

NEW HORIZONS

INSURANCE PROFESSIONALS OF MID-MISSOURI AUGUST 2008

WWW.IPMMONLINE.COM



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

What happened to the lazy days of summer? Suddenly it's August and things are getting busy. There are several meetings on our IPMM schedule this month and I hope you'll attend as many as possible.

First, we'll be having a Board Meeting on Monday, August 11 at 6:00 pm at Columbia Insurance Group. All members are invited to attend and participate. The main purpose for the meeting is to establish our budget and discuss our goals for the year. If you have thoughts about meeting topics, educational classes, a theme for the Council Meeting we will host in November 2009, or anything at all, I encourage you to attend this meeting. If you can't attend, feel free to drop me a note with your ideas or questions.

Next will be our regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 18. Information about our speaker and topic can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Then on Saturday, August 23, our Missouri Council Director, Janet Nothnagel, is holding a networking meeting in Clinton. All members from the three Missouri associations are invited to attend. Janet will talk to us about her priorities for the upcoming year and we'll share our plans with the group. This is a casual session and a great opportunity to meet with our friends from Kansas City and Springfield. We'll have lunch (at your own expense, sorry) and should be finished shortly after. If you'd like to go and need a ride, please let me know. RSVP is due by Monday, August 18.

Our July picnic was well attended and very relaxing. The pizza from Domino's was fresh and hot, the fruit was cool and the cookies were the final sweet touch. We collected a box full of items for donation to the food pantry and sold a few books to pad our bank account. Thanks to our Holiday committee for their work!

Speaking of committees, I'm making one more plea. We still need a few people to step up and fill some open spots. A list of committees is attached with this newsletter and you can see there are still some holes. I'd like to make a special appeal to our newer members. Serving on a committee with more experienced members is a wonderful way to learn more about IPMM and what's important to our association. Plus, we're always looking for new viewpoints and new ideas. If you want to help but aren't sure about what is really expected of these committees, I can put you in touch with someone who has served in the past. They'll be happy to give you the real lowdown. And a final word to our seasoned members; I notice a few names still missing from the committee lists. Please let me know where you'd like to help out.

Stay cool, and enjoy what's left of summer!

In friendship and fellowship,
Arlene

NEXT MEETING
Monday, August 18, 2008
6:00 PM

Columbia Insurance

Our August meeting will feature Travis Ford, Consumer Education Coordinator with the Missouri Attorney General's Office. Travis will talk about identity theft – how it happens and how to prevent it.

Please plan to attend this informative meeting!

Special thanks from the Holiday Committee. We raised \$11.00 from our book sale and collected 60 pounds of food and a \$5.00 donation for the Central Missouri Food Bank. Thanks to everyone!

Holiday Committee – Christy Ford, Dana Goings, Mary Gruender, Jill McCallie

COMMITTEES FOR 2008-2009

As Arlene mentioned in the President's Message, there are still opportunities for members to serve on several committees. Please contact Arlene if you are interested in serving on one of our committees.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

?? - Chair
Alexis Nixon
Carol Nacarato

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jennifer Koenig - Chair

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Lori Meyer
Terri Stambaugh

COMMUNICATIONS

Arlene Schwartz - Chair
Christy Ford

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Terri Stambaugh - Chair
Lori Meyer

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Mary Gruender - Chair
Jennifer Koenig
Dana Goings
Christy Ford
Jill McCallie

HORIZON PLAN COMMITTEE

?? - Chair

I-DAY COMMITTEE

?? – Chair
Diane Kidwell

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Lori Meyer - Chair
Rebecca Hart

MISSOURI COUNCIL MEETING 2009

Kayde Holton – Chair
Rebecca Hart

NAIW WEEK COMMITTEE

Dana Goings - Chair
Kayde Holton

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Jennifer Koenig - Chair

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Rebecca Hart - Chair
Alexis Nixon
Pam Melloway
Christy Ford

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Alexis Nixon - Chair
Rebecca Hart
Kelly Hawkins

2008 - 2009 OFFICERS:

President – Arlene Schwartz
President Elect – Rebecca Hart
Secretary – Angie Phipps
Treasurer – Jennifer Koenig

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Information for the next newsletter is due **BEFORE AUGUST 31, 2008**. Please send items to Christy Ford at cford@shelterinsurance.com.

Stalled Career? 10 Tips

By Kate Lorenz, CareerBuilder Editor

Many elements of modern-day life require a tune up every now and then: your car, your furnace, your computer, even your career. Assessing your ultimate career goals and plotting out how you will achieve them can really kick your career into overdrive and help you reach professional nirvana.

Here are 10 tips for keeping your career performing like a well-oiled machine:

1. Run full diagnostics to examine your life.

The first step in your tune up is conducting an assessment of where you are and where you want to be in your career. For example, are you at a point in your life where you truly can dedicate more time to your career or are there other areas of your life that need your attention?

2. Map out your career path.

If your goal is to be director of your department, investigate what skills and accomplishments you need and set out to acquire them. If you know the right career path for you means leaving your current company, make sure you are prepared to launch a full-scale job search.

3. Time to switch gears?

Sometimes capitalizing on your career potential means not only changing jobs, but completely changing careers. Perhaps it's time to give up the hectic corporate life for the enriching experience of teaching. Or maybe now is the time to launch that business you always dreamed of, or to explore your creative side with a job involving one of your hobbies.

4. Install career skill upgrades.

Is there a particular trend emerging in your industry? Perhaps a new way of marketing to customers or projecting sales figures? Then become an expert in those areas. It will serve you to be at the cutting edge of industry practices whether in your current job or the one you want.

5. Rev up your technology know-how.

Most industries utilize particular equipment or computer applications that are standard in their fields. Make sure you learn what these are and how to use them. Technology can move quickly. Don't fall behind or you risk being sidelined.

6. Maintain learning levels.

If the next step in your career requires a master's degree, don't hesitate to enroll in the necessary classes. There are so many flexible options today for working men and women who are seeking advanced degrees. Obtain the required certifications and attend professional seminars to keep current.

7. Polish your résumé and make it shine.

Always be prepared if a new opportunity emerges -- either internally or with a new organization. Keep your résumé updated and ready to send out at all times.

8. Test drive your interviewing skills.

Don't let those interviewing techniques get rusty. Practice in front of a mirror or friend every now and again so you're comfortable discussing your qualifications, even if it's at a professional event or cocktail party.

9. Apply fresh job-search techniques.

If the last time you looked for a job you mailed your résumé to a P.O. Box, then it's time to brush up on your job search options. Investigate Internet job sites, career fairs and professional organizations, and keep in touch with your own set of contacts.

10. Spark connections with your network.

The best way to find out about new opportunities and assess your marketability is to touch base with other professionals in your field. Reconnect with former colleagues, fellow association members and former classmates and share information.

