

DATE: Dec. 1, 2011
VOLUME NO: 10
ISSUE NO: 1

COHR at the Shore



Southeastern Insurance Consultants, LLC

Members Monthly Meeting:

Dec 1, 2011 at Grand Dunes Members Club:
1580 Terre Verde Dr
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578
Time: 11:30am - 1:30 pm

Sponsored by: Southeastern Insurance Consultants

Topics:

LEARN – Icebreaker activities & experiences shared by your peers

EAT – Wonderful Seasonal Luncheon

SHOP – Silent Auction & Wine Cork Pull

GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY – Help 4 Kids... bring your donations and help with our newest project... Stocking for Students

PRIZES – Given out throughout the day!

What's Inside:

- President's Corner- *Thank you... to the COHR Board!*
- HR Tidbits... *12 Most Unorthodox Sick Day Excuses*
- New Member Highlight:
 - *Earl Avakian*
 - *Denise Morkis*
- *Celebrate with John Williamson*
- Don't Forget... & Birthdays



Coastal Organization of Human Resources

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Thank you...to the COHR Board!

By: Mindy Pavilonis

Hello, COHR!

The Holidays are upon us and over the Thanksgiving Break I had time to reflect about COHR and my upcoming Presidency. The thing I thought about most was how honored I have been to be part of a fantastic group of individuals that take action year round to strengthen our profession and our communities. These individuals are the reason COHR exists and the reason that we have such a successful chapter. I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize OUR BOARD.

WE are grateful for the contributions you make to COHR.

WE appreciate you and the new ideas and energy that you bring to COHR.

WE can't thank you enough for your dedication to our profession and our communities.

WE couldn't do it without you.



Let's all take a moment and Celebrate our Board and Ourselves during this Holiday Season!

Merry Christmas,

Mindy





12 Most unorthodox Sick Day Excuses

Provided by: Michelle Pickering

As HR Professionals, we have been privy to the many sick day excuses from our employees. Some are heart breaking and tear jerkers, while others seem to leave you rolling your jaw up and asking the simply question...Why?

According to an online survey by CareerBuilder, the number of employees who are calling in sick but not actually sick has decreased in the past year from 29 percent to 32 percent. Although the number of employees playing hooky may have decreased, the excuses have taken on a more creative approach. Check out the 12 most unorthodox sick day excuses used by actually employees:

1. **Cluck attack** - An employee said a chicken attacked his mom.
2. **Striking injury**- An employee's finger was stuck in a bowling ball.
3. **Plugging away**- An employee had a hair transplant gone bad.
4. **Employee of the month**- An employee fell asleep at his desk while working and hit his head, injuring his neck.
5. **Milking it** -An employee said a cow broke into her house and she had to wait for the insurance company's representative.
6. **Assault with a rotating weapon**-An employee said his girlfriend threw a Sit'n Spin through his living room window.
7. **That sinking feeling**- An employee's foot was caught in the garbage disposal.
8. **The preemptive strike** -An employee called in sick from a bar at 5 p.m. the night before.
9. **A good excuse? Nah**-An employee said he wasn't feeling too clever that day.
10. **A turf job**-An employee said he had to mow the lawn to avoid a lawsuit from the homeowner's association.
11. **Sitting out Black Friday**-An employee called in the day after Thanksgiving and said she burned her mouth on a pumpkin pie.
12. **Oh, Canada**- An employee said his boat ran out of gas in the middle of Lake Erie, and the coast guard towed him to the Canadian side.

Information from: www.boston.com



New Member Highlight

Earl Avakian



Fun Facts:

What is in your CD player/IPOD right now? Sinatra to Country, love the 80's music.

If you could be any animal what would you be and why? A lab, they are so mellow and their tail is always wagging.

What is a hidden talent not many people know? I am pretty good at the grill.

What is your favorite spot in the area to hang out? BEACH!

If you could be any character in a movie who would it be and why? I am a sap for love stories, so I would be the guy that hopefully ends up with the love of his life at the end.

Earl Avakian is president of Avakian Financial Group founded in 1990. His area of expertise focuses on consulting businesses on their 401(k) and group benefits. Earl works with clients to assist them in meeting their financial goals and objectives.

Before starting Avakian Financial Group, Earl was a law clerk while he attended The Capital University Law School in Columbus, Ohio. Earl has a Bachelor Degree in History, Political Science and a minor in Criminal Justice from Capital University.

He is an active member of The Retirement Plan Advisory Group and a registered representative with Financial Telesis, member of The National Health Underwriters, past founding sponsor of The Conway Family Business Center in Columbus, Ohio. In addition, Earl holds the following designations:

- Certified Life Underwriter
- Certified Family Business Specialist
- Certified Long Term Care Specialist

Earl was named one of the top 300 Retirement Plan Advisors by RPAG. He is licensed in South Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, Florida and Oregon and has a Series 6, 63. Earl is a Registered Investment Advisor.

Currently, Earl resides in North Myrtle Beach, with his wife Carol, of 22 years, son, Nicholas and two dogs. Earl is an avid golfer; enjoys reading novels and spending time at the beach.

New Member Highlight...

Denise Morkis



In April, Denise moved to the Myrtle Beach area. She is originally from the Thousand Islands area of New York; however she lived and worked in Albany, NY for the past five years.

Denise has been working in HR for about 6 years now and have spent the last 5 in the healthcare field. Her career started as an HR intern for her undergraduate college, where she worked as an associate and quickly moved up to Director of HR by the age of 25.

Denise earned her undergraduate degrees in English/Writing & Employment Relations. In addition she has a Masters Degree in Adult Education , specializing in HR.

Her recent move to Myrtle Beach, was due to an awesome job opportunity at Coastal Carolina University. Here she is working in Training and Development. Denise loves her job and her new beach lifestyle.

Denise states, "My goals in life are just to enjoy it with my family, friends and my boxer puppy Mia. I want to help as many people as I can grow through learning, professionally and in their personal lives."

COHR was suggested to her by a co- worker, and she has now joined the programs committee and is excited for the opportunity to work with other HR professionals in the community.

Fun Facts:

What is in your CD player/IPOD right now? 80s + 90s Music!

If you could be any animal what would you be and why? A dolphin, because I love the ocean and I would love to swim the depths and explore!

What is a hidden talent not many people know? I cook everything homemade.

What is your favorite spot in the area to hang out? Drunken Jacks Murrells Inlet...for the hushpuppies alone.

If you could be any Character in a movie who would it be and why? Ariel in the Little Mermaid, because she can sing and she gets to swim in the ocean all day.

Celebrate with John Williamson...

After many years of contributions, passion and dedication to COHR, John Williamson had a wonderful opportunity to join the staff of Baptist Health South Florida as the Human Resource Manager. John's success and drive have continued in his new position and John has been recognized by several local newspapers. Please take a look at the articles on our past President, John Williamson and celebrate with him in his new endeavors.

John, we all miss your smiling face, love for the human resources profession, and your never waivering passion to educate and motivate your peers! Congrats again on your new position.

John...we celebrate YOU!

John Williamson Heading HR
John Williamson has been hired as manager of human resources. He comes to Mariners from Pawleys Island, S.C., where he was a regional human resources generalist for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina. Prior to that, he held positions in the nonprofit, banking and entertainment industries. A native of Ocean City, N.J., Mr. Williamson holds a BA in business from Stockton College in Pomona, N.J. He is pursuing an MBA at Webster College.



New HR manager
— John
TAVERNIER
Williamson has been hired as manager of Human Resources for Mariners Hospital. Williamson relocated to the Florida Keys from Pawleys Island, S.C., where he was the regional human resources generalist for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina. Prior to that, he held positions in the nonprofit, banking and entertainment industries.



He is active in national human resources organizations, serving as a mentor to those who are interested in advancing in the human resources field.
A native of Ocean City, N.J., Williamson holds a bachelor's degree in business from Stockton College in Pomona, N.J. He is pursuing a master's degree in business administration at Webster College.





Don't Forget.....

Help 4 Kids- *Stockings for Students*

As mentioned prior, we are still collecting items for the ***Stockings for Students***. Board members will be meeting to put together the stockings on December 6, 2011 at 5:30 pm at the Conference Center at Ocean Lakes Campground.

If you still have items you wish to donate or would like to volunteer to help with putting the stockings together, please bring them to the meeting or else contact Tara Blackburn at tblackburn@carolina-health.com.

We welcome any and all donations you can provide!




BIRTHDAYS!!

The following COHR members will be celebrating a birthday this month. Please join us in wishing them a Happy Birthday and well wishes on their special day:



- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Suzanna Abed-El-Latif | December 4 th |
| • Julie Schlosser | December 5 th |
| • Matt Pastron | December 8 th |
| • Lori Cox | December 13 th |
| • Fara Gasque | December 15 th |
| • Mike Turrisse | December 15 th |
| • Elizabeth Bayer | December 16 th |
| • Natasha McKinnon | December 28 th |



If you do not have your birthday listed on the membership roster on the website, or if any of your other information needs updating, please log onto www.coastalhr.org and update your info.