

What's New?

"You make a living out of what you get, but a life out of what you give"

www.thenetworkinggroup.biz

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Visit the TNG website for additional news:

- March Madness – Are you REALLY Committed to Being a Champion. By **Success Skills Coach Jim Rohrbach**.
- Read about **Scott Salzman's** involvement in an important project, in the Chicago Tribune article "A Special House – A Special Solution. Retrofitting means safety, independence for autistic adult son"

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Ifbyphone Releases its BlackBerry App

Mark Bromberg and **Ifbyphone** are pleased to announce the release of its Blackberry Conference & Broadcast Calling App. Running late for a meeting, call all attendees at once to let them know. Stuck in traffic, make that time productive by holding a conference call.

Using this app, you can select a group of co-workers, friends or family members and with just a couple of clicks send them a voice broadcast or schedule a conference call. All it takes for either app is three simple steps:

1. Create a group by selecting contacts from your contacts on your Blackberry
2. Schedule the broadcast or conference call
3. When you are ready to record your voice message, or at the scheduled time of your conference call, **Ifbyphone** will call you on your Blackberry or the alternative telephone number(s) you provided.

That's all! **Ifbyphone** will deliver your Blackberry Voice Broadcast or Conference Call at the scheduled time.

Each **Ifbyphone** account includes 100 free minutes of **Ifbyphone** usage per month and additional minutes can be purchased.

To learn more or to open your own account visit http://public.ifbyphone.com/blackberry_signup, or ask Mark for more details.

(And for your iPhone People, we have iPhone Conference and Broadcast calling apps as well You can download these from the Apple App Store.)

TNG Special Event!!

Bob Burg Seminar
National Best Selling Author
of "Endless Referrals"

May 1st
Doors Open: 7:30
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Coach Jim Rohrbach's book recommendation: [Mavericks at Work: Why the Most Original Minds in Business Win](#) Tom Peters says, "I didn't read this book. I devoured it." So even though Guy Kawasaki recommends it as well, I was skeptical. Turns out it's one of the more inspiring business books I've read in the last decade -- it profiles a lot of unique ideas from people in companies I never would have heard of as well as some household business names and why they win. (Maybe Peters and Kawasaki know something after all ...)

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A Capital Idea for Dentists

At the Midwest Dental Show at McCormick Place last week, **Ellen Edwards** helped visiting dentists understand how they can benefit from **Capital One's** credit card processing services, and from **Capital One's** healthcare financing products.

Dentists - as well as doctors and other medical service providers - can make it easier for their patients to say "yes" to costly procedures such as Invisalign braces, implants, root canals, and crowns.

Accepting credit cards helps free patients from the limits of their immediate cash flow. **Capital One's** rates are competitive and statements easy to understand.

By offering patients no-interest or low fixed-rate financing products dentists can take some of the pain out of extensive dental work.

Talk to Ellen if you know of a dentist or other medical provider who may want to take advantage of these services. You can reach her at 708-848-0022 or ellen.edwards@capitalonebank.com.

Changes to COBRA - Economic Stimulus Package 2009
Submitted by Dean Klassman, Klassman Financial Services

Item	Summary
1. Subsidy eligibility (Assistance Eligible Individuals)	Qualifying Event: Loss of health coverage due to involuntary loss of employment between 9/1/2008 and 12/31/2009 Income Limitation: (Modified Adjusted Gross Income) Single- annual income <\$125k / Family- annual income <\$250K
2. Amount of subsidy	Individual pays 35% of COBRA premium and 65% of premium is subsidized by employer (which the employer may then claim as a credit against wage withholdings and payroll taxes)
3. Duration of subsidized COBRA Coverage	9 month maximum period, followed by unsubsidized coverage for up to 6 more months (i.e., to a total of 18 months of coverage as under current COBRA rules). An Assistance Eligible Individual's entitlement to the Subsidy ends when they become eligible (not covered) by other group health coverage, or Medicare, or reach the end of their maximum COBRA continuation period. (A penalty equal to 110% of the subsidy received after becoming eligible for other coverage will be assessed.)
4. Subsidy effective Date	Subsidy takes effect on the first 'period of coverage' following the enactment date, which was 2/17/09. In most cases the subsidy will take effect on 3/1/09.
5. Notice Requirements	Within 60 days from the date of enactment (2/17/09) , modified COBRA election notices must be sent to all Assistance Eligible Individuals who had a qualifying event on or after 9/1/08 and before the date of enactment (2/17/09). The modified COBRA election notices must also be used on a go-forward basis for all COBRA eligible individuals who had a qualifying event on or after 2/17/09 and before 1/1/2010, regardless of 'Assistance Eligibility'. The Act states that the Department of Labor will be providing model notice language by 3/17/09 (within 30 days of enactment).
6. Special election period	A 60 day special election period following the delivery of the modified election notice must be provided for those eligible for the subsidy if they had not previously elected COBRA, and if they had elected COBRA and had subsequently terminated prior to the enactment date (e.g. due to non-payment of premium).
7. Option to elect other coverage	Employers are allowed (not required) to offer Assistance Eligible Individuals to elect any health plan option offered to active employees, which has the same or lower premium as the coverage they had as an active employee prior to their COBRA qualifying event.
8. Payroll tax credit	A payment equal to 35% of the COBRA premium is needed from the Assistance Eligible Individual for the premium to be considered paid in full. The remaining 65% paid by the employer, insurer, or plan, which will then be reimbursed via payroll tax credits by the Government. (Specific details on the credit process will be issued by the Treasury and IRS in the near future.)

Who are the TNG Members?

We will be featuring a matching puzzle in the upcoming newsletters, to see how well you know your fellow members. Please fill in and drop off before you leave. (Please Print Neatly)

1. What City were you born in? _____
2. Where did you go to High School? (if out of state, include state): _____
3. What was your very First Job? (Where & What) _____
4. What did you want to be when you grew up? _____
5. What Pets do you own and what are their names? _____
6. What are your Hobbies? _____
7. Optional Information that members do not know about you: _____

Your Name: _____ **Company:** _____

Pay-it-Forward Charity of the Month

submitted by **Dan Felix**

Learn how you can help "Team TNG" win with this month's Charity: Climate Cycle

THE ORGANIZATION: Climate Cycle is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization generating local solutions to global pollution that empower our youth while saving schools money. Specifically, through the installation of solar energy systems, Climate Cycle provides sustainability education to local public schools. Participation encourages our children to become leaders in an emerging green economy and redirects school's financial resources to education rather than utility bills while reducing carbon emissions. Climate Cycle is currently installing solar PV systems at Talcott Elementary School and Perspectives Math and Science Academy. www.ClimateCycle.org

[You are correct to assume that **Brandon Leavitt** LOVES Climate Cycle!]

FUNDRAISING BIKE-ATHON EVENT: On May 9th, 2009, Climate Cycle will launch its inaugural bikeathon, which will raise funds to put solar on additional public schools and support green energy education. Riders will select from either a 12 or 25-mile course in which to participate, each starting and ending at Grant Park and traversing the lakefront trail. The event is not a race, but rather a fundraiser with riders garnering pledges from family, friends and businesses in advance of the ride. And rental bikes will be available – so no one has to shlep a bike if they don't want to.

BIKE-ATHON FUNDRAISING: Each adult participant is asked to raise \$200, with children 18 and under being asked to raise \$60. Included in participant's \$20 registration fee is lunch, a goody bag and a 100% organic cotton Climate Cycle t-shirt. Following the ride participants and festival goers will be treated to live music, booths and other event related activities.

BIKE-ATHON TEAMS: While participants may register as individuals, participants can also register as "teams". This is a wonderful way for groups of friends, organizations and companies to come together on behalf of a cause. As a reward for teams of five or more, adult fundraising requirements are reduced to \$175 per person.

THE TNG TEAM: The exciting news: **Jeff Newcorn** and **Dan Felix** are the first TNG'ers to agree to the ride and so, are also the first two members of TEAM TNG. There are several ways for you to help Jeff and Dan to help Climate Cycle. Your **DONATIONS** will be split among the TNG TEAM to contribute to Climate Cycle. Your **PARTICIPATION** as a bike rider will add to the presence of TNG at the event, besides being a fun time outside. Your **REFERRAL** of other donors or riders is also much appreciated. Thank you!



Holly (and Barry) Kahan are thrilled to announce the engagement of their son, Adam, to Michelle Aronowicz of Melbourn Australia. Michelle is an international business technology consultant and was on an assignment in Chicago for 18 months. They met last March through J-Date (an internet dating site for Jewish individuals).. Though her project completed last July, Michelle has remained in Chicago awaiting her next assignment. She went back to Melbourn in last month for a few weeks and Adam planned a surprise trip there to propose so she would be able to share the experience surrounded by her family and friends. Adam also wanted her father to be able to have the experience of having his blessings be personally requested for the hand of his only daughter. Many tears, laughter and "Mazel Tovs" were shared over the many, many miles as the whole "mishpucha" (family) phoned us on the cruise ship we were on at the time. Needless to say, **HollyBarry House** is overflowing with happiness over this next expansion of our family.

TNG Raffle with Prizes!!

Submit News to the TNG Newsletter
for
April's TNG Newsletter
and your Name will be Entered
in a Raffle to Win one of Many
Exciting Prizes!

Email your print-ready news, up to ½ page
(1 column) to News@TheNetworkingGroup.biz.

Prizes are being donated by
Marty Gold of ProStar Promotions.

Upcoming Events



BUY A CHANCE TO WIN A BRAND NEW
2009 MINI COOPER
OR \$20,000 CASH!

\$100 per ticket, or 3 for \$275 Only 999 raffle tickets will be sold!

Drawing April 20, 2009. Winner need not be present.

**Buy tickets by March 20, 2009 and be entered
in an additional Early Bird drawing of \$1,000.**

Purchase online www.CenterForEnrichedLiving.org or by phone 847.948.7001 x 215.



The raffle benefits The Center for Enriched Living and helps people with developmental disabilities.

Friends, Fun and Belonging

You're invited to attend our Mens Spring 2009 "Trunk Shows" Robert Vance Ltd.

March 5th, 6th, & 7th

SAMUELSONH The finest in hand made tailored clothing offered in hundreds of luxurious fabrics. Available in suits, sport coats, and trousers.

All Samuelsohn orders taken this weekend are offered at a 15% discount.

March 19th, 20th & 21st

JHANE BARNES The unmistakable style of the international designer, Jhane Barnes, & will be offered in the latest collections of dress clothing and sportswear.

All Jhane Barnes merchandise sold this weekend will be offered at a 10% discount.

March 26th, 27th & 28st

ROBERT TALBOTT The standard of quality in neckwear and shirts. Neckwear offered in any length and a fantastic selection of dress and sport shirt fabrics that can be customized to your exact style requirements. Come see the entire collection including the "7 Fold" neckwear.

All Talbott orders taken this weekend are offered at a 10% discount

*Please send your news for the TNG monthly "What's New?" newsletter to:
News@TheNetworkingGroup.biz*