



# LVP Communicator

A Monthly Newsletter of the Lehigh Valley Professionals

September, 2012 Vol. 4, No. 9

## 10th Anniversary Celebration

**Saturday, September 15, 2012**  
**11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Bethlehem Township Municipal Park – Pavilion I**  
**Farmersville Road, Bethlehem, PA**

**11:00 am to 12:00 pm**

### **Hors d’Oeuvres and Networking**



**12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

**Gary Schall**  
**Executive Committee Chairman - Welcome**

**Ken Guerin**  
**Executive Director of Private Industry Council of Lehigh Valley - Lehigh Valley Professionals Value to the Private Industry Council and Lehigh Valley CareerLink and LVP Alumni**

**Eric Kramer**  
**Value of Job Support of the Lehigh Valley Professional Groups**

**Thiep Pham**  
**Started the LVP and will discuss the History of LVP and where we have been and where we are today**

**Prior Executive Chairs**  
**Observations**

**Gary Schall**  
**Executive Committee Chairman – Closing**

**1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

**Picnic and Fun**

# LVP 10th Anniversary

By Thiep Pham

Henry Ford once said, “Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” We are celebrating the success of our 10th year of the Lehigh Valley Professionals (LVP) because we believe in this same principle.

**Coming together:** After September 11, a small group of dislocated workers came together and met at the Pennsylvania CareerLink Lehigh Valley (PA CareerLink LV). We were acclimating to the post 911 event, but the after-shock of the new unemployment trend was also our new reality. We have realized that our expertise (executive, professional, clerical, manual labor, ..), level of education, and years of experience do not guarantee a sustainable career. We also identified that networking and peer support are key factors to help each other getting back on track. We then formed the Lehigh Valley Professionals Peer Networking Group (LVPPNG), which later renamed to Lehigh Valley Professionals (LVP). Our mission was, and still to this day, is to foster a professional forum where professionals can meet in a welcoming environment to network and find employment. In 2002, with the help from the PA CareerLink LV, we established our “home-base” at 1601 Union Boulevard in Allentown, PA.

**Keeping together:** Only about nineteen professionals attended our first meeting. However, as word got around, that number grew steadily every week. Our headcount ballooned as we worked with Karen McAndrew-Bush and Ray Spencer to introduce speakers at our meetings. In order to accommodate the packed meeting room, our Friday weekly meeting was then moved to the larger Lehigh Valley room. With over two thousand+ members, we beef up our LVP infrastructure by adding the needed committees, chairs, co-chairs and committee members. We also created the LVP Alumni group to foster networking and establish a “feedback” loop to the LVP group. In addition, we created a website to manage our content and to market our database of resumes to potential employers. We were involved with job fairs, focus groups, and industrial networking. Even though our numbers have grown significantly, we managed to stick together and support each other in times of need.

**Working together:** The success of LVP is due to the support from members like you, our partnership with the PA CareerLink LV, and the support from our community. We have numerous fantastic speakers who have volunteered their time and effort from the community. Their topics have covered networking, finance, unemployment compensation, Work Investment Act (WIA) and other job support tools, motivation, and much more. They understand what it’s like to be in your shoes and how to help you to get back on track. We also have the support from the PA CareerLink LV. Besides providing the facility for our meetings, they are a key link that bridges LVP with the business community. One of PA CareerLink LV’s employees, Karen McAndrew-Bush, has volunteered her time since the get-go to help keep LVP organized through all these years. Lastly, it’s the members like you, who believe in the values of LVP and help others with their job search. Some of you even stepped up to the plate and joined the LVP Executive Committee, who manages the operations of LVP.

Being displaced can be scary, but job hunting as a lone wolf is daunting. LVP is a free professional forum where professionals can meet in a welcoming environment to network and find employment. As a pack, we can be more successful. Job hunting is not easy. As Henry Ford also stated, “When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.” I wish everyone the best with their job hunt and career.

## Ten Years of Executive Chairs

Gary Schall

John Pennington  
Barry Cimino

Pete Peluso

Frank McDowell

Dave Newton  
Marlene Ruby  
Gene Auman  
Vince Gorman  
Jim Marine

Lara Willis McCauley

Jim Love

Tom Sloand

Dave Newton

Tom Emmerth

Bill Stahl

George Frothingham

Thiep Pham

2012  
2011  
2010  
2009  
2008  
2007  
2006  
2005  
2004  
2003  
2002

Lehigh Valley Professionals (LVP) is a Job Support Group for professionals that has supported over 2000 members over its 10 year existence. This has been done with a large number of volunteer leaders over this time.

It would be impossible to name all of those volunteers as we would certainly miss some who have made significant contributions. For a group like LVP to remain such a vital organization over this time, one key to success were those who were the primary leaders. They were initially called "Chairs."

As the organization expanded, they are now called "Executive Chairs."

Regardless of title, this timeline lists those who were the primary leaders of LVP along with the year that they served. We are here today because of these gifted and giving individuals.

Thank you.

## Why LVP Has an Alumni Committee

It is probably obvious by their names why we have most LVP Committees. But why have an Alumni Committee? The Alumni Committee is responsible for encouraging LVP members who have landed a position **to stay involved with LVP. But after landing a new position, we understand that this “transition period”** was not the best time in your life. We recognize that you would like to forget about this time and move on.

However, we really need our Alumni. We are asking you to not give up on your LVP Network and stay involved with us at LVP in some of the following ways:

- ▶ Continue to send us job leads, especially in your new company
- ▶ Continue to refer friends who need the help that LVP can provide
- ▶ Make yourself available to members who can use your insight on specific professions or specific companies
- ▶ Continue to open doors to employment opportunities for LVP members at the company where you currently work
- ▶ Continue to provide advice to LVP leadership to make LVP the best that it can be
- ▶ Keep our members in your network
- ▶ Please remember that we are here if you need us in the future. More than a few LVP members have come back a second time.

Think of the power LVP could have for finding new positions for our active members if the well over 1000 LVP Alumni would actively help with this effort. Therefore, we in the Alumni Committee work hard to do the following:

- ▶ Building a lifelong network of professionals in the Lehigh Valley which follows the LVP philosophy of **“networking for life.”**
- ▶ Develop friendly relationships between LVP alumni and LVP active members and to keep LVP alumni informed of LVP current activities.
- ▶ Engage alumni in LVP work.

As an LVP Alumni, please stay involved.

Tom Emmerth  
LVP Alumni Chair  
*temmerth@compuserve.com*

*LVP Communicator* is the monthly newsletter for Lehigh Valley Professionals (LVP). It is distributed via the web at [lvprofessionals.org](http://lvprofessionals.org) and by e-mail at the beginning of each month.

Managing Editor: Tom Emmerth  
Layout: Ken Herr

LVP is a free recruitment Resource for companies, organizations, and recruiters seeking high-caliber professionals and consultants of all disciplines, in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas.

LVP meets at the PA CareerLink® Lehigh Valley,

