

Palmetto Works



March 2010

From the President's Desk...



Everyone seems to have differing opinions about when the economy will turn around or if it has already started. I'm asked this question several times a month by the media and always when the updated unemployment rate is released. I wish I had a crystal ball that had the answer. I don't. What I have observed and learned during this time is that employers need to keep their business moving forward whether or not the economy is moving forward.

As the number of staff may become reduced, getting more out of the employees still working can seem like an impossible task. Focusing on the bigger picture, such as long term growth and better results, has to be the most important challenge in accomplishing this goal.

This is a good time to train employees. Everyone needs new and updated skills. Training can also provide a morale boost. With more knowledge, employees can be asked to contribute more and will realize

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State Conference Plans

by Debbie Byers, Local Arrangements Chair

It's that time of year again---conference time. You need to talk to your supervisors about attending the SC IAWP conference in Charleston this year! The conference is being held at the Charleston Marriot (170 Lockwood Blvd.), a hop, skip, and a jump from the heart of downtown Charleston.

The conference will start with an early bird barbecue pool side on Wednesday night April 21st. A dinner of pulled pork, potato salad, pasta salad, and chips with iced tea will be served that night from 6:00-8:00pm. Then on Thursday we will start at 10:30am with a buffet luncheon



and several great seminars and speakers. The buffet luncheon this year will be something new and different and I hope enjoyed by everyone! The Thursday night subchapter night starts at 8:00pm until midnight with music from Dave Gilbert of Partytime DJs. There will be a cash bar.

On Friday we will resume the educational part of the conference at 9:00am until 5:00pm. Remember, if you have a room, you will receive breakfast for each registered person in your room and it will be breakfast made-to-order. Their onsite restaurant has really good food and there is an onsite Starbucks as well. Friday night the banquet is plated and again something a little different than we have done in the past.

The hotel is on the Ashley River and the sunrise and sunset on the second floor patio is beautiful and they have a cash bar there every afternoon/evening. Brittlebank Park, across the street from the hotel, is perfect for walking and running. Hampton Park is less then 10 minutes from the hotel and it is another great spot to walk, run, or just sit and enjoy the scenery.

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The award-winning monthly newsletter of the South Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP)



The USO Needs Our Help!

By Mary Monts, Veterans Chair

IAWP is gathering items for the USO Lounge at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. This center, the only USO Center in South Carolina, serves troops and their families as they travel through the greater Columbia area in route to Fort Jackson, Fort Gordon, Shaw Air Force Base, the 81st Regional Support Command and McEntire Joint National Guard Station.

The center has free Internet and email access, an entertainment lounge complete with large screen television and video gaming systems, a library, and a kitchen offering travel-weary troops pre-packaged snacks and beverages. This center averages 4,000 visitors each month!



As a nonprofit organization, the USO relies on the



generosity of the American public to support its network centers worldwide. Donations and volunteers help make the USO a success.

IAWP will collect items until March 31, 2010. Boxes will be placed in the Central Office Complex. Local offices should bring their items to the Lexington Workforce Center by March 31st.

Monetary donations will be used to buy requested items and are being accepted by Palmetto Citizens Credit Union in the Robert E. David Building in Columbia. Checks should be made out to SC IAWP Chapter with USO in the memo line and sent to the credit union (1550 Gadsden Street, Columbia, SC 29201). If you have a credit union account, you can just transfer money to the USO account. For questions, please contact Mary Monts at mmonts@scscs.org or 803-359-6131.

Let's make travel for our troops a little more pleasant by helping the USO!!

Membership: Almost There!

By Tommy Minogue, Membership Chair

We are getting closer to the State Conference and we are also getting closer to our goal of 350. We are now standing at 262 members.

My special thanks to the Human Resource Department, the newest member of the 100% Membership Club. Get your office to join this club soon. Time is running out on us.

By now, most of you Cost Center Managers have received letters and/or e-mails from me encouraging you and your staffs to join the Number 1 Chapter in the world for six straight years.

Why don't you join today and help make us the NUMBER 1 CHAPTER IN THE WORLD FOR SEVEN CONSECUTIVE YEARS!



Redistricting

An IAWP Hot Potato is on the 2010 Ballot

By Chuck Alexander,
Past President & International Development Chair

International President Daniel Hayes has tackled the very sensitive issue of redistricting. This proposal has generated spirited discussion both pro and con. I recommend you log on to the International website at www.iawponline.org to review the proposed changes and exercise your right to vote. The decision to accept or reject the proposal is in your hands.

Regardless of the outcome, I urge all members to recognize the democratic process: The majority establishes policy.



“While we are focusing on fear, worry, or hate, it is not possible for us to be experiencing happiness, enthusiasm or love.

-Bo Bennett, *Year to Success*”

Easy Access to Equity

Tap into the equity you've built with all the convenience of a credit card with Visa® Equity from Palmetto Citizens. This account works just like a home equity line of credit with all the benefits of a Visa card. Use it to help with home renovations and repairs or just to make everyday purchases. Plus, the interest you pay may be tax deductible. (1)

Every purchase will earn ScoreCard® Reward Points which can be redeemed for hundreds of merchandise and travel options. Combine points with other Palmetto Citizens debit and credit cards for greater reward options.

Let us help you tap into your home's equity. Please visit your Palmetto Citizens SCESC Office located inside the Robert E. David Building - Room 105 (1550 Gadsden Street, Columbia).

If you are not located in the Columbia area, contact us at (803)737-2404 (ext. 72404), or dee.roberts@pcemail.org for more information on any of our cost-saving mortgage solutions.

(1) Consult your tax advisor

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they can have a greater role in the outcome of services offered and possible advancement. Continued recruiting is also important because business turnaround will cause rehires. Keeping the lines of communication open is also important. Give positive feedback whenever you can.

Hopefully as we all move forward we will look around one day and see that it has.

Good to go.

Mary Nell Smith

Facts About the USO

The mission of the USO is to provide morale, welfare and recreation services to our military forces and their families.

The USO currently operates more than 130 centers around the world, including 10 mobile canteens.

Subchapter News

Midlands Subchapter

By Constance R. Lorick, Midlands Subchapter Chair

The Midlands Subchapter would like to apologize to its members and the employees because we will be unable to participate in the donut certificate sale this month to benefit the Harvest Hope Food Bank. Krispy Kreme is closed for six weeks due to renovations. We will schedule the certificate sales for a later date.

If you have any questions, please contact Constance R. Lorick at (803) 737-2586 or Jeanette Y. Gray at (803) 737-0110.

Piedmont Subchapter

By Karen Hamrick, Piedmont Subchapter Chair

The Piedmont Subchapter is looking forward to the upcoming Spring Educational Conference April 21-24 in Charleston. Plans are being made for our spring subchapter meeting which will be announced as soon as possible. If you have any new and fresh ideas for service projects, please let us know. Our Share the Strength Feed the Hungry drive was very successful. Hopefully, we can participate again this year. If you have not joined IAWP, I would like to encourage to do so as soon as possible!

State Conference (con't.)

I encourage everyone that can get the time away from your office to request attendance NOW. Take some time to enjoy the company of coworkers from all over the state and take advantage of the education opportunities that will be provided as well!

PS. The Charleston Workforce Center is right next door. If you would like a tour, contact Area Director Jim Coles. (If you get home sick for your job, I am sure Jim will allow you to pitch in!) Hope to see you all soon!

Overseas centers are located in Germany, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, Qatar, Korea, Afghanistan, Guam, and Kuwait.

Service members and their families visit USO centers more than five million times each year.

Greenville 2010 News



Networking Functions at the International Educational Conference June 27-30, 2010

Early Bird Reception

- ◆ Saturday, June 26th
- ◆ Hosted by the International Conference in 2011 in St. Louis, Missouri
- ◆ Learn fascinating St. Louis trivia. Reconnect with your friends before the conference begins.



International Exhibit

- ◆ Sunday, June 27 (after Opening Ceremonies)
- ◆ The International Delegates will share with conference attendees a taste of their culture in a unique International Cultural Exhibit: Dotting the "I" in IAWP.



Awards Luncheon

- ◆ Monday, June 28th
- ◆ Join conference attendees in the *South Carolina Summer Garden* where Chapter Achievement Contest winners will be announced!

Chapter Night

- ◆ Monday, June 28th
- ◆ Come to a Blue Ridge Mountain Picnic!



Banquet & Ball

- ◆ Tuesday, June 29
- ◆ The theme is Southern Elegance.
- ◆ There will be a DJ for entertainment.
- ◆ (Plans for tuxedo rentals and formal photography are underway. Conference Administrative Vice-Chair Linda Barnes will be supplying silk corsages and boutonnieres for attendees to purchase.)

Tours

International Retiree Chair Cheryl Thomas is planning several tours for those on vacation at the conference or for retirees. Some of the possibilities include:



- ◆ Biltmore Estate
- ◆ Historic Abbeville County
- ◆ The Park Seed Company (Festival of Flowers on June 26th)
- ◆ Furman University
- ◆ Reedy River Falls
- ◆ Falls Park on the Reedy River
- ◆ SC Botanical Gardens at Clemson University

Mark Your Calendar!

April 21-23: SC Chapter Educational Conference in Charleston

June 27-30: International Conference in Greenville, SC

April is...

- » National Frog Month
- » Stress Awareness Month
- » National Gardening Month

- » April 7: No Housework Day
- » April 16: National Eggs Benedict Day
- » April 24: Pigs in a Blanket Day
- » April 29: National Honesty Day



Personnel News

◆ The newest ES Field Supervisor is **Keith Lucas**.

◆ **Judy Jordan** is the new Area Director of the Marion Workforce Center.

◆ **Sandra Grooms** has been promoted to General Counsel for the agency.

“ Worry about being better; bigger will take care of itself. Think one customer at a time and take care of each one the best way you can.

-Gary Comer ”

Important IAWP Websites

IAWP International Website:
www.iawponline.org

Chapter Website:
www.sciawp.org

SCESC iConnect:
<http://intra01/>

Palmetto Works is edited by Lorraine Faulds. Articles should be submitted by the 15th of the month to Lorraine Faulds, P.O. Box 8162, Columbia, SC 29202, or lfaulds@scses.org, or faxed to 803-737-1123.

Change of Address: If you have moved, please send your name, your cost center number or office name, and your old and new addresses to: Tommy Minogue, SC Chapter IAWP, P.O. Box 8162, Columbia, SC 29202 (ph: 803-737-2550).