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6th ANNUAL BLOC CHARITY GOLF TOURNEY AROUND THE BEND

Four ways that YOU can help to make the event a HUGE success!

#1

Sponsor!

Your FINAL CALL for sponsorships is May 10! There are many levels of sponsorships available to you and your company.

#2

Volunteer!

Help is needed for pre-event preparation (goodie bag stuffing and set-up, etc) and for the day of the event.

#3

Give Stuff!

Provide an item for the goodie bags or an award prize for one of the day's competitive events. There are 150 goodie bags being produced.

#4

Cross your fingers!

...Say a prayer and do a little dance to keep the rainstorms at bay! The event will be fabulous no matter the weather.

For details on all of these ways to help make the 6th Annual BLOC Charity Golf Tourney a huge success, contact CIC Director, Courtney Colosi immediately: ccolosi@sherpallc.com



2009 Event Capture



Tourney Agenda & Info

Monday, May 24th
Old Sycamore Golf Plantation
Mint Hill, NC

10:00 - 11:30 AM
Registration
Putting green open
Driving range open

11:30 AM
Lunch
Rules
Contest announcement

12:00 PM
Shotgun start

4:30 PM
Carts return

4:30 PM
Dinner
Awards presentation

Tournament proceeds will benefit
Wings of Eagles Ranch
& McCreesh Place

About Our Beneficiaries

Wings of Eagles Ranch Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center, is a place where obstacles are overcome, doubt is defeated and the exhilaration of victory felt. Here is a place where children and adults with special needs come to ride a horse and learn to manage these majestic animals on their own.
www.wingsofeaglesranch.org

St. Peter's Homes, Inc. was created in 1989 to assist in the identification, acquisition, rehabilitation and occupation of suitable housing for low income persons in need in the Charlotte area to alleviate homelessness and reduce human suffering. Today St. Peter's Homes, Inc. owns and operates McCreesh Place, Charlotte's first supportive housing apartment community, designed with sixty-four (64) single room occupancy (SRO) units that are rented to formerly homeless disabled men.
www.stpetershomesinc.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY H. SCOTT DONAGHY

Since 2002 The Business Leaders of Charlotte have donated over \$82,000.00 to local charities.

Pretty impressive figure isn't it? \$82K! That amount comes from 15 successful Community Involvement Projects in seven years. It comes from countless hours from CIC Directors like Myra McNeely, Chris Herring and from our current Director, Courtney Colosi. It comes from hundreds of past and present BLOC member volunteers, and more than anything that figure come from our generous sponsors like Hinrichs Flanagan Financial, Hatcher Law and E-dreamz. They help give us the opportunity to support local charities like Girls on the Run, The Nevins Center, McCreesh Place, The Arc of Mecklenburg County and so many more.

On May 24th BLOC will continue our tradition of giving with the 6th Annual BLOC Charity Golf Tournament. We have been successful in selling out the number of teams playing. What we need now are volunteers and sponsors. Come out and be a part of the giving tradition and support our beneficiaries: The Wings of Eagles Ranch and McCreesh Place.



H. Scott Donaghy,
BLOC president

On a sad note, I am sorry to share that on February 16, 2010, a friend and former BLOC-Ballantyne member Phil Williams passed away. Phil was a dedicated member of BLOC and the Newcomer of the Year for Ballantyne in 2006. He volunteered for every BLOC community involvement project while a member and I can specifically recall him grilling on a very warm October day at BLOCtoberfest. He was quick to give you a strong handshake and genuinely ask how you were doing.

Phil's cancer returned this past summer and he was gracious enough to share the "good news" - that he had the opportunity to call folks and let them know how much they meant to him before he passed. What class.

I will miss Phil Williams. He was a friend to me beyond what I deserved and kind to everyone who knew him. BLOC was blessed to have called him "member" for a brief time in our ten year history.

PREMARITAL AGREEMENTS - A GOOD IDEA?

BY GREG HATCHER, THE HATCHER LAW GROUP

Some think the idea of a premarital agreement is a sure fire way to kill the love in a relationship, and could possibly end an engagement. However, as divorce has become more prevalent, entering into a premarital agreement is gaining more support and adoption with those who are about to walk down the aisle.

Many people understand the realities of divorce and want to protect the assets they have acquired or will acquire over time. Those who have already been through one divorce understand the financial consequences of a divorce and want to pre-determine their own rules for dividing up assets in the event the marriage fails. Moreover, some people believe that a prenuptial agreement can actually promote equality within the marriage and help develop the relationship through open and honest discussion. As a couple discusses issues to be addressed in a premarital agreement, they open up the lines of communication regarding everything from assets and financial standing to lifestyle expectations and familial structure.

Chapter 52B of the North Carolina General Statutes, the Uniform Premarital Agreement Act, governs premarital agreements in North Carolina and provides that parties can contractually agree to terms concerning the following:

- All rights and obligations to property- including how property will be divided upon separation, death, or the occurrence of an event
- The modification or elimination of alimony and/or post-separation support

- The creation of a will, trust, or other document to carry out the terms of the premarital agreement
- Division of life insurance policies
- The choice of state law governing the agreement
- Any other matter including personal rights and obligations which are not in violation of public policy or a criminal statute

Premarital agreements cannot, however, be drafted to eliminate a party's responsibility to provide support for his or her minor children. Also, provisions in which a party waives their right to receive alimony will not be enforced if that party will require public assistance to survive.

It is important to note that each party involved in a premarital agreement should be represented by an experienced family law attorney to ensure the agreement will be enforceable and to prevent it from being unfair to either party.

For more information on premarital agreements or other areas of family law, please contact Greg Hatcher and his team at Hatcher Law Group, 704-375-3911 or visit their website at www.hatcherlawgroup.com.

GET²KNOW BLOC MEMBER: PAM DECKER

BLOC North Member since 2007

Favorite Color: Purple

Reading: Strategic Customer Service

Always Wanted To Be:

A singer

Family: Husband Dan of 11 years,
Children: Ashley (10,) Andrew (6
and a huge Elvis fan,) Alex (4,) our
German Shephard, Remy,
and bunny, Sylvia

Education/Background: BA in Finance, University of CT

Favorite Restaurant: New Zealand Cafe

Hobbies: Playing pool, watching live music, spending time with
my kids, any extreme sport!

Home town: Vernon CT

Favorite Bands: Kenny Chesney, all cheesy 80s hair bands

Favorite BLOC Moment: Receiving Bloc N Member of the
Year Award in 2009



Pam Decker

ADD THESE DATES TO YOUR CALENDAR!

May 11	BLOC-South Park Luncheon
May 12	BLOC-Ballantyne Luncheon
May 13	BLOC-Uptown Luncheon
May 14	BLOC-North Luncheon
May 18	Tuesday Topics Event
May 24	BLOC Charity Golf Event
May 26	After Hours Event
June 18	BLOC ANNUAL DINNER No Luncheons this month!
July 8	BLOC-Uptown Luncheon
July 9	BLOC-North Luncheon
July 13	BLOC-South Park Luncheon
July 14	BLOC-Ballantyne Luncheon
July 28	After Hours Event
Aug 10	BLOC-South Park Luncheon
Aug 11	BLOC-Ballantyne Luncheon
Aug 12	BLOC-Uptown Luncheon
Aug 13	BLOC-North Luncheon

More event details at BusinessLeadersOfCharlotte.com

ASK THE EXPERT - Q&A: DANIEL COOPER TOLER, BLY & ASSOCIATES, CPA, PLLC

Question:

Business owners and individuals often seek advice from their CPA. What are the top 5 recurring bits of advice your practice shares with your clients to help avoid costly mistakes?

Answer:

1 Business Tax Planning is a year round process - most major decisions have a tax impact.

2 S-Corporations are a great way for self-employed individuals to save thousands a year.

3 Retirement planning for self-employed people is even more important...no one else is looking out for you.

4 Divorces from business partners can be messier and more expensive than from spouses! Due diligence and proper planning up front can save money, time and aggravation later.

5 Business mileage is a very common IRS audit issue, but if you track it correctly, it is a great way to gain a sizeable business deduction.



BLOC BOARD & BLOC CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

<i>President:</i>	<i>Scott Donaghy</i>
<i>VP:</i>	<i>Liz Kunz</i>
<i>Director BLOC-B:</i>	<i>Michael Barnes</i>
<i>Asst Dir BLOC-B:</i>	<i>Jon Massachi</i>
<i>Director BLOC-N:</i>	<i>Pam Decker</i>
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<i>Director BLOC-S:</i>	<i>Michael Waite</i>
<i>Asst Dir BLOC-S:</i>	<i>Julie Taché</i>
<i>CIC:</i>	<i>Courtney Colosi</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Myra McNeely</i>

MEMBER AWARDS & RECOGNITION AROUND THE BLOC, FEBRUARY - APRIL 2010

Jennifer Rowlands, with Carolina Office Solutions, got married in Cancun, Mexico on April 25th, 2010. Congratulations!

Sodoma Law, PC, is relocating their offices to 211 East Boulevard in May 2010. Nicole Sodoma was honored on Feb 22, 2010 by Business Leader Magazine as one of Charlotte's top fifty entrepreneurs for 2010. Congratulations Nicole!

Marilyn Croteau, President of Croteau Window Coverings Inc has accepted a full time position as Assistant Director of Recruitment for Lesley University's Master's in Education cohort programs in North & South Carolina.

Dr. Glenn Jaffe would like to share that Candy An, Chiropractic Assistant at Jaffe Chiropractic Clinic, recently become a Certified Basic X-ray Technician.

Laura Murphy, with Essential Therapy, has achieved the designation of Certified Medical Massage Practitioner and can now handle workman's compensation claims and PIP auto insurance claims.

Mary Catherine Dolphens with Asterisk Creative is proud to announce the launch of a new website for Acorn Storage Solution at www.acornstoragesolutions.com

Amy Rawson, with Rawson Realty, LLC, has been nominated for Woman Business Owner of the Year through the National Association of Woman Business Owners (NAWBO.) Winners will be announced in early May. Great job, Amy!

Benjamin Helbein of Allstate has earned the Premier Service Agency (PSA) designation for agencies that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to providing an excellent experience for Allstate customers and growing their agency.

Mike Waite, with Plexus Business Development, has the honor of emceeding the 2010 Crime Victims' Coalition Luncheon, with Sheriff Chip Bailey as the keynote speaker. Mike has served as the president of the board for the Crime Victims Coalition of Mecklenburg and surrounding counties, since June 2009.

Courtney Colosi shares that Charlotte-headquartered Sherpa LLC recently expanded into NC's Triangle Area with the opening of their Cary office.

Anna Smith from Hibiscus Graphics is featured this Feb issue of the online magazine 'Women With Know How.' Check out the magazine at <http://spark-studios.com/wkh/0210/> Congrats Anna!

Stacie Pinnavaia with Design Incentives, has recently earned the Incentive Professional designation from the Incentive Marketing Association. Way to go, Stacie!!

Wendy Shanahan with Asterisk Creative has been named one of the 2010 Top 50 Most Influential Women by the Mecklenburg Times and one of the Top 50 Entrepreneurs by Business Leader Media. Way to go Wendy!

Michael DiFabion of DiFabion Remodeling has received his EPA Certified Renovator designation from the NAHB of Charlotte.

Adrian Stout with Aflac was recently promoted to a Coordinator in Training and he is now actively looking for "new recruits" for his team!

Ron Stromple of Comprehensive Benefits Solutions has been nominated as one of the top 50 entrepreneurs in the Charlotte, Raleigh, and Triad regions by Business Leaders' magazine. Way to go, Ron!

Mayfest 2010 will be on May 15 at the Waite Family Farm in Midland, NC. This is a family oriented event featuring live music, drink and food throughout the day. Cost per person is \$20. Learn more by emailing Kyle at info@johnstreet.net

Kevin Dvorscak from Asterisk Creative has launched the new brand for Bond Girls Bike America and is partnering with MDA on their upcoming Muscle Team 2010 event. Hank and Laura Sanchez owners of In Good Company Pet Sitting & Dog Walking have been accepted as members of the Charlotte Area Professional Pet Sitters Network.

Heathir McElroy Speet of DEZINZ creative announces the launch of a new brand for her firm. The firm's Web site has been revised to reflect the new brand at www.dezinz.com and a new Web site showcasing more recent client projects will launch in the coming months along with new promotional materials.

Please submit your high-resolution photos, business-related articles and news releases for publication in the quarterly BLOC Newsletter to Heathir McElroy Speet at bmspeet@dezinz.com.

BLOC Newsletter Edited & Designed by DEZINZcreative. Photos by Pam Decker, Anna Smith, Heathir McElroy Speet, Liz Kunz & Phil Johnson.