ITServe Alliance

Empowering Local Employment

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2023

ABOUT ITSERVE ALLIANCE

ITServe Alliance is the largest association of IT Services organizations. The alliance is the voice of all prestigious IT companies functioning with similar interests across the United States. Through the years, ITServe has evolved as a resourceful and respected platform to collaborate and initiate measures to protect common interests and ensure collective success.

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SYNERGY2023
ATLANTIC CITY
ITSERVE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NETWORKING - MARKETPLACE - GROWTH - CSR

Thank you All

ITServe THANK YOU ALL for joining this special event from across all the chapters & making this **"Board Introduction & 2023 Synergy Kickoff"** a grand success. Your presence made a difference & memorable for everyone. We thank All Volunteers & Sponsors for their support in making this happen.

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MINNEAPOLIS

CHAPTER LAUNCH & LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

SAVE THE DATE
MARCH 25, 2023

LOCATION
MINNEAPOLIS

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WEST COAST REGIONAL MEET

Bay Area

April 14 & 15, 2023

Host: Bay Area & **Co-Hosts:** Phoenix, Los Angeles, Seattle

Agenda:
- Startup Cube
- Sports (Cricket, Ping-Pong, Volley Ball & Badminton)
- Regional Meeting

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

WELCOME ABOARD
Mr. Jonathan Wasden, Esq.,
As
ITServe's GENERAL COUNSEL

We're excited to welcome Mr. Jonathan Wasden as ITServe's General Counsel, effective February 01, 2023. As our members know, Mr. Wasden has been our legal counsel for the past five years on various litigation matters with excellent success. Some historic victories included USCIS's withdrawal of the Employer-Employee relationship memo (aka, 2010 Neufeld Memo) and the reversal of the 3rd party placement ban for STEM OPT employees. More recently, Mr. Wasden led the effort to have USSIC agree to process H-4 and L-2, concurrently.

As our General Counsel, Mr. Wasden will proactively monitor and address matters of utmost importance to our members. He will work closely with our PAC team and Governing Board, enabling ITServe to deliver swift and cost-effective responses to our members. Members with questions and concerns should reach out to the PAC team at PAC@ITServe.Org. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Wasden to ITServe Alliance.

Best Regards,

Vinod B. Uppu – Governing Board Chair
Vinay K. Mahajan – National President
Kishore Khandavalli - PAC Advisor
Siva Moopanar - PAC Director
#Team ITServe Alliance

221(G) ISSUES: ITSERVE'S SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS WITH THE U.S CONSULATES

As you are aware, ITServe began engaging with the U.S. Dept. of State (Consulates) on 221 (g) issues in early 2022. We continued explaining the court ruling on Proof of Projects/Client letters and saw significant results.

- **Visa Revalidation within the U.S.A:** Dept. of State has announced that it is considering the resumption of renewing visas (H & L Categories) in the U.S. We put a lot of emphasis on this topic in our interactions with lawmakers during our 2022 Capitol Hill Lobby Day (July 11, 2022).
- **221(g)s:** U.S. Consular offices in India have removed all prohibited items from 221(g) letters pursuant to the Federal Court's decisions on Proof of Projects/Client letters. Expecting the new 221 (g) template will reflect these changes.
- **A number of 221(g)s issued in the past requiring client letters are still pending.** We're seeing more 'Administrative Processing' 221(g)s now. We still need to resolve them quickly.

Our General Counsel, Mr.Jon Wasden, is working on filing a lawsuit on the following:

1. Resolve all the old 221 (g)s.
2. Force the Department of State for quicker policy change globally for client letters and 'Administrative Processing' 221(g)s.

Once we are successful with the above lawsuit, it will help everyone across the U.S. Consulates worldwide. Please continue to send your 221(g)s as you receive them to PACAdmin@ITServe.Org to strengthen the lawsuit. Please stay tuned for more updates in the weeks and months ahead. We thank you for your support and trust bestowed on us.

Note: Please inform us immediately if you receive any 221(g) asking for Client Letters from this date forward.

Thanks & Regards,
PAC Team – ITServe Alliance
#Team PAC
Email: PACAdmin@itserve.org

MEETINGS UPDATES

Austin Chapter Kick-off Meeting - In-Person held on Jan 10, 2023

The Speakers for the Event were Andrew Long and Prashanthi Reddy shared insights on H-1 Registrations, H1B Cap Season, RFEs, Inhouse Projects, Dos and Don'ts for H1B Season, Mindset/Habits/Action Steps to Skyrocket your 2023 Results, and Core Team Introduction by Chapter President Hari Bachina.

St. Louis Chapter Kick-off Meeting - In-Person held on Jan 11, 2023

The Speaker for the Event was Joe Garritano shared insights on Financial Management.

Dallas Chapter Kick-off Meeting - In-Person held on Jan 11, 2023

The Speakers for the Event were Kyle Hitchcock, Thomas V. Allen, Bhanu B. Ilindra, Santosh Somireddy, Jon Velie and D Chand Parvathaneni shared insights on Recession proofing your Business & Compliance in Immigration During a Recession.

Charlotte Chapter Kick-off Meeting - In-Person held on Jan 17, 2023

The Speaker for the Event was Joseph Kallabat shared his insights and Meeting Created an Opportunity for In-Person Networking and Everyone had a Memorable Day

Phoenix Chapter Kick-off Meeting - In-Person held on Jan 17, 2023

The Meeting Created an Opportunity for In-Person Networking and Everyone had a Memorable Day

Houston Chapter Kick-off Meeting - In-Person held on Jan 18, 2023

The Speaker for the Event was Matt Bell shared insights on Business Marketing in the Post-Pandemic Era: Why Content Marketing has become Mission Critical for B2B CEOs

MEETINGS UPDATES

Chicago Chapter Kickoff Meeting - In-Person held on Jan 18, 2023

The Speaker for the Event was Kranti Ponnam shared insights on Maximizing Growth in IT Consulting.

Bay Area Chapter Kick-off Meeting - In-Person held on Jan 18, 2023

The Meeting Created an Opportunity for In-Person Networking and Everyone had a Memorable Day

Immigration Webinar with Santosh R. Somireddy, Esq. - Virtual held on Jan 20, 2023

The Speaker for the Event was Santosh R. Somireddy, Esq. shared insights on Immigration Updates, Preparing for FY 2024 H-1B Cap, Immigration Compliance During the Recession, Tips for Safeguarding your Business during the Recession, and Handling 221g Issues.

2023 Board Introduction & Synergy Kickoff - In-Person held on Jan 24, 2023

The Speakers for the Event Rajesh Damarapati and Ravi Nimmagadda shared insights on the Recession: Slowdown, Shifts, and Transformation. Understanding Present Market: Trends, Potential Winning Strategies, and Opportunities.

Atlanta Chapter Kick-off Meeting - In-Person held on Jan 26, 2023

The Speakers for the Event were Sundeep Singh and Srinivas Ramineni shared insights on Business Insights & Perspectives Beyond Staffing and H1B CAP 2024, and Employer Compliance.

New England Chapter Kick-off Meeting - In-Person held on Jan 31, 2023

The Speakers for the Event were Srinivas Ramineni, Durga Rao, Bhanu B. Ilindra, and Sunila Bali shared insights on Ethical considerations for H1B Employers, Cap 2024, FDNS, and issues at the consulates, RFEs, Inhouse Projects, Site Visits, Dos and Don'ts for the H1B Season, Compliance in Immigration during Recession, FDNS Site visits and 221(g)s

CSR INITIATIVES

ITServe Chicago Chapter as part of the 2023 first CSR Activity supported Feed My Starving Children in food distribution by Packing 55 Boxes with 11,880 Meals.

Thanks to all Volunteers from #TeamChicago for your selfless service

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

Visa Bulletin for February 2023

This bulletin summarizes the availability of immigrant numbers during February for: “Final Action Dates” and “Dates for Filing Applications,” indicating when immigrant visa applicants should be notified to assemble and submit required documentation to the National Visa Center.

Click to Know More

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Fee Schedule and Changes to Certain Other Immigration Benefit Request Requirements

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposes to adjust certain immigration and naturalization benefit request fees charged by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). USCIS conducted a comprehensive biennial fee review and determined that its costs have increased considerably since its previous fee adjustment due to expanded humanitarian programs, higher demand, increased processing times, and a need for more USCIS employees

Click to know More

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

USCIS Settles Lawsuit That Should Help H-1B And L-1 Visa Spouses

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) took up to two years to process applications for the spouses of H-1B visa holders who needed work authorization. Attorneys blamed it on Trump administration policies which appear to be designed to prevent spouses from working in the United States.

Click to Know More

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

USCIS Redesigns Green Card and Employment Authorization Document

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today new designs to improve security of Permanent Resident Cards (also known as Green Cards) and Employment Authorization Documents (EADs). USCIS will begin issuing the redesigned cards on Jan. 30, 2023.

Click to know More

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

G-1055, Fee Schedule

Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services released USCIS Form G-1055 Fee Schedule, follow the below link for more Details

Click to Know More

USCIS NOW REQUIRES SEPARATE CHECKS FOR FILING FEES

Practice Alert: AILA Doc. No. 23020103 | Dated February 1, 2023

AILA has received reports from members who have had applications rejected where a single payment was submitted that included fees for the form and biometrics. Reports include Form I-821D/Form I-765 (DACA) and Form N-400.

Despite USCIS's general instructions that biometrics fees may be paid with the fee for the form they accompany, specific filing fee guidance on USCIS.gov includes the following notice:

Pay each filing fee separately. We are transitioning to electronically processing immigration benefit requests, which requires us to use multiple systems to process your package. Because of this, you must pay each filing fee separately for any form you submit. We may reject your entire package if you submit a single, combined payment for multiple forms.

Additionally, at the moment, it remains unclear if the American Competitive and Workforce Act (ACWIA) fee required for Form I-129 will need to be paid individually from the filing fee.

At this juncture, AILA recommends as a best practice that payments be submitted individually for each form or request, including payment for biometrics and ACWIA fees, until the information is clarified

MEMBER BENEFITS

ITServe is providing excellent benefits to members. The benefits team continuously works to enhance benefits for members. Here are some Benefits below that can help:

- ADP Payroll discount of 60%
- MS Office 365 Business basic $1.8 per month for User MS Office 365
- Business Standard $12 per month for user
- Comprehensive Smart Pack with Fed and drug test $72.43 from USA Facts
- No out-of-pocket fee! No retainers or hourly rates for Collection Agency

Please feel free to reach the benefits team by E-Mail: benefits@itserve.org

"SPORTS & WELLNESS" PROGRAM at ITServe Alliance

Staying FIT physically and mentally is the key to keeping pace with the fast-paced world we all live in as entrepreneurs. Being fit and healthy goes without saying to make a difference in our professional and personal lives and maintain balance.

As you all know, the pandemic has taught us the importance of being healthy and its impact on our lives, our families, the well-being of the employees, and the overall organization in general. Some of the benefits we envision through these physical activities and staying engaged will:

- Instill discipline, confidence, team bonding & building, co-existence in a fun-filled environment.
- Help to improve both mental & physical health.
- Enhance member engagement at ITServe through sporting events.
- As the saying goes, healthy minds have more and make a positive contribution to their communities.

ITServe is excited to announce a new initiative to help our members relieve some stress from day-to-day activities by introducing a sports and wellness program. The program in the inaugural year will have Badminton, Cricket, Golf, Table Tennis & Volleyball with Yoga. Complete program details will be published soon.

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Vinay Mahajan
President

Jagadeesh Mosali
President Elect

Anju Vallabhaneni
Secretary

Ravi K. Komatireddy
Joint Secretary

Mahesh Sake
Treasurer

Sunil Savili
Joint Treasurer

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Please feel free to E-Mail us at *PR@itserve.org*

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Director - PR & Media

Veera Sai Gopa
Chair - PR & Media
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Babu Gurram
Chair - PR & Media
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