

Below is the first issue of the Aiken Chamber AYP newsletter. After a terrific planning session last month, the Aiken Young Professionals are gearing up for an active and rewarding year. I want you to be a part of this dynamic group - 114 have already renewed their membership - so if you haven't signed up yet, please contact Mandy Collins below.

You won't want to miss our first information and social networking event!

Thursday, February 18
6:00 to 8:00 PM
Houndslake Country Club

Come hear the exciting details of the AYP strategic plan and network with your peers. There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar with \$2 domestic beer, \$3 wine, and \$4 and up liquor drinks.

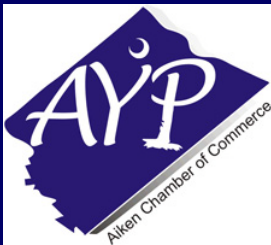
RSVP to Mandy Collins at mcollins@aikenchamber.net or (803) 641-1111.

Aiken Young Professionals

Monthly Newsletter

Vol. 1

February 2010
Issue 1



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.

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INTRODUCING...

The 2010 Steering Committee has been announced. As Aiken Young Professionals grows, the Steering Committee is expanding to better serve our membership. For 2010, the Community Service Committee has been added to the line up, and nine members have volunteered to take on added positions. Join us in welcoming all Steering Committee volunteers.



Executive Committee

Chair
Co-Chair
Secretary

Joshua Stewart
Jason Rabun
Catie Sacks

Coming Up...

February 18 Houndslake Social Event

March 18 Social Event
April 15 Social Event

May 10
Celebrity Waiter Night @ Soiree

Young Professional Spotlight



Daniel Creswell is a native of Aiken, SC and is married with children. He attended Aiken Technical College from 1997-1999 and has been with Farm Bureau Insurance since 2005.

Daniel has been awarded the South Carolina Farm Bureau Award of Excellence, the Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Outstanding Achievement Award, and the South Carolina Farm Bureau District III Distinguished Agent Award.

Daniel takes pride in professional development, and upon conferment of The American College and the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, he has completed the following professional insurance designations:

Event Committee	
Chair Co-Chair	Jason Rabun Aimee Rusch Clay Ingram Christian Carlisle Jennifer Haverly
Membership and Sponsorship Committee	
Chair Co-Chair	Shane Bagby Arlo Walker Chet Tyler Kevin Price Corey Haverly
Lunch and Learn Committee	
Chair Co-Chair	Russ Padgett Angel Lee Patrick Carlisle Josh Booth
Information and Technology Committee	
Chair Co-Chair	David Fallaw Daniel Creswell Kurtis Kennedy Selwyn DeLoach Jessica Ross
Community Service Committee	
Chair Co-Chair	Nealie Godbee Dana Cook Jenny Taylor Trip Buchanan

On the Horizon

Aiken Young Professionals are taking the group to the next level. Plans for 2010 involve developing a mentorship program, getting more involved in community service, and much more!



On January 11 the AYP Steering Committee and others participated in an extensive, five-hour strategic planning session resulting in a well defined vision and bold action steps for 2010 and beyond. According to AYP Chair Josh Stewart, "Without a doubt, the planning session was one of the best I've ever participated in. Everyone brought good ideas

Life Underwriting Training Council Fellow (LUTCF) in July 2008 and Financial Services Specialist (FSS) in May of 2009.

Daniel is committed to protecting customers' needs and is an active member in the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. He is also a member of Solid Rock Baptist Church and aids in the audio and video ministry there.

He enjoys the outdoors, spending time with family, and working on the family farm. He believes in delivering prompt, courteous, professional service with the heart of a teacher.

If you would like to be a featured young professional, please email your information to Jessica Ross at jross2@srpfcu.org by February 26, 2010

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

to the table. We talked about our accomplishments and also our challenges. It was a great planning session, intense and filled with lots of energy. I'm excited about our plan and ready to get started."

The aggressive plan features five bold steps with a vision that focuses on three areas - networking, community service, and educational events designed to nurture future leaders of the Greater Aiken area.

"I was impressed with the level of participation and enthusiasm of the Aiken Young Professionals," said J. David Jameson, president and CEO of the Aiken Chamber, who attended the strategic planning session. "This group of 22- to 39-year-olds is determined, enthusiastic, focused, and committed."

Thank you to all members who participated in the planning session. We look forward to seeing all of you at the many events planned for the upcoming year!

Some May Call it a Soiree

Not long after setting up for the AYP annual kick-off event, Soiree, located in The Alley downtown, was filled with the energetic buzz of young professionals eager to meet new faces and see old friends. On January 28, Soiree hosted the first AYP social event of the year. Happy hour specials were offered by the host and hors d'oeuvres were provided by US Foods. Attendance was between 80-100 people.



In the future, Soiree will offer discounts to all Aiken Young Professionals members. Liz Druce, owner of Soiree, recently announced, "I would like to make Monday nights AYP night and offer 20% off all food and happy hour prices all night to members. I would also like to offer 10% off all food to AYP members all the time."

The offer gives AYP members an opportunity to enjoy unique tastes and local food at Aiken's newest casual dining spot.



AYP banner displayed outside Soiree, located in The Alley off Laurens St. in downtown Aiken.

confidence. AYP encourages our members to network as much as possible at our events. To help those who don't find networking to be second nature, we will feature a few tips for effective networking each month. This month's tip goes out to all of you who are natural networkers.

Be a Super Connector

Great networkers enjoy connecting people. The secret of positive networking is discovering what you can do for someone else. Introduce yourself to someone new and use your dynamic networking ability to introduce them to others.



David Jameson, president of the Aiken Chamber of Commerce, chats with AYP members.

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.

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