



CHICAGO SOUTHLAND JOB HUNTERS NETWORK

APRIL / MAY 2010



*“By seeing the seed of failure in every success, we remain humble.
By seeing the seed of success in every failure – we remain hopeful.”*

A personal story shared

(by D. Mazalin)

New Beginnings

(Recent Jobs Landed)

Upcoming Calendar

ViewPoints /

Featured Member (s)



Save These dates

9:30AM—11:15AM

APRIL 6, MAY 6,

JUNE 8, JULY 13

AUGUST 3 & 24

SEPTEMBER 14

Please keep posted to our

YG Page and

www.sundancegp.com for

schedule updates

*Outside Food or Beverages are
not permitted at this location.*



It's in the air! Spring has sprung and suddenly the hiring has begun. While the media shares that our unemployment rate has stabilized, we're also cautioned that recovery won't be an overnight healing—it will be a process. If nothing else, people I encounter do seem more hopeful.

According to IDES—Illinois Department of Employment Security, the February 2010 rate nationally was at 9.7%; yet Illinois was at 11.4%! A disheartening number for sure and at it's highest rate since July of 1983. I remember even worse around 1986. Yet, IDES shares that job losses are beginning to moderate.

Well, during that time a couple of decades ago—I was a newly single mom trying to move on with my life by selling my home. The family in the midst of buying my home, lost their jobs — so they had to back out of the deal. The economy affected my job and I was abruptly laid off, and now I had to stay in a home that I could no longer afford, and no longer wanted to live in.

Eventually, things improved. The house sold, I rented and then bought another. And life took on a positive trend from there on.

I share this story with you because we can often feel so hopeless. Too often, our jobs are our identity; mine always were. Even in 1986 when I lost my job with a major airline — I thought there was no way I would recover from such a thing — with that newly purchased home, and still a single mom. Yet I found myself in a new and never expected career path. And that has led me here: into the human resources profession, a small business owner, and the creator of this job club. One never knows what doors will open next for them. No one can fully put the past behind them — especially when that past job was one you loved. But you can make that experience work in your favor when you put your mind to it.

A close friend of mine (also a victim of major airline closures, 2x), had found himself in a related industry and in a job he was truly enjoying—for awhile. The increasing hours required and lack of any work/life balance had caused him to re-think his work priorities. While he just lost his job, he actually is looking forward to the next opportunity, knowing he has that much more to offer his next employer. And now that he's hit '50' - instead of letting his age work against him, he is going to work hard to make that experience work for him!

“Newest Beginnings”

DEAN LEENVAART

Dean has been hired to the exciting position of Buyer II at MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn (www.macneal.com). His start date was 2/8, yet he came to his last meeting with us on 2/6 — just to make the announcement. “It looks like a great match! MacNeal is going to double in size soon with the acquisition of 2 hospitals which means their in house laundry will be doubling their output soon (laundry = my industry of 38 years).” Thanks again to Donna who was an vital part of this success story.

GREG KORANDA

Greg had not been to our meetings yet this year, however he came to our March 16th meeting to announce that he has been interviewing and just accepted a job offer with Kraft Foods. He was in the midst of the employment process so he did not have too many details to share with us just yet, but he was very excited as this was a company he really hoped to join. Greg claims that his mock interview experiences in our job club as well as another held at MVCC really prepared him for the whole process, and it was noticed by those that he interviewed with.



**JOB CLUB DETAILS:**

In order to continue our job club program with its unique level of support, and in order to fulfill our mission – the structure of the job club has changed. We are continually seeking ways to improve our service to make your experience even more beneficial.

- We've introduced this Newsletter in the Fall of '09.
- Going forward, we'll have a pre-planned agenda so that members will be notified of topics in advance.
- The job club will meet at least once monthly.
- Additional locations and time frames may be offered for workshops and/or social gatherings.
- Advance Registration is important. You can call us (Sundance Group, Inc.) at 708/687-4878, or by sending an email to: jobclub@sundancegp.com
- In order to meet our expenses (materials, room rental, etc.), there is a fee of \$5.00 per general meeting. Each time we meet, we will have a drawing for complimentary attendance at a future meeting.
- A Membership option is available to supplement your job search networking and job search efforts. Even those who've landed jobs may elect to keep in touch with the group through membership.



On Our Recent Workshop –

NETWORKING YOUR WAY TO YOUR NEXT JOB

On March 18th, we offered a workshop that covered both the interpersonal as well as the social media side of networking. About a dozen people in attendance – we discussed the difficulties of approaching people in group, even in an event intended for networking, and we became more familiar with LinkedIn and other avenues of networking. This same workshop may be offered again in

**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.

FEATURED MEMBERS**CARL IVAN**

Carl Ivan is a 30+ year professional in the Computer Industry. He got his 1st job via an Open House because his printing on the job application was the best of the applicants. His 2nd job was obtained from a call back at a Job Fair on the south side. His next job was acquired while interviewing at a job fair in a downtown hotel. Since then, he has moved from Job to Job via recommendations and the Internet.



Carl's education started in Bremen High School at the Area Technical Center and moved to South Suburban and Moraine Valley Community College. He also attended Purdue University Calumet for some Computer Science classes. After acquiring his Associated in Applied Science at Moraine he has continued to attend Moraine's Business College for additional training in infrastructure, deploying and administering operating systems and their associated hardware. While his experience has been with just about every industry and with every type of machine from Teletype to Mainframe to Desktop – His preference has always been as a team leader of professionals providing training, support services and applications to the user. Carl is currently seeking a consulting opportunity were interacting and training users of computer technology in their day to day work life.

PATRICIA JONES

Patty Jones was laid off 18 months ago by a new home builder. Initially hired as Customer Service Representative, she was soon promoted to Project Manager overseeing construction of homes from dig to close. Mainly by being extremely detail-oriented with proven ability to multi-task and react to changing priorities, Patty has also had success as an Administrative Assistant and Financial Analyst. She has worked in a variety of industries: banking, manufacturing, non-profit, and construction. She is seeking an administrative position in any industry which would utilize her management, organizational, and communication skills. Computer skills include MS Word, Excel, Access, 10-Key, and Typing 60 wpm.

Seeking a position in the current job market is challenging. Networking is important: participation with job clubs and maintaining contact with former co-workers, business associates, friends, and family. Attend classes/seminars: while attending a 1-day course at Moraine for Advanced Excel, Patty met an HR professional who has already sent her a job lead - before the position was advertised. Additionally, since she is now a student, she was able to purchase Office 2007 at the \$59 student rate.

Our SOCIAL MEDIA Presence:

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

