Please let me know if you experience any issues with the file. Thank you.

We urge you to share the information in NOOZ by including it in your newsletter, posting it on your Web site, or e-mailing it to members of your group.

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1. **2008 Convention.** The theme is Membership Retention and Growth. Highlights and benefits planned for the 2008 event include: roundtable / educational sessions; vendor presentations; opportunities to meet vendors; meal / social events; opportunities to meet user group members from around the world; and much more. Conference information may be found on www.apcug.net and the co-chairs may be reached at convention@apcug.net.

Registration

The convention will again be held at the Riviera Hotel and Casino. Call 800-634-6753 and ask for the APCUG08 Conference Rate; online reservations may be made at <https://www.asentus.net/apcug/2008Convention>

Standard Registration [\$150] 11/2 through 11/30 (checks must be received by APCUG by 12/12)

Late registration [\$175] 12/1 through 12/25

On Site registration [\$175] begins 1/3

Non-APCUG member group surcharge = \$25

Special Events

The Photo Gallery in Capri 105 will be open Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This is your opportunity to take a look at all of the digital photos entered in that contest and vote for the Best of Show.

If you are a first-time attendee, there will be a First Time Attendee session in Grande A from 4:00-5:00pm on Thursday, 1/3.

You will have the opportunity to meet your Advisor at lunch on Friday, 1/4 – most of them will be attending the Convention. And you will want to stay after lunch for the Advisors and Vendors Q&A Forum from 3:00-4:00pm.

Roundtables

Some of the RTs planned for this year's convention include: Program Chairs – what to do when things go wrong, Computer Security, Working with other UGs on common projects, How to create a presentation in 60 minutes, The many benefits of using a blog for your UG newsletter, How to create a successful review program, Marketing your Website, plus many more. Some of the topics need one or two volunteers to lead the discussion. Please contact Ash Nallawalla, anallawalla@apcug.net, if you can help. If you have a new topic in mind and can lead the topic, please get in touch with him.

2. **Website, Newsletter & Digital Photo Contests and Jerry Award Competition.**

The contests are closed and the judges are in the process of judging the entries. The winners will be announced at the 2008 Annual Convention (winners do not need to be present). Winners will be contacted via email immediately after the convention and the awards and certificates will be mailed before the end of January.

Winning newsletters and websites will also receive APCUG newsletter and web award logos for use on their newsletters and websites. The results will also be posted on www.apcug.net and sent out via NOOZ and Reports.

3. **2008 Officer Election / Ballot Information.** An e-mail containing voting information has been sent to each eligible APCUG-member user group President and APCUG Representative. Your UG should cast one ballot according to the instructions on the site. You have until midnight November 30 to complete the balloting.

If your group did not receive this email from Don, please contact him at dsingleton@apcug.net.

If you are having a problem with the URL contained in the e-mail, here are the long and short versions.

<http://tinyurl.com/39jkcg>

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=OYDaEEYgE82ix8t9c4lqng_3d_3d

4. **2008 Membership Drive.** Annual membership in the Association of Personal Computer Users Groups is \$50.00. A dues renewal e-mail will soon be sent to all groups but you can already renew your membership in APCUG online by completing the form at http://apcug.net/contacts/forms/renewal_application.htm After you Submit the form, you will have the option of paying by check or credit card. Groups renewing by 12/31/07 will be entered in the dues renewal contest. Three groups renewing by that date will be eligible to win a prize donated by one of APCUG's vendors (thanks to David Steward, Advisor, Region 8). If you renew by check, please include a copy of the renewal form with your check and send it to APCUG, 3155 E. Patrick Lane, Suite 1, Las Vegas, NV 89120..

If your UG is sending a representative to the annual conference, they have until 3:00 pm on Friday, January 4 to turn in the form and payment to the Registry and be included in the drawing. The winning group names will be pulled at the Annual Conference (winner does not need to be present).

Thanks to those groups who have already paid their 2008 dues.

5. **Get Paid for Usability Tests, Focus Groups, and User Surveys**, submitted by Gabe Goldberg, APCUG Region 2 Advisor.

UserWorks, Inc., a local DC-area company <http://www.userworks.com> conducts usability studies of software and Web sites, paying people to participate in usability tests, focus groups, and user surveys. They've asked me to broadcast their recruiting information so here's basic info on their research:

<http://www.userworks.com/default.asp?page=participate&sub=>

And here's the link to sign up:

<http://www.userworks.com/default.asp?page=participate&sub=signup>

Requirements for projects vary; although they often need senior citizens, they also sometimes need to work with less skilled computer users and have restrictions on using people involved in technical fields, so though many may be called, fewer may be chosen.

About 20% of the projects are remote but they generally involve a lot more people and are becoming more common, so the company also asked me to pass the invitation to groups with a larger audience or with members outside the DC area.

6. **Codezone User Group Program.** You might want to check out www.codezone.com to see if this user group program is for your group. Signing up is free and will help you get the best out of your Codezone experience. It's easy: name your areas of interest, recommend resources, and get top-notch content recommendations by like-minded developers. Please note that Codezone and Microsoft take your privacy seriously.

Your group is a member of APCUG; you have received this e-mail to inform you of updates, changes, or special news and information. Our policy is to send e-mail messages only to announce such information, and we will continue to honor this policy. If you no longer want to receive these e-mails, please reply to the sender. Thank you for being a member of APCUG.

I hope to see many of you at the Annual Convention in Las Vegas, January 3 – 6, 2008.

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