

LVP Communicator

A Monthly Newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Professionals

October, 2010 Vol. 2, No. 9



Calendar

October 1: Meeting **10 a.m.—12 noon**

"Transforming Your Career in a Tough Market"

Speaker: Roy Blumberg
The Philadelphia Group

New Member Orientation — 30 min.
Immediately Following Mtg.

October 8: Meeting **10 a.m.—12 noon**

"Don't Just Think Outside the Box—Think Outside the World"

Speaker: Abby Kohut
President, Staffing Symphony

October 15: Meeting **10 a.m.—12 noon**

"Seven Steps that Could Change Your Life"

Speaker: Rod Colon
Professional Speaker and
Author, ETP Network

New Member Orientation — 30 min.
Immediately Following Mtg.

October 22: Meeting **10 a.m.—12 noon**

"Financial Answers for Job Seekers"

Speaker: Mary Evans
Evans Wealth Strategies

October 29: Meeting **10 a.m.—12 noon**

"Temporary, Contract and Temp to Perm Work"

Speaker: Janell O'Brian
Staffing Supervisor, Allied
Professional Services

New Member Orientation — 30 min.
Immediately Following Mtg.

Comments from the Chair

My last commentary was a discussion about the continuing difficulties of working with a so-so economy and how the donut celebrations seemed patchy at best. But then I pointed out that the LVP organization is improving its functionality in terms of committee efforts in addressing various issues directed at serving the membership better. I talked of improvements to our web site, advertising through presentations to employers, a stronger focus on training, increased alumni involvement and more. And, as if by coincidence to this activity, there has been a significant up-swing in landings.

There is a common thread in the "How I Landed" stories. We keep hearing that a significant number of individuals say they have been actively engaged in doing things outside of their own search process. Job seekers who are actively

contributing to and participating in LVP, other networking groups or volunteering in the community, have shown that networking really makes a difference.

We have all heard that it is not who you know but who knows you that makes the difference today. Therefore it seems pretty clear that getting exposure means getting involved. Exposure means someone will take notice of or remember you when conversations turn to an organization's need to fill a job. The real beauty of this comes down to the following: chances are when that conversation happens it will be way before it occurs to anyone to advertise for the position. And if you have talked with them, it happens for you. Think about it.

Regards,

Frank McDowell

LVP Chair, fmcdowelliii@aol.com



IT World

Our most exciting news is that Maryann Csaszar, IT/Web Co-Chair has landed. She has done a superb job for LVP and will continue to help during her transition. Thank You Maryann.

The IT/Web committee had a meeting inviting those with IT experience to consider how they can contribute in supporting the IT operation. There was great response and we are sorting out where people can contribute. Work involves assigning new member ID's, posting profiles and resumes, and updating web calendars and documents. Although the IT/Web operation is running smoothly, it is important to have backup personnel that can jump in to replace those that land. Our goal is to have a cross trained group.

— Ken Boyko, IT Chair, kcbjob@yahoo.com



How I Landed

I want to thank all Lehigh Valley Professionals members for providing support, guidance, learning opportunities, and most importantly networking skills at our weekly meetings. I have made many connections within LVP as well as a few good friends.

The landing of my position had a twist that made it a bit stressful. Within two weeks, I received two job offers. After having received a verbal offer and waiting for the written offer for the first position to arrive, a second offer was presented to me. Both of these offers came from tips that LVP members provided.

I firmly believe that networking was the basis for my success in

landing. My advice to the group is to network with as many people as possible and let everyone know your situation. Try to take the focus off finding an opportunity for you by assisting others with their search. Share your knowledge of networking. Meet with individuals on a one on one basis, and talk with them on the phone.

Lastly, I ask that you continue to communicate with me. I do not want to lose the momentum I have gained by networking. It is very easy to lose focus quickly with the demands of a new job.

Let me know how I can be of assistance to you!

— Tim Douty
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www.linkedin.com/in/markjtimdouty

In September...

September's program list included a slate of exceptional speakers, lecturing on essential topics. We started out the month with Brian Martin's presentation of "A Guerilla Method of Job Hunting." Brian led us through some of his unconventional though proven methods of finding that next opportunity. Then, LVP's own John Sefko led a discussion on the "Patterned Interview" and how to navigate any landmines that may arise. John's personal experiences from both sides of the table were enlightening and informative.

Kristi Daniels of Strive 9 to 5 helped us turn our "inner critic" into our "inner champion". Kristi facilitated personal motivation through a combination of effective presentation and interactive exercises.

Finally, Life Success consultant Chris Curran offered up an informative and entertaining talk about having the right mindset and actions in order to achieve the things we want. He detailed how the right mindset is the basis of getting what we want (and how to get out of a cold basement).

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the outstanding training sessions during the second half of the weekly meetings, led by current LVP members. From resumes to interviews; from preparing for a job fair to HR functions; we were educated by our exceptional peers.

As always, the Program Committee reminds everyone to connect with us if you know any quality speakers you feel would benefit our group. We welcome your help.

— Mark Gabovitz

Program Chair, mgabovitz5@verizon.net

LVP Executive Board

Your current Chairs and how to contact them:

Executive Chair	Frank McDowell fmcdowelliii@aol.com
Program Chair	Mark Gabovitz mgabovitz5@verizon.net
Membership Chair	Debbie Koder debkoder@yahoo.com
IT Chair	Ken Boyko kcbbjob@yahoo.com
Alumni Chair	Tom Emmerth temmerth@compuserve.com
Marketing Co-Chair	Scott Switzer switzfour@aol.com John Sefko john.sefko@gmail.com

Membership Corner

In this tough economy many of us are revisiting the age old question, "What do I want to be when I grow up?" Now may be the perfect time to reinvent yourself and your career. Sometimes the job search is hard because the passion is missing. Focus your search on what you love to do.

The Bureau of Labor statistics publishes an Occupational Outlook Handbook that describes hundreds of different types of jobs, as well as training and education at www.bls.gov. Some people will take temporary work, part-time jobs, internships or volunteer work to see what a job is like. Remember you don't have to stick to one career decision forever. Now is the perfect time to make that change. Here at LVP we have over 16 career categories and more than 1000 members. Talk to your fellow LVP'ers at our weekly networking time after the meeting. You may find your options are enormous.

—Debbie Koder
Membership Chair
debkoder@yahoo.com

"The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short;
but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark." — Michelangelo

Marketing Best Practices

The marketing team had a busy September. All of the top "target accounts" have now been assigned and during the week of September 28, phone calls to set up appointments began in earnest. Calls are being made by members of the Marketing Team along with selected members of the Executive Committee and Karen McAndrew-Bush. It is anticipated that these presentations will lead to increased utilization of LVP members for open professional positions.

On September 22, members of the Marketing Team supplemented by members of the Executive Committee worked the Lehigh Valley CareerLink® Career Fair at the Allentown Fairgrounds. There was significant interest in our group by numerous organizations which were repre-

sented at the fair. We plan to follow up with them in the near future.

We would like to welcome our newest committee members, Janis Stacy and Stacy Pysher. They have already contributed a great deal to the committee in their first month on the team. We also welcome new members, so if you would like to help market LVP to corporations or help us in preparing for calls, please speak to Scott Switzer or John Sefko at one of the Friday meetings.

Happy Hunting...

— Scott Switzer
switzfour@aol.com

John Sefko
john.sefko@gmail.com
Marketing Co-Chairs

LVP Communicator is the monthly newsletter for Lehigh Valley Professionals (LVP). It is distributed via the web at lvprofessionals.org and by e-mail at the beginning of each month.

LVP is a free recruitment resource for companies, organizations, and recruiters seeking high-caliber professionals and consultants of all disciplines, in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas.

LVP meets at the PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley, located at 1601 Union Boulevard in Allentown.

For additional information call, 610-437-5627, ext. 218



For Our Alums...

As you attend various events in the Lehigh Valley, you may encounter other LVP members, both active and alumni. As a group, we are getting more involved in the business community as we reach out beyond our Friday morning meetings.

In July, about two dozen of us were given scholarships to attend the Sustainable Energy Conference at Lehigh University. At this conference, in addition to the many learning opportunities, LVP members provided valuable input to the many discussions centered on this valuable topic. In September, another dozen

LVP members attended the Lehigh Valley Energy and Environmental Innovations Conference and Expo sponsored by the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. In addition, to the individual learning and networking activities, the attendees described the LVP story to many in attendance. Some of our number have also volunteered and worked at the PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley Job Fair / Here to Help Event, and LVP had a booth at the fair, also manned with LVP members. The LVP Marketing Committee has developed a presentation that

describes the LVP story and is presenting it to community and service organizations in the area.

The Lehigh Valley Professionals group is reaching out to be better known, enhancing our reputation and using individual talents to enhance community activities. Please let us know other areas where LVP can better serve our members and the greater Lehigh Valley community.

— Thomas Emmerth
Alumni Chair
temmerth@compuserve.com

A Note from PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley

The Raymond E. Spencer PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley Job Fair / Here to Help Event was a success. This year two events were combined into one. For the job fair portion we had 74 employers. Included in that number were some training providers. Some of the training providers had actual job openings; others were there to share their educational opportunities. Employers in attendance were looking to fill over 2,200 job openings. With 4,322 job seekers at the event I am sure employers will be able to fill many of their positions.

The Here to Help portion housed 35 community resources. Those resources provided valuable information to attendees be it Unemployment Compensation, Social Security, Vocational Rehabilitation, Public Assistance, Health Care Insurance, Veteran's Services, and Mortgage and Rental Assistance to name a few.

Each year members of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) critique resumes. Thank you to Debby Mayberry, Gloria Wormley, Deborah Thompson, and Lu Novak, LVP and SHRM members who were critiquing resumes. We assisted 326 individuals with that service. This year we advertised for job seekers to bring an electronic version of his/her resume. In that way if they were given advice in the resume critique area they could then move to the computer area, make needed changes, and print out new resumes to hand to employers. I have received positive feedback that these areas were very helpful to job seekers.

Additional thank you goes out to Tom Emmerth, Robert Smith, Harry Schlegel and Betty Proctor, LVP members who assisted our staff at the event. Additional members manned the LVP booth at the event and thank you to all who gave their time to see that your booth had coverage all day.

— Karen McAndrew-Bush
PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley