

Aiken Young Professionals

Monthly Newsletter



Vol. 1

March 2010

Issue 2



Our mission is to provide an environment for young, career-minded individuals between the ages of 22 and 39 to meet and develop both socially and professionally.

www.aiken-yp.com

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Coming Up...

March 18

***Social Event @ Aiken Brewing
Company***

March 24

Lunch 'n' Learn @ The Willcox

May 10

Celebrity Waiter Night @ Soiree

Are you in need of a little time to unwind? Put your files away and spend some time with AYP. Join us for socializing and happy-hour drinks.

**Thursday, March 18
6:00 to 8:00 PM
Aiken Brewing Company**

Happy Hour prices will be extended for the event. Be sure to bring your business cards! There will be raffles where the lucky winners will take home prizes provided by Aiken Brewing Company and Plum Pudding.

RSVP to Mandy Collins at mcollins@aikenchamber.net or (803) 641-1111.



Honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy, and judgments are The First Tee's Nine Core Values. Each value is one important to developing the lives of Aiken's youth. At the Houndslake Third Thursday, AYP was privileged to have The First Tee

of Aiken's Director of Development, Ashley Howell, introduce this organization and invite young professionals to become involved.

The First Tee of Aiken provides an affordable and accessible golf facility to those who have not previously had exposure to the game and its positive values. Our goal is for participants to internalize The First Tee Life Skills Experience's Nine Core Values, which are at the heart of The First Tee mission. Through the National School Program and after-school programming, The First Tee of Aiken is currently reaching over 9,300 children, which is 35.6 percent of the youth in the Aiken community.



YOUNG PROFESSIONAL SPOTLIGHT



Haley Hughes is a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, but moved to the Palmetto State in 2007. She knew Aiken was right for her when she drove down Laurens Street; she fell in love with downtown's beauty and old, southern charm.

Haley attended Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, from 2003 to 2006, graduating with a degree in Mass Communications. She has worked as a reporter with the 'Aiken Standard' newspaper since 2007, tackling such unique assignments as riding in a hot air balloon for the first time, eating chitlins at the Salley Chitlin Strut, shaving an alpaca and dressing up as a reenactor for the Battle of Aiken.

She enjoys college football - GO VOLS! - reading, movies, cooking and the theatre.

Haley attends Cedar Creek Church and is proud to be a member of the Aiken Young Professionals.

If you would like to be a featured young professional, please email your information to Jessica Ross at jross2@srpfcu.org by March 31, 2010.

"We are pleased and excited to have started a local Aiken Chapter of The First Tee®, whose mission is to provide a learning facility and educational program that promotes character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf," Ashley stated, "Being a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, we are constantly seeking monetary and in-kind donations as well as volunteers. There is a wide range of volunteer opportunities outside of golf skills, so anyone is welcome!"

If you are interested in learning more and volunteering the local chapter, please contact The First Tee of Aiken at (803) 226-0053 or visit the organization on the web at www.thefirstteeaiken.org.

ARE YOU PLUGGED INTO THE NETWORK?

In an effort to shake things up a bit, members took part in Speed Networking during the February Third Thursday event at Houndslake Country Club. Overall, the activity was a great success.



Knowing in advance that the event would not follow the typical gather and socialize format, curiosity surrounded the events of the night. The Speed Networking activity broke the membership into 11 small groups consisting of three to five people. While in the groups, participants had about five minutes to introduce themselves and chat before moving to a new table. Rakesh Jasani was one member who enjoyed the change of pace. "I thought the event went great! The speed networking gave people a chance to meet and discuss what business they are a part of in a smaller setting. Keeping the tables with just 4 or 5 people was nice so I actually got to know the other people. Overall, I think it was very effective and will allow people to feel more comfortable at future social events because everyone knows each other a little better," Jasani said.

For those of you who are skeptics, you are not alone. Not everyone in attendance was looking forward to being thrust into conversations. By the end of the night, their minds were changed. Take Erin Stewart for example. When asked about the event, she said, "Initially when Josh (Stewart) told me about the networking event, I wasn't sure I would enjoy it and thought it might be a bit awkward, but I had a blast! I had a great time talking to everyone, and it wasn't awkward at all. I met several people I'd never talked to before, some new to AYP, and talked to people I already knew, but learned more about them. I had great conversations with all of them. I think these events are going to be really good for AYP, and I look forward to the next one."

If you happened to miss this event, make sure to mark your calendars for the next one!

Networking at its BEST

Few people are naturals at networking. Most of us have to work at it. Networking can be daunting when you're attending an event and you don't know anyone, or if you are more reserved. With a few tips and practice, networking can help you build your business connections, make new friends and connect people, and boost your confidence. AYP encourages our members to network as much as possible at our events.

The Name Game

'Nictomeetyou' is not a name, but a common response when meeting someone. AVOID IT!

Always introduce yourself by name and exchange a business card, if you have one.

You have just given yourself a fighting chance of that person remembering who you are.

The Gentle Art of Conversation

A key quality of great networkers is their style of conversation.

They are focused, listen carefully and are non-confrontational in their style. Some good Chinese advice: Do not remove a fly from your friend's forehead with a hatchet.



LUNCH 'N' LEARN

presents ...



Equine 101: How the Equine Industry Affects Aiken with guest speaker *Larry Byers*

March 24, 2010
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

at
The Willcox

Acoustic Sessions

featuring **Mamie Foreman**

March 24, 2010

at **The Willcox** with specials for **Aiken Young Professionals**

Drink specials offered will include **\$3 beers and \$5 wines**

At the Events



**CELEBRITY
WAITER
NIGHT
MAY 10, 2010
AT
SOIREE**

*For more information
contact a member of
the Community
Service Committee*

Nealie Godbee

nealie.godbee@veracitypayments.com

Dana Cook

dana.cook@veracitypayments.com

Jenny Taylor

jennifer.taylor@wsms.com

Trip Buchanan

tripbuchanan@gmail.com



*In the Area
March 2010*



March 5:

First Friday Means Business
Newberry Hall
7:30 to 9:00 am
(803) 649-1200

March 5:

Royal Comedy Tour
Bell Auditorium
(706) 722-3521

March 5-7:

Meet Me in St. Louis
Aiken Community Playhouse
(803) 648-1438

March 6:

Drive by Truckers with special guest David Barbe & The Quick Hooks
Sky City
www.skycityaugusta.com

March 10:

Small Business Workshop
"Developing Marketing Strategies for Small Business"
ATC Amphitheater
(803) 649-1200

March 13:

St. Pats in 5 Points
Columbia, SC

www.stpats5points.com

March 14:

Horse Creek American Indian Heritage Association Pow Wow
Langley Pond Park
(803) 663-9289

March 14:

Toby Mac with special guest Brandon Heath and The House of Heroes
USCA Convocation Center
(803) 643-6901

March 19-20:

Aiken Spring Steeplechase
Ford Conger Field
(803) 648-9641

March 25:

Aiken Chamber Business After Hours
Houndslake Country Club
5:00 - 7:00 pm
(803) 649-1200

March 27:

Spring Paddle with a Ranger
Aiken State Natural Area
www.discoversouthcarolina.com

March 27:

Fair to Midland and Karnivool with special guest Suns Collide
Sky City
www.skycityaugusta.com

Our vision is to be an organization that brings young professionals together through the hosting of networking and educational events throughout the year. We will be an avenue for attracting and retaining new young professionals to the Greater Aiken area through these events. We will be a voice in the community for the young professionals in greater Aiken by fostering a collaborative relationship between the greater Aiken Chamber and area businesses.