

# Network Insider

A bi-monthly newsletter from the Chicago Southland Job Hunters Network

June | July 2010

*A New Season, New Newsletter Name & New Beginnings....*



Thanks to everyone who voted on our new newsletter name. We had great ideas and suggestions—more than 20 actually. We narrowed it down to 5-6 and the final votes were cast with 2 names tied. So, I had to make that executive decision. Since I ended that poll (for voting) I don't remember who suggested the name. Yet as you see here—the *Network Insider* fits perfectly. This newsletter is available to anyone who attends our meetings. We post it online only through the members' online community on Yahoo Groups. If anyone would like a copy emailed to them, or have something they might like to contribute to the next one—just say the word!



It is a new season and summer is upon us. We can look back at a dark and gloomy winter, short periods of daylight — and sometimes a feeling of just staying in. Winter can be very demotivating, unless you are involved in winter sports.

Now that Spring has sprung and Summer is around the corner — it's a time to refresh and renew ourselves. Whether it's finding a new exercise routine, incorporating a new practice or habit into our daily schedule — or making adjustments to how we conduct our job search.

It's sometimes hard to stay focused when there are so many activities going on around us. Even those that just include us — where we may be a participant on the sidelines (weddings, communions, graduations)... Yet, we must do what we can to stay in the game. Don't think for a minute that companies aren't hiring while management is on vacation. They still do. Their coordination of interviews may be a little less than prompt. Keep up your great efforts and think about that job offer that is likely just around the corner.

## *Newest Beginnings....*

**COLETTE HUSKEY**

After attending a job fair, Colette was hired by Meijer to work in the floral department in their new store on Harlem Avenue in Orland Park. *"I would have never got through all the interviews without the skills learned in our job club. Meijer's has great benefits along with opportunities for advancement."* However, after a period of training and orientation at their Bolingbrook location — Colette learned that her job would not be full-time as first thought. So, she will likely be joining us again in her quest for the best full-time role she can find!

**PATTY JONES**

*As of May 24th, Patty was happily employed as a CSR at a great company (Materials) with a lot of good energy and the compensation and benefits is just what she had hoped for. She checked her records and found that "over a 17 month period had applied for 211 positions and have had 9 actual face-to-face interviews - which resulted in about one interview every 2 months."*

Patty applied through a posting on Monster.com and gave special attention to her cover letter and resume content. "I was told that out of hundreds of resumes, mine stood out" she shared. With no direct networking for this particular position - the networking was being involved in Job Club and keeping in touch with prior co-workers. "I am very happy, relieved, and excited and looking forward instead of standing still."

**ROBBIE OZMAN**

Well, don't know. Robbie came to just a couple of meetings here at the BBC and connected with Susan from Staffmark after their presentation here. He did land a temporary job through the agency, but I don't know if that is the permanent job. Robbie sent an email message to say that he had a new job, he was excited and thanks. And that was that. He's been incommunicado since, and we have no idea where he landed!

***Nevertheless — congratulations to all three!***



## Featured Member ~ Colette Huskey

When I got out of Business School I landed a job at The Merchandise Mart as a Construction Secretary, over the many years of experience and great bosses rose to Administer of Construction Contracts & Design Center. This department oversaw the in-house day to day mechanics of the Mart operations, the development of the Washington Design Center offices and all the design projects which lead to one of their major shows which was Neocon. I was there for 14 years until my husband and I were relocated to Austin Texas. While in Texas I got involved in various fund raisers and volunteer work at the Museum Center of Arts and Scott & White Hospital (one of the largest hospitals in Texas associated with Texas A&M); eventually leading to a job as a Clinical Research Associate in their Cancer Department.

In 2003 we returned back to Chicago which re-

sulted in various jobs as Administrative Assistant, Office Manager/Customer Service and Sales Assistant, mostly in commercial construction business until being laid off 15 months ago.

My many experiences over the years have resulted quite diversified. I am highly organized, detail oriented, professional, and I have strong communication skills along with the ability to multi-task and prioritize. Computer literate in 2007 Microsoft Office along with QuickBooks; having experience in bill collection, to customer service— (created a Customer Service Department from the ground up which was an extremely gratifying challenge), maintained reporting & accounts payable functions. I can work individually and/or as a team

player with a “Can Do” attitude.

Since being laid off, I have joined the Southland Job Club which has been “Priceless” in acquiring many skills in job hunting, networking, interviewing, support and many friendships. I’ve also decided to take classes at Moraine Valley College to advance my skills in Office 2007; i.e. Excel I & II & Word I & II. One of the fun things I also do, I volunteer reading stories once a week to the 1st & 2nd Graders at Kerkstra School.



## More thoughts from Patty Jones

Just wanted to share a quick update now that I have been at my new job for two weeks. I absolutely love it. I really feel motivated and energized. The only advice I can give is to keep looking every day, rely on the support of people at Job Club (a few of us splintered off and continue to keep in touch.) Since many of our family and friends simply cannot be expected to understand how difficult the job search is these days, it is critical to reach out to

groups like yours. I have met many wonderful people and want to thank you. I have learned that it is best not to over think things too much - if I had realized the exact location of this position - I might not even have applied. Do not rule anything out - approach each opportunity as if it is the perfect opportunity.

Things are not always as they seem. (Colette told me she applied for a job and the pay was very, very low. How-

ever, she applied anyway, got the interview, and found out at the interview that the salary was a typo.

Obviously, the reason they are hiring is they need someone like Colette so these types of errors do not occur! Give my best to everyone!



### Our meetings continue at the BBC!

#### More Tuesdays in 2010

- July 13
- August 3 & 24
- September 14
- October 5 & 26
- November 16

Meetings start @ 9:30am until about 11:15am. \$5 fee to attend.

Consider the option of Membership in this job club @ —\$25 for 6 months. Benefits include an engraved name badge, discounts on various Sundance Group services if desired, and access to our online community — a great 24/7 resource for major job boards, niche job sites, relevant articles, messages and lots more!



### Our mission...

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.