



Building the Future of Paulding County

Paulding County Builders Association

What You Need to Know

PCBA Launches Letter Writing Campaign Urging Congress to FIX HOUSING FIRST

Last week, the Paulding County Builders Association launched a letter writing campaign urging our elected officials to take the steps needed to FIX HOUSING FIRST. The first wave of letters has been sent, but there is still time for your business to get behind one of the most important movements this industry has ever participated in. The Fix Housing First Coalition is a diverse group of housing stakeholders dedicated to addressing the root cause of our economic troubles. The coalition is advocating for a short-term incentive for qualified home buyers that would stop the fall in home values, restore consumer

confidence, create jobs and lift our entire economy.

What are some proposed solutions? 1) Continue and enhance Foreclosure Prevention measures to keep people in their homes, help stabilize home prices and bolster the economy,

2) Implement a viable foreclosure plan to help stabilize the housing market. Millions of mortgages are already underwater and more adjustable rate mortgages are due to reset over the next thirty six months,

3) Enhance the Home Buyer Tax Credit, and

4) Create below market 30-year fixed-rate mortgage for home purchases.

The association has form letters ready to send, simply bring your letterhead to the PCBA office and we will handle the rest. For more information, please visit

www.fixhousingfirst.com.

Texas Hold 'Em January 21st @ The Neighborhood Café in Dallas

It's a new year and the holidays are behind us—time to shake off those post holiday blues with a lot of fun and networking mixed in with a little Texas Hold 'Em.

Our January 21st tournament will be held at The Neighborhood Café and Grille. Registration begins at 6:15 p.m.; play begins at 7:30. The Café is located at the corner of

Seaboard Drive and Highway 278 in Dallas.

Preregister at
1-888-577-TILT
ext. 704

Receive extra chips!

Come Share With us...

Bi-weekly Spiritual Gatherings Now Scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month

Please Join Us January 22nd

We meet at the PCBA office beginning at 9 a.m.

TEXAS HOLD 'EM

Reverse Raffle Tournament

Wednesday, January 21st



**New Location: *The Neighborhood Café and Grille*
*in Dallas (corner of Hwy. 278 and Seaboard Dr.)***

**On-Site Registration Opens at 6:15pm / Event Starts at
7:30pm**

- ◇ \$50.00 Raffle Ticket = Entry Into Reverse Raffle = 2,500 chips.
- ◇ (1) \$50.00 Raffle Re-Buy available per player to end of 3rd Level.
 - ◇ Add-ons available at the end of the 3rd Level:
 - \$30.00 will get you 3,000 chips
 - \$20.00 will get you 1,000 in chips
- ◇ As players “Bust Out”, they must relinquish their raffle ticket.
 - ◇ Approximately 10% of ticket holders will receive a prize.
 - ◇ 85% of total raffle ticket sales are paid to winners!

**Pre-Register by 5:00pm on Jan. 21st by Calling
1-888-577-TILT x 704**

And receive 250 bonus chips!



**See You On The
Felt**



Special Offer from the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce

If you are a builder member of the Paulding County Builders Association, the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce is offering a complimentary membership for one year. Please call 770-445-6016 to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity worth more than \$250.

EROSION & SEDIMENTATION RE-CERTIFICATION

Tuesday, February 10th, 2009

Paulding County Chamber of Commerce
Level 1A Recertification

8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$45/person

According to State law, a certified individual (in Erosion and Sedimentation Control) shall be required to attend and participate in at least four hours of approved continuing education courses, as established by the Commission, every three years.
(O.C.G.A. 12-7-19)

Individuals must have four hours of continuing education for each level. Individuals can begin taking the re-certification courses **1 year before their certification expires.**

The Level 1A Recertification course meets the criteria for a Level 1A and Level 1B continuing education course for the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission and is approved for 4 hour(s) of instruction.

Recertification Information

- Individuals must take an approved recertification course within one year of current certification expiration date for each certification they wish to renew.
- A photo ID will be required at the recertification class.

There is no examination for recertification.

To register, please contact the Paulding County Builders Association at 770-443-8472.

Industry Associations are Valuable Assets

By Laura Raines, Reprinted from the AJC Sunday, January 04, 2009

When employment goes down, membership in industry associations and professional organizations generally goes up. Job seekers come to meetings to meet new contacts and possible employers and market their skills.

“Some people wait until they get a [termination] notice to reach out and build a network. Then it’s almost too late,” said Elizabeth Wysong, director of human resources technology for Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. People shouldn’t wait for a career crisis to join, she said. “You want to get involved and start building your network all along, because there are so many benefits from it. Membership is an investment in yourself and your career.”

When Wysong started her career in human resources at St. Thomas University in Miami, a colleague suggested she join the Society for Human Resource Management as a way to network and build knowledge about her profession. “I found it to be a tremendous opportunity to meet people who were similarly focused and wanting to learn the same things I did,” Wysong said.

She also joined the local chamber of commerce and co-chaired the human resources committee. “I have not found a better vehicle [than associations] to build up my body of knowledge and establish great relationships in the community,” she said. “When I had challenges at work, I knew people who had been there and done that who could give me a different perspective and advice.”

She’s also found it a great way to hone and display her skills. “I’ve only worked for three employers, and my last two career moves came from my direct involvement with local SHRM chapters,” said Wysong, who has worked in human resources in education, banking and health care. “I never had to market myself to find a job. Opportunities came to me,” she said. “Because they came from people I trusted, it was easier to leap into a new organization and industry.” She’s stayed with her original association, however.

As president-elect of SHRM-Atlanta for 2010, she will be busy this year shadowing the 2009 president, Steve Szafarz to learn more about leading that group. “An association is a great place to be mentored in whatever skills you need to learn,” she said.

Career development A lot of people join an association the way they do a church, said Paul Terlemezian, president of iFive Alliances LLC, an Atlanta firm that helps companies make strategic alliances. “They go to a service and notice that other people seem to know each other and be getting more out of it. It’s not until they join the altar guild or become an usher that they start making a circle of friends and become a part of the community,” Terlemezian said.

“People tell me that they are waiting for their career to get better and I say, ‘Why are you waiting?’ Be proactive. If you want to grow and increase your value, join an association and get involved.”

A professional association is a place to:

Network. “It’s a great place to get to know people and be known. You can sell your product or your skills, find a job and make friends,” he said.

Find professional development. “Associations often offer low-cost ways to sharpen your skills, stay abreast of industry trends, and earn certifications needed to advance in your career,” Terlemezian said.

Give back and make an impact on the industry. “It’s difficult for any one company to change an industry. An association serves as the voice of an industry, which means it gets heard by legislative bodies,” Terlemezian said. When the 6,000-member Technology Association of Georgia speaks, it is representing industry interests. People listen.

Terlemezian joined the American Society of Training and Development because it gave him a chance to learn about emerging technologies, to gain leadership experiences, and take that knowledge back to his company. He served as president of the 600-member Greater Atlanta chapter in 2008.

Seek roles that match “When you join an organization, be intentional about your involvement and seek out roles that match your skills and abilities, or ones where you can learn new skills,” said Tom Darrow, principal of Talent Connections LLC, an Atlanta-based professional service and recruiting firm. “If you’re not intentional, you may get a volunteer job that is a mismatch and then you’ll just check out of participating. Think about what goals you want to accomplish.”

Darrow knew when he joined SHRM that he wanted to be a leader in his profession. He served as president of SHRM-Atlanta in 2006 and 2007, helped grow membership and found more ways for SHRM to serve the community. The chapter won the association’s Pinnacle Award (given to only eight out of 575 chapters annually) for membership growth in 2007 and 2008, for its work with the Mayor’s Youth Program.

There’s no reason why benefits shouldn’t go both ways when you volunteer time and talent for an organization. “I’ve had business development and career opportunities because people have told me that they liked the way I worked in an organization,” Terlemezian said.

Follow your passion “As long as I’ve had my career, I’ve been interested in associations. In fact, I started my business at an association meeting,” said Peggy Hutcheson, president of the Odyssey Group, an HR consulting firm.

She was talking to a friend about wanting to start her own consulting business at an organization meeting, when a corporate project manager passed her his card. “When you decide to do that, call me. I’ve liked what I’ve seen you do here,” he told her. “I had led a couple of volunteer projects and in his mind that validated my skills,” she said.

Hutcheson started with the Greater Atlanta chapter of ASTD while working in internal communications at Rich’s. When the group needed a newsletter, she knew how to do that and volunteered.

She took her passion for career development to the national level of ASTD and ended up serving on the board. “I met people that I would never have met otherwise — people whose books and articles I’d read in graduate school, became friends.”

A client suggested that she think outside the box because IEEE, an engineering, technology and telecommunications organization, could use her skills. “As chair of their employment and career services committee, I’ve run conferences and developed a Web-inar series. I was also asked to be part of their steering committee on innovation,” she said. Last year she spoke at a global conference in Quebec and led a career fair in London. “As a small-business person, I would never have had access to this level of leadership were it not for the association,” she said.

A member of the Woodlands Group for leaders in the HR field, and the Southeastern Association of Facilitators, Hutcheson admits to being a “radical” advocate for association membership and involvement. “Let people see what you can do, and as long as you’re learning something you’ll see career growth,” she said. “Start by committing to short-term projects where you can see results and then follow your passion.”