

Seminar for 501c (3) Nonprofits

Overview of informative seminar at Regional Learning Alliance Center

The G-20 captured the focus of Pittsburgh in September while other events were overshadowed that have a long and short term effect on our area's nonprofits. One of these events was held at the Regional Learning Alliance Center in Cranberry the morning of September 29th.

Those who were able to get back to normal business activities and attend the seminar were provided with various cost containment avenues to assist them in these tough times. On that morning, much of the discussion before the seminar focused on Pennsylvania's budget not being passed. Hopefully at the time you are reading this the budget has been passed. Many nonprofits rely on funds from the state and the seminar could not have been timelier.

The seminar was presented by Todd Whiteman and John Farrell of Tucker, Johnston & Smelzer and was viewed as a success by those in attendance. The information provided by speakers Donna Myers of TowerCare and Tom Pichola of 1st Nonprofit Companies sparked discussion by all who attended. Specific topics included the following:

- Use of software to raise more money, operate more efficiently and communicate more effectively with the donating public. TowerCare's flagship software program, DonorPro, was presented...which was already utilized by some in attendance. DonorPro clients report double digit increases in annual donations and increased operating efficiencies such as an average of 40% gains in staff productivity.
- Techniques and programs to manage unemployment costs were presented by 1st Nonprofit including the state run unemployment tax pool, third party programs and self-insuring. Some options reviewed could provide a 40 – 60% savings off of the state unemployment tax pool! In a time where nonprofits are working diligently for every dollar they can...a 40% savings is a welcome option.

A survey of those in attendance was very positive. "At a time where the employee's of our nonprofit organizations are maxed out they need the availability of seminars such as this one to be as well educated as possible. Whether the topic is cost containment, software, insurance program development or legal changes...we strive to bring the information to them so they can be well informed and hopefully better armed to continue their cause".

Future seminars to be held at the Regional Learning Alliance Center by TJ&S include the use of Social Media by nonprofits and Workers Compensation. More information is available on Cost Containment Avenues and future seminars at www.tjsins.com.