

Our Own Newsletter

No. 3

FEB-MAR 2010

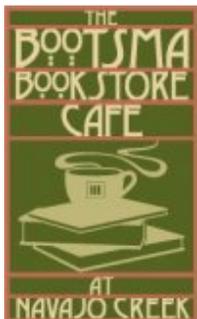
CHICAGO SOUTHLAND JOB HUNTERS NETWORK



- **New Beginnings**
(Recent Jobs Landed)
- **Upcoming Calendar**
- **ViewPoints /
Featured Member**
- **Job Club News**

A NEW YEAR: 2010

A NEW PLACE



9:30AM—11:15AM
TUESDAYS

FEB 2 & 16, MAR 2 & 16

Please keep posted to our
YG Page and
www.sundancegp.com for
schedule updates

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

SAVE THESE
DATES &
WATCH FOR
MORE



2010 began quickly and we're already into month #2! Our job club was scheduled at our new meeting location for 3 sessions; and now we have 6 on the books. By the end of February, the after-March schedule will be announced.

Participants have been polled in the past, both in person and online, to determine if 1-2x per month is a preference. At this writing, we're scheduled twice monthly so far.

On our 1st meeting of this year on January 5th, we welcomed more than 20 brand new people, and there have been more newcomers at each meeting since. Some have been out of work and looking for quite awhile; while others just recently experienced the loss of their jobs. Others are in a transition — looking for a new career path. In any case, our group continues to grow and reflect a typical workforce, especially when you consider the variety of professions represented.

Our group continues to be another resource for networking, learning, and for motivation. Each time a new introduction is made, another story about a career in flux is heard.

No matter the level of a job someone was in, no matter what the job duties were or the salaries earned — job loss impacts you, then those around you.

My hope is to continue to facilitate this forum in order to share leads, learn from each other and to empower job seekers. Our newsletters will include personal stories of featured members, and hopefully continue the inspiration and good karma.

The recent restructuring of the job club included an opportunity for membership. This is not a requirement; simply an option to help expand your network, increase your resources & knowledge, and remain connected to the group at large between meetings.

Our recent meetings have included discussions on Voicemail Etiquette and Handbills Vs. Resumes. We're on target for a guest speaker on Feb. 2nd and more informational sessions are being scheduled.

~ Donna
Mazalin



"Newest Beginnings"

Just announced: **Dean Leensvaart** was offered a position last week with MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn as a Buyer. More on Dean in our next issue.

The same week — **Sheri Kelly** started in a new role with Rush University Medical Center, as an Information Systems Analyst. Sheri had a really good experience based on her recent efforts. In part, here are her words:

*"- I located the job opening on **Indeed.com** which linked me to Rush's company web site. On the web site, I attached my resume, and a cover letter to a Rush human resource person that I had located on LinkedIn. There was only one day of interviews that included meeting onsite with all four of the team members, separately. The manager stated that a 'fit' with the team was her top priority.*

By doing a Google search of their software I discovered an applicable PowerPoint presentation. During the interview, I showed the most technical team member 4 PowerPoint slides displaying screen shots of the software they use. He said that he had not seen a candidate do this before - he was impressed. He went on to explain a process using the slides.

The manager revealed to me that I was the only candidate that had sent a hand-written "thank you" note. Others had simply sent an e-mail 'thank you'. She said that it had "earned me some points." Best to all of you in your job search. ~ Sheri Kelly

Congratulations to both of you!





ETCETERA...

Our Social Media Presence:



YAHOO! GROUPS



A personal experience shared by a participant in our group, who landed a long sought after role.

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.

- Recently, we've introduced this Newsletter.
- 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 efforts. Even those who've landed jobs may elect to keep in touch with the group through membership.



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.

While a member of the Chicago Southland Job Club, I interviewed for the Bereavement Facilitator position at Hospice of the Calumet Area (HCA) and was offered the position. I was grateful and excited to say the least. Grief counseling is "what I really want to do" and there are a few factors that made my dream come true.

First and foremost were the prayers of many supportive friends and family members, as well as my own. I believe that bereavement is a calling in my life, and I am honored to have the opportunity to follow that calling. Next was the networking and support available in our job club and among colleagues, relatives and friends etc. Participating in our job club provided much information and experience about how to search, how to write resumes and cover letters, interviewing, job fairs, follow up, and so much more. Job clubs are a wonderful resource for those who are searching for employment.

Members of the job club hear a lot about the importance of networking. I definitely agree with the truth behind that. It was a fellow job club member who called my attention to the job posting on yahoo.com (thank you Dean!) that began the whole process for me.

When people come together to help one another for the common cause of finding employment, it does work. I'd like to encourage everyone to continue to hope for the best in their job search – it does come eventually.

My position at HCA is challenging and rewarding. I coordinate the bereavement services we provide to those who have experienced the death of a loved one. This includes being a member of the hospice team which includes the doctor, nurses and hospice aides, social workers, spiritual counselors, and a huge amount of volunteer support. Our bereavement program provides grief support groups called "Healing Hearts" which I facilitate, telephone support, short term counseling, monthly newsletters, written educational materials, and referrals to community services. We have a few casual (part-time) employees as well as a very dedicated team of volunteers who assist with providing the bereavement services. HCA is a great place to work, and I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve people who can use some support with their grief.

~ Dorothy Poma

