HRP of CPA
Human Resource Professionals of Central PA

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5 | MAY 2026

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

May Is Employee Recognition Month



May is Employee Recognition Month—a timely reminder that appreciation isn't a luxury at work; it's a necessity. When people feel seen and valued, engagement rises, collaboration improves, and retention follows. Recognition signals that contributions matter, and that message carries real weight in today's workplace.

In 2026, employees tend to value authenticity, flexibility, and personalization over flashy rewards. The good news: meaningful recognition doesn't have to be expensive.

Start simple. A specific, timely "thank you" tied to someone's impact can be more powerful than a generic shoutout. Peer recognition channels—like a shared Slack thread or team meeting moment help appreciation feel communal, not top-down. Managers can also offer flexible perks, such as letting someone leave early after a big deadline or choose a project they're passionate about.

Other low- to no-cost ideas include handwritten notes, spotlighting employees in internal newsletters, or creating a "kudos board" where colleagues can post quick wins. Even small gestures like remembering preferences, celebrating milestones, or asking for input reinforce that individuals are more than just their output.

Recognition works best when it's consistent, not reserved for annual reviews or special occasions. When appreciation becomes part of everyday culture, people don't just perform better, they feel like they belong. And that's what turns a workplace into a place people actually want to be.

For the rest of the month, take a moment each day to recognize someone on your team. A few thoughtful words can make a lasting impact—start today!

Darice Mayhew
Chapter President

Presenter Proposals due by 6/5/2026



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Volunteering in the HR Community

As we reflect on April's Global Volunteer Month, it's a meaningful opportunity to recognize the lasting impact volunteers make in our workplaces, professional organizations, and communities every day.

Volunteering is more than giving time. It's about creating connection, sharing knowledge, and helping others grow. Across our communities, volunteers strengthen organizations, support important causes, and inspire positive change through their leadership and service.

Within HR Professionals of Central Pennsylvania, our volunteers play an especially important role in shaping the future of the HR profession. Whether serving on committees, supporting events, mentoring peers, or helping create learning opportunities, our members who volunteer help build a stronger, more connected HR community. Their contributions allow us to continue providing valuable resources, professional development, and meaningful networking opportunities for HR professionals across Central Pennsylvania.

For those currently serving and those considering getting involved, PA SHRM's upcoming Volunteer Leadership Conference on July 24, 2026 is a great opportunity to connect, learn, and grow as a volunteer leader. This no-cost educational training event is designed for individuals who currently serve, or are interested in serving, as volunteer leaders for the PA State Council or their local chapter boards and committees. It's an excellent way to strengthen leadership skills, share ideas, and continue building a thriving HR community across Pennsylvania.

To all who dedicate their time, talents, and energy to serving their organizations, professional associations, and communities: THANK YOU. Your willingness to give back makes a difference, and your commitment helps create stronger workplaces, stronger professional communities, and a stronger future for all of us.

Darice Mayhew
Chapter President



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