

## January 16, 2003

Today's meeting was very exciting. We had 12 facilities professionals in attendance. There was a lot of positive energy as we shared some information about various companies and job leads. We discussed issues such as Managing the frustrations that can come with job searching, dealing with the bureaucratic hiring processes of public agencies, who qualifies for the recently signed unemployment benefits extension, and critiquing some resumes. Sometimes just getting out and coming to the group can recharge your batteries and energize you for next week's efforts. We welcome three new members to the group.

**Joni Meagher**, a California native who has recently moved back to the golden state from Virginia where she worked for Concert. **Garry Jaquess** who recently left New Century Mortgage where he was a VP of Real Estate. **Jack Hafner** who turned off the lights at Celestica last week.

## January 9, 2003

Eight FM professionals met at the first Job Search Group weekly breakfast of the new year. After two weeks of holiday recess it was a delight to see our friends again. We discussed the latest news from a couple of mortgage companies in Orange County that are experiencing volatility caused by rapid growth in the sub prime mortgage industry. These companies are growing so fast that there are tremendous facility challenges. However, this same growth has caused a lot of stress in the human resource arena. The upshot is that before accepting an offer be very clear on the working conditions and personalities in these environments. Do your homework. Try to find someone who can tell you truthfully what the work environment is like, the management style, the morale of the employees etc. Three of our group have accepted offers for jobs that turned out not to be what was represented during the interview. They have left those companies and are looking again.

On a more positive note, several members reported plenty of activity during the month of December with interviews and meetings. We hope this is a sign of some improvement in the job market since December is usually a very quiet and slow month. We welcomed a new member to the group. Ernie Villanueva was formerly with Cisco Systems servicing Nortel in telecommunications management. Ernie is seeking a position in facilities management. He is also a co-founder of the renowned "Taco Tuesday" networking group. Ernie brings a lot of information and networking skills to the group. Welcome, Ernie!