



CPS Houston Hub

February 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Facilitator: Anne Fombu

Attendance: Click on the link below for meeting photos

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B97LVmras7BTNnhzTVZoTW0xd1k&usp=sharing>

Discussions:

We had new guests at this meeting thanks to the referrals by Mr. Cederic, Mr. Stephanou, Ms. Yefon and Mr. Clarence. We also had new referrals to add to our listserv. The group provided some great recommendations for speakers for the CPS 2014 Congress in Houston TX. Yefon, recommended Abigail Wynne, a Nurse entrepreneur who owns a Home Health agency for the Starting A Home Health Business panel. She will follow-up and provide us more details on this referral. Mr. Stephanou recommended a former Cameroon physician who ran a clinic in the Southwest region for panel on Healthcare Challenges and opportunities in Cameroon. He also shared contact info for a local Houston physician who owns a private practice as a potential speaker on the Healthcare Challenges and opportunities. For the Vision 2035 panel, Mr. Stephanou recommended some friends from Cameroon in the Oil and Gas industry (SNH) and also on government policies. His friends will be attending the largest oil and gas conference <http://www.otcnet.org/2014/> scheduled this May in Houston. He plans to schedule a meet and greet in April with a CPS representative.

The group shared some great insights into the current challenges within Cameroon professionals. Some of those challenges included; changing the culture on "immediate gratification" as members of professional groups like CPS; the primary focus on personal benefits and less on contributing professional expertise or actively sharing knowledge to grow the organization; and Cameroonian professionals "not opening up" their professional networks to other Cameroonian professionals and the overall negative impact to the growth of the Cameroon community. The group recognized the benefit of an organization like CPS to start changing the culture of how Cameroonian professionals think towards a more progressive and supportive mindset. We discussed about recruiting more professionals to the Houston Hub. Everyone agreed the CPS is not focused so much on a very large number of attendees but rather the recruitment of Cameroon professionals that are effective long-term contributors and supporters of the Hub. We discussed about the CPS marketing challenges to Cameroonian professionals. Some great suggestions were made to the CPS on how to effectively launch promotional campaigns targeting Cameroonian professionals online. One such suggestion from Mr. Anchang was to use provoking subject lines to spark interest to read more about the promotional campaign. We also discussed about the CPS Advisory Network.

- Many people lack a credible resource to seek advice on education and/or career growth especially new immigrants, or mentoring needs for Cameroon youths in the US. The CPS is researching the possibility of creating an advisory panel within the CPS which will be open to all



Cameroonians. All applicants will fill a form with their need and we'll put them in touch with one of our advisers.

Mr. Stephanou and Ms. Yefon volunteered to be advisers.

Everyone was notified of the CPS free offer to local Cameroon groups on a 30-minute presentation on Customer Service for small businesses owners.

Recommendations from the Group:

A suggestion was made to recruit more professionals to the CPS hub. The group proposed organizing a monthly social networking event. Moving forward the CPS Houston Hub will organize a Happy Hour after-work event every first Friday of the month at any local restaurant. The Hub meetings will remain unchanged every third Saturday of the month.

Next Meeting and Objectives:

Saturday March 22, 4pm-6pm, Hub meeting: Panera Bread Bakery on 19502 Katy Freeway Houston, TX 77094.

Friday March 7, 6pm-8pm., After-work Happy Hour:

Suggestions

Pub Fiction Restaurant, 2303 Smith St #100 Houston, TX 77006 <http://www.pubfiction.com/index.php>,

at City Centre <http://citycentrehouston.com/>

- YardHouse <http://www.yardhouse.com/Default.aspx>
- Straits <http://www.straitsrestaurants.com/>
- Brio Tuscan Grille <http://www.brioitalian.com/index.html>

or at Town and Country Village <http://townandcountryvillage.com/>

- <http://www.escalantes.net/locations>

Feel free to make suggestions. I'm new to Houston, my suggestions are made based on online research. I will send an email the week of March 7 with exact location.

Objectives



1. Bring 1 guest to the next meeting or 5 email addresses of professionals to add to our listserv
2. Identify Houston groups that may be interested in the CPS free offer
3. Recommend Advisers for the CPS Advisory Network.
4. Mr. Stephanou, will continue working on assisting the CPS to reserve the Crown Plaza hotel for the Congress and keep us posted on the outcome. We are also open to Hotel suggestions close to Rice University from the group
5. Recommend speakers for the CPS Congress
6. Houston fundraising event for the CPS programs (Scholarship, Volunteer Corp, Mentoring)

CPS Hubs Goals and Objectives:

See attached document. For a brief overview about the CPS Hub please visit this link http://youtu.be/-t6T_KGIPOc