



# Network Insider

Winter 2011-12

An irregularly scheduled newsletter from the  
Chicago Southland Job Hunters Network

*Our next scheduled meetings in 2012 are:*

*January 10*

*February 7*

*March 6*

*\$5 fee;*

*\$3 for current members*



We appreciate your promptness at all meetings, in order to take full advantage of networking and other essential information. We do our best to start our meetings on time, at 9:30am.

## Brownie Points

We still have a referral program in place. A little one — but a sweet one! Anytime you bring someone new along to a job club meeting (or send them with your name as a referral) — you will receive a Brownie Point!

What *is that you ask?* It's a little voucher that you can turn in at the Bootsma Bookstore Café for a Brownie or pastry of your choice, with our compliments and appreciation.



## 2012 Membership Update

Congrats to those who were able to take advantage of our fall membership special, as a new plan is now in place.

### New Members:

6-month Membership \$30.00

*Renewals (6 months) are now only \$15.00.*

*More details on back page.*

## Shared Thoughts

"Thanks for providing such great meetings packed with great information and networking opportunities. Chicago Southland has been a very bright spot for me all year!" I'm working a temp assignment now. If I'm done with it I will be at the January meeting. I honestly would like to build the meeting into my regular work day. Take care, until we chat again.

~Lynne T.

I was very happy to attend another meeting; it's a very positive-energy vibe I've gotten. Not just the venue (which I LOVE; the relaxed coffee-house atmosphere), but what you - and your guest-speakers - bring. It really means a lot, being that it's so easy to feel hopeless and despondent about the whole situation of being unemployed.

I try hard to keep in mind what you told us at Whitney on the first day you were there: unemployment is only a temporary situation. I just hope my WIA-grant training will boost my resume enough to increase my chances of getting re-employed sooner rather than later!! Thanks for everything,

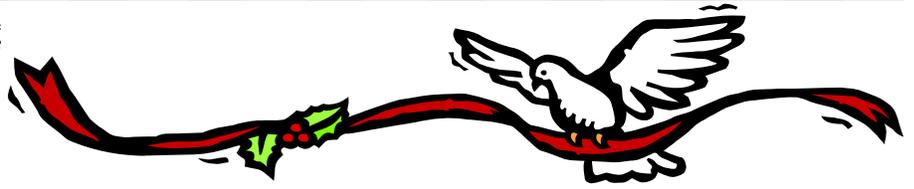
~AnnElise R.



As the year comes to an end, we think about all we are grateful for. Our relationship with you is just one thing we treasure.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. We wish you and yours a happy holiday season and much success in the new year.





**Kudos to those making an entrepreneurial effort, while maybe still seeking a position in their field!**

*Our mission...*



*The Chicago Southland Job Hunters Network*

To provide a discreet environment which fosters open and honest communications, for the purpose of education, motivation, support, collaboration and empowerment. Under the guidance of human resources professionals with expertise in recruiting and employment, will coach and engage serious job seekers with the intent to improve and enhance the full spectrum of their job search skills.

George Rock (with his wife Judy) have moved their store from Oak Lawn to Palos Heights. Stop in and say hi this season, at "EVERY GOOD GIFT" (custom & personalized gifts) to the Northeast corner of 127th & Harlem.

*New Beginnings This Year*

**Colette Huskey**  
Heartland Memorial

**John Coghlan,**  
Steel Warehouse

**Mary Frances Consola**  
St. Mary's in Mokena

**Charlie Stoll,**  
Temporary with Espo

**Cindy Pender**  
CME Group

**Debbie Gagliardi**  
Fiserv Lending Solutions

**Joe Tucker**  
U.S. Bank in St. Louis

**John Hanley**  
Aero Rubber

**Mary Frances Consola**  
St. Mary's

**Paul Fu**  
Cargo Company

**Ron Newman**  
Crawford Supply Company

**Susan Jarrett**  
University Health System Cons.

**Mary Lynn Griffin**  
Plumbing Contractors Assn.

*This list may not inclusive, as not everyone we've met informs us when they've landed a job.*

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## WHAT THE JOB CLUB HAS MEANT TO ME

By Tom Holste

Shortly after being laid off last year, I learned about the monthly job club hosted by Donna at Trinity's campus café. While I'm still looking for work, it's been very encouraging to come to the monthly meetings and to see that I'm not the only one in this position. Everyone has been very friendly and encouraging, and Donna always has great discussions and great guest speakers.



There's a lot of difficulty in switching careers. I have a BA in Communications (from Trinity, in fact) and my goal has always been to use my writing skills in the workforce. For six years, though, I was stuck in an office position in a warehouse with no hope of being promoted. Now, all that employers see is "warehouse" on the resume, and they want me to drive forklifts and do mechanical work, for which I have no skill, talent or desire.

So it's good to be able to meet with Donna's group once a month and get tips and pointers to make the job search more effective. I always leave the meetings re-emboldened about job hunting. And at the reasonable price being charged to attend, it's clear that Donna isn't running this group to get rich off of us. She's doing this out of kindness and compassion. Thanks, Donna! I look forward to a new year of meetings—and hopefully getting to a point where I don't necessarily *have* to attend anymore!



### Speaker Insights 2011

Early in the year, **Stacy Sanborn from Espo Corp.** enthusiastically spoke to our group about temporary opportunities that could certainly lead to permanent roles. At least one of our meeting participants from that day, has found work through Espo. Stacey also talked about the importance of being flexible and open-minded to the types of roles you could be suited for.

In September, we were pleased to have **Hilary Burkinshaw from CenterPoint**

**@ Governors State University** speak with us in great detail and in realistic considerations, about considering self-employment as an option. She talked to us about the resources available through her offices, the types of businesses people might consider, and more.

In October, **Renee Tabor from Metamorphosis** discussed the importance of non-verbal communications in any job search or even networking effort.

**Catherine Johns** took command of the room addressing our group about career transitions, getting beyond the getting fired factor and was truly inspirational and she definitely hit home with many of us.



**Catherine Johns, of Catherine Johns, Ltd. at our Nov. 15 Meeting**

## If you elect to be a member of our group..... **YAHOO! GROUPS**

### 2012 Membership



Membership is not required to participate in our group. It is simply an option. Should you decide to join, you'll first receive a **Welcome Kit**: a binder to contain materials gathered, plus:

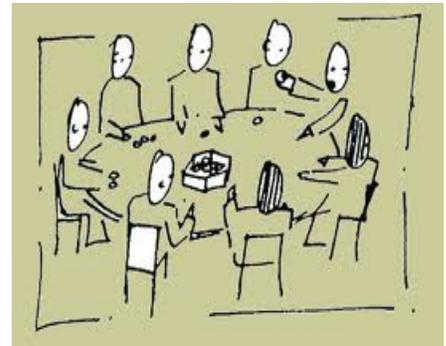
- A Professionally Engraved Name Badge for your ongoing networking activities
- Reduced Rate (20%) on Sundance Resume Writing/Editing Services
- Reduced Rate (50%) on future *Job Seeker Series* Workshops when available
- 24/7 Access to our Online Community for continued...
  - Networking
  - Job Leads & Postings
  - Local Employment News & Career Fair Listings
  - Informative Articles
  - Full Complement of *Links* to the Major National Internet Job Boards

## Introducing a revitalized job club format

Going forward, we will on occasion hold our meetings in a roundtable format. An essential factor to the successful outcome is the regular commitment and/or the RSVP to any scheduled session, the mutual participation, and the assurance of confidentiality.

A round table discussion is an excellent form of small group communication when the group is going to be a somewhat of a long term engagement, as in the Chicago Southland Job Hunters Network.

*Sundance Group will also be finishing of their revamped website soon.*



## Where you can find us

### You Can Find Us

#### On These Social Networks...



**AND**

<http://www.sundancegp.com/jobclub.html>

And of course, at the Bootsma Bookstore Café on scheduled Tuesdays at 9:30am.

Always come prepared with pen & paper, business cards if you have them, and an open mind.

*We hope to see you in 2012!*

*Jan. 10th | Feb. 7th | March 6th*

*Though we hope you've secured employment by then...*