

Professional Member of the Year

Barbara Murdock - Professional Member of the Year (1000)

Ms. Barbara Murdock
EAP consultant
State of Georgia

Barbara has been an important force in our association's growth and development through the distinctive outreach and mentorship that she provides to EAP colleagues. Most of the award candidates had been the benefactor of Barbara's mentorship or originally became a member because she takes the time to give back to both EAPA and it's members directly.

Barbara Murdock is a proven champion of EAPA and serves as a constant beacon of light for those of us members who get lost in our daily challenges of time and priority management, and others matters of self interest. Barbara reminds us to give back.

While Barbara's gifts to the association have been numerous, her greatest contribution is found in the little things that she does on a daily basis. Some very recent examples include:

" While speaking with a member who was arranging SAP testing for a team of employees, she reminded that member of the benefits of purchasing those tests through the association instead of a competing organization. This tip was a simple way for Barbara to help EAPA to build revenues and enhance overall association value.

" Barbara has always served an active supporter for our members who have difficulty participating in our annual conference. She has always been the first to help find a roommate, engage a new attendee and make them feel welcome by inviting them along to conference activities, or share an extra sandwich for those without a per diem. These activities result in member retention, increased conference participation, and lend to an overall atmosphere of collegiality.

" Barbara honors her commitments and fully participates in her association commitments. When Barbara commits to a task force, committee, board, or any other assignment she follows through. A common example of Barbara's dedication was witnesses during a vacation at her family retreat in the mountains. After hours of driving and hosting guests, Barbara set aside many hours of her Saturday morning at this retreat to participate in an EAPA conference. While she watched her guests canoe and play on the lake, Barbara diligently prepared and participated on her call. Most members would have said that they could not help out or would have simply no-showed for the conference call. This demonstrated commitment benefits the association by providing quality results from all that she touches.

Recent examples of Barbara's daily excellence involved crisis and loss. The sudden death of Don Lake left a giant void for his staff and EAP operations. Barbara was there to lend a hand and also to hold the hands of her grieving colleagues. The sad death of a chapter member's partner mobilized Barb to gather support from other members and develop a year long outreach plan to help adjust to this member's significant loss. Barb is often called upon professionally when a police or fire department has had difficulty dealing with a tragic event. Her expertise in responding to tragedy has also made her a sought after trainer for EAP professionals.

As a self proclaimed "old timer" Barbara holds the values of EAPA and our profession dear. She has served as an advisor to many because it is so important to Barbara that we all get it right when representing our craft. She has turned away business when it conflicts with the values of our profession and teaches others to do the same. In the past two years Barbara has been a featured speaker on the topics of: "Networks that Work" a look at the state of our industry today and strategies to create winning partnerships between EA programs and EA counselors. She is scheduled to present a volunteer training on ethics and the role of EA counselors with chemical dependency.

Barbara always goes out of her way to embrace a new colleague or to help someone meet a new challenge. Her trip to Tiapai is just one example of her doing both. Barbara met a new member when she attended the APEAR conference in May. She met someone brand new to their job and promised to be of assistance. Since then she has helped design policies, set outreach strategies and introduce them to her network of seasoned EA vets (all in her spare time). Some of her EAPA roles include: 2 term Chapter President, 2 term Distric Director, 4 term chapter membership chair, and a large dose of international committees and tasks forces that span over two decades.

Barbara's example and leadership has had an impact on everyone in our profession. Her influence is direct to all that she meets and because of her influence on developing excellence in our profession, she impacts everyone in the field. Barb is the last one to take the spotlight and like all real mentors, she knows when to focus the attention on an emerging colleague. Barbara has taught us all that leading with a generous spririt is what we need to aspire for and that the best way to teach is to be ready to lead, support, or to quietly carry the load. At the spring Georgia chapter meeting, a returning professional announced how Barbara was the first person that she ever met in this field and that her success and EAPA membership was due to her. At that moment, 90% of the professionals in attendance had the same story- Barbara is the Godmother of Excellence in the EA Profession.

Special Recognition Awards

Chakiris M. Moss - Special Recognition Award (1002)

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Helped develop a CEAP Advisement group for EAPs within the Department of the Army. The initial group consisted of three advisers and three CEAP candidates. Due to the nature and distance of advisers and advisees, a plan of distance telephonic rotational advisement was developed and successfully completed advisement for each CEAP candidate. This pilot can now be utilized by the Department of the Army to help candidates obtain their CEAP certifications.

Has continued to strive to increase services to organizations and employee productivity. Has been recognized by the Department of the Army with the Employee Assistance Professional of the Year award for 2005.

Currently Vice President and immediate Past President of the South GA Chapter of EAPA. Consistently provides input and suggestions on chapter growth. Currently is the conference chairman for the upcoming annual Tri-Chapter conference with the North GA and South GA EAPA chapters to be held 27-29 Feb. 2008 at the Mulberry Inn in Savannah, GA.