

Network Insider

Summer 2013

An irregularly scheduled newsletter from the Chicago Southland Job Hunters Network



Our scheduled general meetings in 2013:

June 4, July 9, August 6,
September date pending,
October 8, November 5th

\$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 right on time!

*Summer hours in place for
June, July & August*

We still have a referral appreciation 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 Brownie Points!



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

Our meeting topics so far have included the following topics:

- Why You Need a Business Card While Job Searching
- Resumes That Will Get You an Interview
- Why Should We Hire You — and more challenging questions
- What Are You Doing About Your Professional Development
- 6 Reasons You'll Get The Job (Book Discussion)
- Planned for June — Age & Experience



We continue to enjoy the hospitality and meeting space of the Bootsma Bookstore Café, for our monthly meetings. The gourmet coffee is always on, and their bakery treats and lunches are always enjoyable. The Library Conference Room has proven to be a perfect setting for workshops like 'Don't Be Left Out of Being Linked In'.

New Beginnings in recent months:

- Tom H.—Nokia (Traffic Editor)
- Pauline H. — South Suburban Humane Society (Counselor)
- Bonnie P. — Electromotive Diesel (Legal Dept.)
- Beverly E. — COTG (Billing Specialist)
- Helmut L. — Norkal (Cobol Programmer)
- Tim B. — MetLife (Account Manager)

You can find us easily...



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

And of course, at our monthly meetings at the Bootsma Bookstore Café in Palos Heights, IL. Call us at 708.687.4878 with any questions.



MISSION

Create and nurture an environment for continued self improvement, professional growth and self-esteem that manifest a spirit of teamwork and mutual respect among all employees; emphasize and provide for consistent delivery of outrageous hospitality toward guests.

Through our footprint of

Integrity • Caring • Respect



In early 1992, I had the great fortune to join the casino industry—the very 1st one to come to Chicago. Being hired before the casino and related facilities were even built, was great timing and so valuable to me — for the experience, and the beginning of my career in human resources. Being able to help choose carpet, street signs, and uniforms was all fun and a chance to work creatively. Helping to design the reservations systems was a chance to spread my wings in technology and share my knowledge through my prior experiences with an airline. My role in recruiting and staffing for a high volume turnover environment was a significant undertaking to say the least. All was good, participating in drafting the mission of the company (left) was also so very rewarding.

Sometimes, that 'footprint' was challenged. Within a company environment — of course, the concepts of Integrity, Caring and Respect were important values to strive for with regard to our employees. Through guest experiences, through employee relations, even through our community relations could also be challenging.

I often think about these values being applied in a more personal way; in a way each of us should consider ourselves whether currently employed, or, like too many — looking for a job. So how might you apply these values to your job search efforts?

INTEGRITY ... Is the integrity of an organization important to you? If so, how can you judge that while pursuing a job in any company? Should you trust their website, or can you find out information from a company's involvement in the community, former and current employees, and how you are treated through the recruitment process? When it comes to you — the individual pursuing the job, this may be a different story. Can a prospective employer 'trust' that you have represented your past job experiences, dates of employments, etc. with the utmost of integrity? Only you know the answer to that question. Embellishing past experiences in order to land a job will likely come back to haunt you.



CARING ... How do you know if a company cares — about their employees, their products, their reputation? Again, information the company places on their own site can tell you a lot. Many people pursue organizations that show they care not only through benefits, training and development opportunities—but also what does a company do for the community it resides in? And back to you — how do you show you care, about your potential to land a job? Consider the care you take in your personal presentation. Not only does this apply to your grooming, attire and even attitude for an interview, but it applies first in the way you present yourself to an employer initially. Having a resume that is up to date, easy to read, truthful, and relevant; but also caring about the content in your cover letters; your spelling and grammar, in particular— care enough to proofread your own documents before you sent them into the big resume file in the sky? Do you address the organization by its proper spelling, and did you take the time to follow up?

RESPECT ... Let's start with self-respect. Value the wisdom along with experiences you've gained. Respecting your own knowledge, skills and abilities will shine through when presenting yourself on paper, online and of course, in person. Your self-respect will be reflected in your job search efforts, your networking, and in the work that you do. Respect others as well — starting with your current network. Attend meetings you're invited to; be prepared with business cards; follow up with emails or calls, and a Thank You! Respect the time frame allowed in a meeting, so that you don't take up too much floor time, not allowing others the time to share. Respect prospective employers by addressing them appropriately in your cover letters, spelling their names accurately, along with the organizations they represent. Respect the process by doing real homework before you arrive for your interview, but beforehand — do enough homework to know you are applying for a position you are actually qualified for.

Donna Mazalin, PHR