For Immediate Release

Long Island Chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals Celebrates its 60th Anniversary

Established in 1954, Long Island is the Largest AITP Chapter in the Country

Hicksville, N.Y. – August 18, 2014 – The Long Island Chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) today announced the celebration of its 60th anniversary.

In 1954, Dwight D. Eisenhower was president of the United States, the Boeing 707 commercial airliner took its maiden flight, and the last episode of The Lone Ranger was aired on radio. And in 1954, the Long Island Chapter of the AITP was launched.

To put 1954 information technology in perspective, that was about 10 years before the creation of ARPANET, the precursor to the Internet, and 30 years before the introduction of the Apple Macintosh computer.

Currently with 200 members, the Long Island Chapter has grown to be the largest AITP chapter in the United States since its launch in 1954. The AITP LI Chapter has won numerous awards through the years, recently including the national "Association Outstanding Chapter" in 2007 and a "Chapter Outstanding Performance Award" for 2013.

The goals of the AITP LI chapter are to provide educational and networking opportunities to its members in the information technology (IT) professions. Throughout each year, the all-volunteer AITP LI chapter hosts events such as the annual CIO Panel in May and the annual Technology Showcase in November. Other events include site visits to technology organizations and presentations at monthly chapter meetings by experts from leading companies such as IBM, Microsoft, CA, Hewlett-Packard and Henry Schein on topics such as IT security, healthcare IT, big data and other business-critical IT issues.

The chapter also hosts numerous networking and social events, such as an annual outing to a Long Island Ducks game and a chapter trip to Old Westbury Gardens for a Picnic Pops Concert. All of these chapter activities enable our members to share and exchange experiences, knowledge and solutions with their peers, while developing a resource base of industry contacts to expand their professional horizons with new ideas and different perspectives.

Originally called the National Machine Accountants Association (NMAA), the nationwide organization was subsequently renamed the Data Processing Management Association (DPMA) in 1962. And, to keep pace with the quickly changing IT industry and the dynamic needs of members, the name was changed in 1996 to the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP).

Among the current roster of AITP LI members we have Larry O'Rourke with 41 years of tenure. "The AITP LI chapter has provided me with a network of professional contacts that was very helpful in my career," said Larry, "but it also provided me with a network of friends and acquaintances that I socialize with as well. The AITP is more than a technology trade association – it's more like an extended family."

"AITP Long Island has been an outstanding resource for me as an IT professional," said Vincent Luciani, CIO at IAC/InterActiveCorp and AITP member for 10 years. "Members benefit from the numerous information-filled local chapter meetings, and various social and networking events held in and around Long Island throughout the year, all with the support of a solid national organization behind it. The true energy of AITP LI, however, comes from its passionate members who are dedicated to the advancement of the information technology profession and have been doing so for the past 60 years."

"I've enjoyed being a member of AITP for the last six years," said Will Clark, Senior Director, Information Systems, Bimbo Bakeries USA, "because it has given me the opportunity to learn how information technology is leveraged across many industries, and to participate in field trips, from a visit to Blue Gene at Brookhaven National Laboratory to a chapter tour of the East End vineyards of Long Island. All that, plus I made contact with a group of smart, friendly people along the way."

The focus on member needs is a driving force behind the growth and longevity of the chapter. Always looking toward the future, the AITP LI chapter is a sponsor of two local AITP student chapters, at St. John's University and Hofstra University. In addition, the chapter sponsors an annual student scholarship program to assist college-bound high school students with their education.

"With the fast pace of change in the information technology industry, one thing is constant," said Barbara Viola, president, AITP Long Island Chapter, "it still takes people to get the job done. For 60 years, the AITP LI Chapter has helped our members to keep current with the trends and new technologies in the IT industry, while simultaneously building a network of colleagues for professional growth and career development. On the occasion of our 60th anniversary, we thank our loyal membership, and we look forward to serving the Long Island information technology and business community for a long time to come."

Both Nassau and Suffolk County have proclaimed Thursday, August 21, "AITP Day." The AITP Long Island Chapter will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary that day at a networking party from 5:30 to 8:30 PM at the Northport Yacht Club. Current members, new members and non-members are invited to attend. For more details on the event and online pre-registration, visit: http://www.aitp-li.org/?q=node/33

About the AITP Long Island Chapter
Founded in 1954, the mission of the Long Island Chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) is to provide members with professional development, education, and exposure to technology trends and leadership in the Long Island business community. The chapter provides opportunities for networking with experienced peers in industry, academia, and government, and offers a scholarship program for students. The Long Island Chapter of the AITP was named the 2007 national "Association Outstanding Chapter," was a "Chapter Outstanding Performance Award" winner for 2013, and is the association of choice for Long Island's information technology leaders. Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/AITP_LI_NY. Learn more at www.aitp-li.org.

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