

COVID-19 UPDATE: The Academy is open regular hours of Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. using screening and safety protocols. For more information about our Phase I Safety Guidelines on the Academy's website: AcademySRQ.org.



VISIT BY STATE ATTORNEY

Nearly four years after their first visit to the Academy, Ed Brodsky, State Attorney for Florida's 12th Judicial Circuit, and Craig Schaeffer, Chief Assistant State Attorney for Sarasota County, returned for a tour and lunch. Their interest in us was piqued back then, when they attended a regional Mental Health Court Seminar that the Academy hosted by Judge Erika Quartermaine.

Academy member Paul Hennekes provided a comprehensive tour, guiding them through our teams—including Arts, Business & Technology, and Culinary—and introducing them to other members, some of whom spoke of their personal experience of mental health recovery. Our guests were full of great questions, among them, "How can we partner with the Academy?" District Attorney Brodsky and his team recognize that supporting the recovery of persons living with mental health challenges will help strengthen their mission, so we see much potential for collaboration.

As we explore the ways in which we can build our partnership, we look forward to a future visit from their leadership team for a Lunch & Learn!



(left to right) Craig Schaeffer, William McKeever, Paul Hennekes, and Ed Brodsky

THE PRICER IS RIGHT

by Cayman Seiffert

When I first applied for my current job at Goodwill, I wasn't expecting to hear back. It had been four years since I had held a job and I figured that the giant gap in my work history would for sure be an issue. So, when I got the phone call for the interview, I was very surprised. With the confidence I had gained from the Academy, I went to the interview ready to secure the job. After a great interview, I was offered a position as an Electronic Pricer at Goodwill. I was so excited to have gotten the job and couldn't wait to start.

Things are going well. My supervisors are very supportive, and they have been very accommodating. I feel like I am a part of a team and like I'm a productive member of society again. It has given me a sense of purpose and boosted my self-esteem. A year ago, I would never have imagined working again; now with the support of the Academy and my family I have been able to reach one of my goals, and I plan on continuing to grow.



Cayman Seiffert pricing items at his retail job.

WELCOME IRENE LUNT

I came to the Academy to learn new things. So far, I am enjoying working on the computer! I get a lot of help and encouragement from staff and members and have worked most often with Cathy Dexter who is patient and fun to work with. Whenever there's a new task for me to do, there is always someone willing to help me learn it.

During my spare time I like to walk, watch tv, and do wordsearch puzzles. I enjoy being around people, and the Academy is great place to make friends. My life feels more positive since becoming a member.



Irene Lunt

ORGANIC GARDENING IS GOOD FOR THE SOIL

The Academy is privileged to know some of the very best people. Among them is our good friend Steve Weinberger. Steve is a talented gardener who has donated time, energy, and supplies to the Academy since we first opened our doors. Our burgeoning garden is in large part thanks to Steve, as he has set us up for fruitful success.

Steve worked alongside our members and staff, showing us how to build the garden boxes and then how to fill them with a specific ratio of organic soil, peat, worm castings and perlite. Now that the boxes are built, we are ready to plant our fall garden. Just as we help to prepare our members for productive lives, we take one step at a time, giving each task our full attention. We expect that our vegetables and herbs will flourish just as our members do, with adequate time and attention.



All events take place on-site at the Academy and through the Zoom app. Watch Slack for Meeting ID and Password.

Monday, October 18

Morning Meeting - 9 a.m.
Individual Team Meetings - 9:45 a.m.
Ambassador Luncheon Planning - 11 a.m.
Graphic Des/Multimedia Team Meeting - 1:15 p.m.
Bus & Tech/Culinary Team Meetings - 1:30 p.m.
Graphic Design/Multimedia Workshop - 3 p.m.

Tuesday, October 19

Morning Meeting - 9 .m.
Individual Team Meetings - 9:45 a.m.
Academy Meeting - 1:30 p.m.
Individual Team Meetings - 2 p.m.

Wednesday, October 20

Morning Meeting - 9 a.m.
Individual Team Meetings - 9:45 a.m.
Newsroom Meeting - 11 a.m.
Menu Planning Meeting - 11:45 a.m.
Graphic Des/Multimedia Team Meeting - 1:15 p.m.
Bus & Tech/Culinary Team Meetings - 1:30 p.m.
Wellness Wednesday Workshop - 3 p.m.

Thursday, October 21

Morning Meeting - 9 a.m.
Individual Team Meetings - 9:45 a.m.
Multimedia Projects Planning - 11 a.m.
Graphic Des/Multimedia Team Meeting - 1:15 p.m.
Bus & Tech/Culinary Team Meetings - 1:30 p.m.

Friday, October 22

Breakfast Buffet and Morning Meeting - 9 a.m.
Individual Team Meetings - 10 a.m.
Super Chill Free-write Writer's Workshop - 11 a.m.
Graphic Des/Multimedia Team Meeting - 1:15 p.m.
Bus & Tech/Culinary Team Meetings - 1:30 p.m.
Spanish Workshop - 3 p.m.

<<<< HYBRID WORK-ORDERED DAY >>>>

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AcademySRQ.org

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Thank you for transforming lives!

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