A Letter from the President

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. It is so hard to believe we have only a month and half left to finish out 2014. If you are like us at Diamond B, this is one of the busiest times for HR and benefits.

We had two amazing events that went off without a hitch. This past September, under the leadership of Tiffany Craig, our first ever “CLSHRM After Dark” event, sponsored by Access Health. This was also our annual fundraiser for the SHRM Foundation. Next, this past October, under the leadership of Traci O’Brien, we had a very successful Annual Seminar with great speakers and excellent participation. The best part, not only did we break even, we put a little money in the coffers to help balance the budget. Neither of these events would have been possible without the leaders and their teams and my hats are off to all involved.

Don’t forget we have the Celebration of Accomplishments coming up in December. We will enjoy great food, great conversation, and the swearing in of our 2015 officers. Can’t wait to see what Sandy Mask has planned for us!

- Tony Murray, SPHR
President
Annual Seminar Recap
Member Spotlight

Basil Wendell Smith

About Basil:
- Grew up in Alexandria, LA and was raised in the Samtown/Woodside community
- Dad is Lynell Smith, retired from Union Pacific Railroad after 38 years. Dad is also Pastor of the New Scott Olly B.C. in Alexandria. Mom is a full time homemaker.
- I have 2 brothers, Theron and Damon Smith. Theron is an engineer for Union Pacific Railroad and Damon is an E.R. nurse at MD Anderson Medical Center in Houston, TX. I also have 1 sister, Reshonda Smith who also works at MD Anderson in the Nurse Anesthesia department.
- I am married to my lovely wife of 15 years, Thea Mines Smith, who also is employed at Cleco.

Education:
- Graduate of Alexandria Sr. High
- Bachelor of Arts in Broadcasting from Southern University—My wife is a graduate of Grambling State University, so this time of year is very fun for us! The Bayou Classic is coming up in a few weeks!

Things About Me:
- I really enjoy playing the piano. I have been playing in church since I was 16 years old.
- I love working on old cars. I have a 1966 Mustang that I have completely restored.
- I would love to visit South Africa.
- My favorite subject in school was history.
- The thing I miss most about being a kid is my old neighborhood and all the guys I used to hang out with. We didn’t have much, but we had a lot of fun!
- My favorite food is hamburgers; they never disappoint.
- I don’t like washing dishes.
- If I could meet anyone dead or alive, I would love to meet God and ask him if I am meeting all his expectations.
- If I had an autobiography of my life it would be named The Life and Times of Basil Smith.
- If I had 30 minutes to spare, I’d sleep a little longer.

Employment:
- Cleco—HR Representative. I have been at Cleco for 14 years and have been in the HR department for the last 3 years.

“Faith makes things possible, not easy”.
Welcome New CLSHRM Members!!!

Melissa Bourgeois - Corporate Sales Executive at Brown & Brown of LA
Evelyn Breithaupt - Attorney at Gold, Weems, Bruser, Sues & Rundell
Sarina Burhans - Benefits Administrator at Proctor & Gamble
Carolyn Carpenter - Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist/Program Manger at the VA
Charles Jones - Personnel Analyst at City of Alexandria
Leisa Lawson - Attorney at Gold, Weems, Bruser, Sues & Rundell
Sondra Redmon - Director at Central LA Economic Development Alliance
Brittany Trahan - Personnel Analyst at City of Alexandria

Take the HR News Quiz

1. How old is the Pregnancy Discrimination Act?
   - 36 years old
   - 41 years old
   - 22 years old

2. Which state Supreme Court is hearing arguments that may impact marijuana in the workplace?
   - California
   - Illinois
   - Colorado

3. Within the U.S., who is at the greatest risk of being infected by Ebola?
   - TSA agents
   - Health care workers
   - People who’ve recently traveled to any part of Africa

4. Which state’s new sick leave law is most challenging for employers?
   - Minneapolis
   - Maine
   - Massachusetts

5. Women make up to what percent of the global workforce?
   - 41%
   - 26%
   - 57%

Answers: 1. 36 years old 2. Colorado 3. Health care workers 4. Massachusetts 5. 41%
Board Member Spotlight
Shannon Tassin

About Shannon:
- Grew up in the Alexandria area
- Married to Paul Tassin for almost 20 years
- 3 children and 2 grandchildren (all girls)

Education:
- Graduate of Pineville High School in 1991
- Bachelor’s of Science from Northwestern State University
- MBA from University of Laffayette
- Completed paralegal program at NSU as well as PHR Certification

Things About Me:
- I am very good at corralling chaos, planning and finding solutions to problems.
- I enjoy hunting, raising show rabbits, crafts, and finding bargains.
- I like to plan parties and weddings. I would be a wedding planner in another life.
- I volunteer at the Alexandria Zoo and I LOVE it!
- I would like to vacation in Australia.
- My favorite subject in school was History.
- The thing I miss most about being a kid was being able to eat whatever I wanted because I was able to burn it off by running around!
- My favorite foods are seafood and steak.
- I hate cleaning toilets; it’s just really gross
- If I could meet anyone dead or alive it would be Elvis.
- If I had 30 minutes to spare I would sleep or play XBOX.

Employment History:
- Louisiana College—Director of Human Resources and Adjunct Instructor for Management Courses

“It is what it is”.
November Chapter Meeting  
Wednesday, November 19th  
11:30am to 1:00pm  
Pineville Convention Center at Country Inn and Suites  
2727 Monroe Hwy (Hwy 165)  
Pineville, LA 71360  
Speaker: Tony Murray, HR Director at Diamond B Construction  
Topic: HR Tech Review  
*Topic has been approved for 1.25 hours of General HRCI

December Celebration of Accomplishments  
Wednesday, December 17th  
11:30am to 1:00pm  
Catering by Yolande  
1818 Andrews Ave. Alexandria (318)445-0446

SPONSOR A CLSHRM CHAPTER MEETING  
Sponsoring a meeting is a great way to support the CLSHRM Chapter by helping us cover monthly meeting expenses. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Tony Murray, Chapter President. We appreciate all the support!