

IN THIS ISSUE

- BLOC Charity Golf Tourney Wrap-Up
- Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Events
- 10 Steps To Dealing With A Job Loss
- Member Awards & Recognition



BLOC

business leaders of charlotte

volume 2 | issue 1 | Q2 2009

GREAT TIME - GREAT CAUSE! BLOC'S CHARITY GOLF TOURNEY RAISES OVER \$11K

BLOC hosted its annual charity golf tourney at Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation on May 18, 2009. An exciting and memorable experience was had by all, including 100 players, 22 sponsors and 20 volunteers. The best part? Your tax-deductible sponsorships helped benefit three worthy non-profit organizations.

The 2009 BLOC Charity Golf Tourney rocked! If you missed it this year, don't make the same mistake next year - or when BLOCtoberfest comes around this Fall. Your support of our events is vital!

This was Olde Sycamore Golf Plantation's second year of hosting the BLOC Tourney and they made sure our event went smoothly, even ordering some great weather for us this year (anyone recall the monsoon during our 2008 Tourney?)

At the end of the day it is with great pride and pleasure that we, a group of fellow business leaders, can lend a helping hand to three worthy charities in our community:

Carolina Breast Friends, The Allegro Foundation and the Crime Victims Coalition. BLOC is donating over \$11,000 to these charities because of your generosity.

Congratulations to Craig Dunn and Kathy Mulligan (Longest drive awards) and the winning teams of Ben Helbein, Mark Epperly, Troy Taylor and Troy Sacco / Richard Ronemus, Jake Myers, Jody Roach and Clint Anderson.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2009 SPONSORS!

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY H. SCOTT DONAGHY

The Business Leaders of Charlotte is an organization that has transitioned from originally being a 'leads group' to being a professional organization that builds relationships.

Not only do we (as members) build business through one another, we build personal relationships. BLOC, as we are better known, allows members to get to know one another through several ways:

- 1) Our Membership Luncheons (once each month)
- 2) After-hours Events (the last Wed of each month)
- 3) Member 1-on-1s
- 4) Social Events
- 5) Quarterly Community Involvement Projects

If you prefer to do business with people you like, then BLOC is the networking organization of choice. Just remember

BLOC is a "relationship" and what you get out of any relationship is what you put into it. If you want folks to help build your business; help them build their business.

BLOC allows you to experience business growth while you help strengthen the Charlotte community and build a referral base and friendships with other quality professionals.

Visit our Web site www.BusinessLeadersOfCharlotte.com for more information about our group, our members and our events.



H. Scott Donaghy,
BLOC president

10 STEPS TO DEALING WITH A JOB LOSS

BY MARLA EMERY & RHONDA YORK, TEAMWIDE SOLUTIONS

So many talented and hard working people have lost jobs in recent months. Feelings of shock, confusion, anger, and fear are normal for everyone who has experienced a job loss. If you find yourself in this situation, here are 10 steps for a successful job search:

- 1. Explore your interests and your options.** Take time to really consider your ideal job. If possible, invest in a career coach to help you with this most important task.
- 2. Update your résumé.** Invest in a professional résumé writer to help you highlight your experience and background with your target audience in mind.
- 3. DO NOT expect to find a job on the internet!** Spend only 20-30% of your time researching companies and finding connections into your target companies. Learn how to use tools such as LinkedIn and Facebook to find contacts in your target companies
- 4. DO expect to find a job through a personal contact!** Spend 70-80% of your daytime hours connecting with people. Be specific about what you are looking for and know what companies you are targeting. Ask your contacts for introductions to people at your target companies.
- 5. Stay on a schedule.** Looking for a job is a job. Keep the same hours as you did when you were working. Use the

weekends to recharge your batteries.

- 6. Be professional.** If possible, have a dedicated phone number as your primary contact number. Be sure that your outgoing voice message sounds professional. Be sure that your email address clearly identifies you (e.g., JohnLSmith@email.com VS SoccerCoach1@email.com).
- 7. Use your time wisely.** Consider taking a part-time job or do consulting work until you find your ideal job.
- 8. Volunteer.** Give of your time and talents. This is also a good way to connect to build your network.
- 9. Reward yourself.** Acknowledge every accomplishment no matter how small.
- 10. Stay positive.** Join a career transition support group. Surround yourself with positive people.

Rhonda York and Marla Emery of TeamWide Solutions specialize in assisting those in career transition. Reach them at info@teamwidesolutions.com or 704.542.4226.

GET²KNOW BLOC MEMBER: MYRA McNEELY

BLOC Member since 2006

Favorite Color: Red

Reading: The Di Vinci Code

Always Wanted To Be: A lawyer, because I like to argue!

Family: Husband, Gerald, dog-child, Heidi (lab mix) & 2 crazy kitties, Charlie & Zephyr

Education/Background: BS in Accounting from UNC-Charlotte

Favorite Restaurant: Miro in Stonecrest

Hobbies: Cooking and reading

Favorite BLOC Moment: Getting my plaque for Ballantyne member of the year last year.

Company: Bookkeeping On-Demand, Inc. I opened BOD in February 2009 after helping a BLOC member with his books and working for a CPA part-time during tax season. I really enjoy helping small business owners and leveraging my accounting skills and experience.



Myra McNeely

ADD THESE DATES TO YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

June 16	Tuesday Topics Event
June 19	BLOC Year End Celebration Dinner <i>Note: No luncheons this month!</i>
July 8	BLOC-Ballantyne Luncheon
July 9	BLOC-North Luncheon
July 10	BLOC-Uptown Luncheon
July 21	Tuesday Topics Event
July 29	After Hours Event
Aug 12	BLOC-Ballantyne Luncheon
Aug 13	BLOC-North Luncheon
Aug 14	BLOC-Uptown Luncheon
Aug 18	Tuesday Topics Event
Aug 26	After Hours Event
Sept 9	BLOC-Ballantyne Luncheon
Sept 10	BLOC-North Luncheon
Sept 11	BLOC-Uptown Luncheon
Sept 30	After Hours Event
Oct	BLOCtoberfest Event, date TBD

ASK THE EXPERT - Q&A: MICHAEL BARNES, CAROLINA CONNECTIONS

Question:

What is the biggest myth when it comes to running background checks on a prospective employee?

Answer:

The biggest myth in the background check industry is by far the "National Criminal Database Search." No such report exists where you can get criminal record information from ALL jurisdictions from ALL 50 states. (Many states do not even maintain statewide criminal records. For these states you have to run a county level search in the county of interest.) Your background check provider should always provide you with the list of jurisdictions that the database is searching.

Interestingly enough, the federal government does not even have a 100% complete database of criminal records. There is the National Criminal Information Center, or NCIC, that the FBI maintains, but it is about 40-50% complete and accurate. The NCIC is also not available to the private sector. It is only accessible to government agencies.

WHAT IS BLOC?



What began as FLOC (Future Leaders of Charlotte) became BLOC (Business Leaders of Charlotte.) Based in Charlotte, NC, there are now three BLOC area groups: BLOC Uptown, BLOC Ballantyne and BLOC North.

Business Leaders of Charlotte (BLOC) is an alliance of professionals who believe that individuals can grow their businesses by building relationships. We provide a circle of support that allows each member to grow professionally and become an active leader in the community.

BLOC members meet once each month for an industry-exclusive luncheon and all BLOC members and their guests meet for an After Hours Event on the last Wednesday of each month.

For more information on BLOC or to learn more about our members, please visit our Web site at: www.BusinessLeadersOfCharlotte.com.

MEMBER AWARDS & RECOGNITION AROUND THE BLOC, JANUARY - APRIL 2009

Robert Sabin, with Clearly Carolina Water and Coffee, has been awarded the 2008 North Carolina Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

Erin Finke from Holiday Inn Charlotte Center City has been promoted to Express Meeting Manager & Caffè Sienna Marketing Specialist.

Brian Tarle, of International Kitchen and Bath, has accepted 4 awards in the "Best of the Lake" design competition which included new home and remodeling projects in all price categories.

Loretta Cozart from CC Communications, Inc. shared that they earned a Gold Award in the 2008 international MarCom Awards competition for their design of www.biltmorefarmshotels.com.

Lynda Kuehni of SeniorBridge has been appointed to the Advisory Board for the Carolinas Healthcare System "Active Women" program. More details are available at www.carolinasmedicalcenter.org/active.

J. Gregory Hatcher was named among the 2009 Legal Elite in North Carolina. Hatcher Law Firm also announces the addition of two new attorneys to their family law practice: Marsha C. Kennedy and Carson Miller.

John Bly from Toler, Bly & Associates, CPA, PLLC announced that three-term NC State Senator, Eddie Goodall, has joined the firm as director of business development.

Beth Wallace from Open Doors would like to share they have new services and a new look. For more info, visit www.opendoorsonline.biz.

Charlotte lost respected author and businessman Donald Haack in March. Mr. Haack was known for his generosity and his support of the arts. BLOC would like to offer our sincerest condolences to the Donald Haack family and business family. Donald Haack Diamonds and Fine Gems has been a BLOC member company for four years.

Ryan Donaghy from Hinrichs-Flanagan Financial was recently awarded the Charles Webb Award from his co-workers. This award is given annually to the HFF sales agent who consistently treats his co-workers in a professional and ethical manner.

LeeAnn Shattuck shares that Women's Automotive Solutions has moved our corporate headquarters to a new office in Baxter Village, Fort Mill. LeeAnn has also formally partnered with founder, Michelle Lundy, to take Women's Automotive Solutions to the next level through the sale of licensed distributions across the United States.

Wendy Shanahan and her company Asterisk Creative have launched the AC Diner. A new marketing campaign for Asterisk Creative to showcase their services. Check it out at www.asteriskcreative.com/cafe.

Ted Peterson, with Carolina Office Solutions, has been honored as a winner of the 2008 Top Entrepreneur Award, by Charlotte Business Leader Magazine.

Lauren Mullis, with The Arc of Mecklenburg County was accepted to the Advancing Strong Leadership Initiative supported by the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities and the University of Delaware.

Rick Spruill of Interior Distributors, Inc is excited to announce a Grand Re-Opening of their Wilmington, NC branch location. Rick is also proud to announce that his Charlotte Branch Manager, Trent Greene has been elected president of the Metrolina Walls & Ceilings Association.

Becca Bazzle from Essential Therapy recently received her Nurturing the Mother ® certification from Claire Marie Miller Seminars. Learn more by contacting Becca at Essential Therapy, 704.806.8380.

Please submit your high-resolution photos, business-related articles and news releases for publication in the quarterly BLOC Newsletter to Heathbir McElroy Speet at bmspeet@dezinz.com.

BLOC Newsletter Edited & Designed by DEZINZcreative. Photos by Pam Decker, Anna Smith, Heathbir McElroy Speet & Phil Johnson.