

Membership Matters

Quarterly News from The 501 Alliance

March 2006

Calling All Members

All member agencies are invited to attend our annual meeting that will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 18, 2006. The meeting will be held at the University Club of Michigan State University in Lansing. A complimentary lunch will also be provided immediately following the meeting. An invitation and directions will be included in the annual report that will be mailed in the first week of May.

The guest speaker will be Andy Wolber, Executive Director of NPower Michigan. He'll discuss what percentage of your budget should be spent in technology; how to identify when your spending should be more or less than normal; key technology drivers ranging from equipment to software, training to consulting time; and how these costs interrelate and can be managed. Andy has led technology strategy and planning workshops for more than 250 nonprofit organizations throughout the Midwest region.

Additional topics of discussion and events include financial and claim reports for 2005, results from the annual audit and the election of board members. In addition, the Harry Klein and Shirley Klein Legal Scholarship winner will be announced and introduced to the membership. This is a great opportunity for you to meet the Board of Directors and to network with your peers from across the state.

We Want Your Separation Information

There are a number of states that have enacted changes in regards to providing separation information at the initial claim level. With this new requirement, all information and documentation pertaining to a separation must be provided upon the first request. If not, an employer may lose their rights to appeal the claim. This is also true for employees that voluntarily quit.

This means that if a claimant is initially ruled eligible to collect unemployment benefits due to a lack of information, the employer won't be allowed to protest the claim at the next level, even if information becomes available or is provided that would disqualify the individual.

While Michigan hasn't changed their requirements yet, we believe that all of our members should provide as much information as possible upon our initial request. By starting this practice now, we'll be prepared in the event that Michigan makes a change in the future.

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We Can Offer A Helping Hand

Has your agency experienced turnover in management? Do you know how to properly document verbal and written warnings? Do your supervisors and managers need a refresher course on the unemployment process? Well, we offer a free workshop that will answer your questions and help your organization control your unemployment costs.

The workshop lasts about an hour depending on the number of questions and the size of the group. The topics reviewed include the unemployment compensation process, separation issues and concerns, verbal and written warnings and employment guidelines from the state.

If you would like to schedule a workshop, all of your supervisors and managers should attend. These individuals are your organization's first-line defense in controlling your unemployment costs. We believe it's important to show the relationship between disciplinary actions and your agency's bottom line. Contact Mike at 800-968-9675 to schedule a workshop at your organization.

We're In The Check Writing Mood

Do you work with or know of other nonprofits that could benefit from membership in The 501 Alliance? If you do, it could be worth hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

Our Member Referral Program provides your agency with a \$50 charitable donation for every prospective member you refer who completes and submits an application. An additional \$150 charitable donation is provided to your agency for every prospective member who also qualifies and is approved for membership. That's up to \$200 your agency can receive for each prospective member referred to The 501 Alliance.

The applicant simply needs to include your name and telephone number on the application and we'll send you a check. In addition, there's no limit to the number of prospective members you can refer. For example, refer just five prospective members and your agency will receive at least \$250 and up to \$1,000.

You can also contact us at any time to inquire about the status of any nonprofit you've referred. For a brochure or for more information, please contact Mike at 800-968-9675. You can also visit our web site at www.501alliance.org for complete details.

Do you have a topic or suggestion for the next newsletter? Please e-mail your ideas to mpennanen@talx.com