

Calendar of Events

June 24, 2026

Workshop: How to Lead When You're Not in Charge

Technology Center at Innovation Park

200 Innovation Boulevard - Room 243

State College, PA 16801

08:00 AM - 10:00 AM EST

Learn how to lead with influence, not just authority.

This interactive session equips participants with practical tools to gain buy-in, communicate with confidence, and contribute meaningfully to their team and organization, regardless of their title. Ideal for emerging leaders, team leads, and anyone navigating responsibility without formal power.

This program is valid for 2.0 PDCs for SHRM-CP® or SHRM-SCP® recertification.

This program has been approved for 2.0 HR (General) recertification credit hour toward aPHR®, aPHRi™, PHR®, PHRca®, SPHR®, GPHR®, PHRi™, and SPHRi™ recertification through the HR Certification Institute.

PRESENTER:

Steve Lutz

Steve Lutz is a strategist, keynote speaker, and three-time published author. He serves as a Senior Leadership Development Consultant and the Dean of Leadership Flight School at Bartell & Bartell, Ltd., where he equips leaders across industries with practical tools to build stronger teams, navigate change, and scale culture. A former pastor and creator of numerous e-courses, Steve blends psychometric expertise with real-world insight to deliver high-impact coaching and development experiences.

November 4, 2026

Members Only - Leadership Roundtable Discussion - AI in HR (Virtual Session)

Virtual Session

02:00 PM - 04:00 PM EST

November 4, 2026 - 2-4PM

Virtual Session

Topic: AI in HR - Use and Impact to Local Employers

Learn how fellow members are using AI to support HR. What policies & best practices are our members experiencing? What re-skilling are our members pursuing to use AI effectively?

Leadership Roundtable Discussions (LRTs)

Leadership Roundtable Discussions (LRTs) are designed to bring experienced HR leaders together in a confidential, peer-driven environment to engage in meaningful conversations about today's most pressing workplace challenges. These interactive sessions focus on sharing real-world experiences, exchanging ideas, and learning from one another in a way that is practical, strategic, and immediately applicable.

Each LRT is a two-hour, in-depth discussion experience. The first hour is a facilitated conversation centered on the specific topic. The second hour is intentionally flexible, allowing participants to raise additional questions, explore challenges they are currently facing, and benefit from the collective insight of the group.

LRTs are a members-only benefit and are currently free to attend. Participation is intentionally limited to support meaningful dialogue and ensure a high-value experience for everyone involved.

Who Can Participate in Leadership Roundtable Discussions?

The LRTs are an opportunity for Sr. leaders of an organization's HR responsibilities to openly discuss current HR issues, needs they have, and to learn from other local employers the practices they are using to have outstanding HR functions. To that end we are asking participants in the LRTs to:

Limit 2 participants per organization. For multi-division or enterprise organizations where HR responsibilities are decentralized, participation may include 1 representative per independently functioning HR unit.

Participants should be in Strategic HR decision making roles within the HR department of their organization, a rising-leader designated by the organization's HR leader or have top level responsibility for HR in their organization (i.e. business owner with HR responsibility, Office Manager leading the HR function).

Participants must be members in good standing of the CK SHRM Chapter (Name change pending to Happy Valley HR Association) – this is a membership value-added benefit.

Participants must agree to confidentiality and refrain from sharing identifiable information of participants and their organizations outside of the LRT meetings.

Want to attend but not sure if you meet the criteria? Contact Tina Welch (tina.welch@wpchr.com.) for assistance. The intention is not to exclude HR professionals, but to limit the participation to a manageable size and where conversation can be strategic and impactful.

Not a Member of the Local SHRM Chapter Yet?

If you are not currently a member but would like to participate in Leadership Roundtable Discussions, we invite you to join our local SHRM chapter. Annual dues are \$50 and include a wide range of benefits, such as:

Monthly educational programming, with discounted member pricing, and SHRM and HRCI recertification credits

Quarterly roundtable events like the Leadership Roundtable Discussions

A locally hosted Law Conference in October in State College, with discounted member pricing

Networking with a community of HR professionals navigating similar challenges and opportunities

Opportunities to stay current, connected, and engaged in the local HR community

To learn more about membership and how to join, click [HERE](#).

Members Only - Leadership Roundtable Discussion - Resources Outside Your Company (Virtual Session)

08:00 AM - 10:00 AM EST

June 10, 2026 - 8-10AM

Virtual Session

Topic: Resources Outside Your Company

What external resources are bringing you value? . . . Payroll, HRCM, background checks, ATS, AI platforms, benefit admin, reward and recognitions resources etc.? Share and learn with fellow members what is helpful and worth the investment.

This program is valid for 2.0 PDCs for SHRM-CP® or SHRM-SCP® recertification.

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July 23, 2026

Employment Strategies to Accommodate Individuals on the Autism Spectrum
Technology Center at Innovation Park
200 Innovation Boulevard - Room 243
State College, PA 16801

02:00 PM - 04:00 PM EST

Description

This presentation, delivered by experienced placement experts, explores practical, inclusive employment strategies to help individuals on the autism spectrum secure and maintain meaningful employment. Drawing on evidence-based practices and real-world placement experience, this session highlights how employers can create supportive environments through tailored job matching, structured onboarding, clear communication practices, and reasonable workplace accommodations. Attendees will gain actionable insights into fostering neurodiversity, improving retention, and building workplace cultures that recognize and leverage the unique strengths of individuals on the autism spectrum.

Objectives

Identify evidence-based strategies for supporting individuals on the autism spectrum in securing and maintaining meaningful employment, including tailored job matching and structured onboarding practices.

Explain how clear communication, workplace accommodations, and inclusive practices can improve employee retention and overall workplace success.

Apply practical approaches to fostering neurodiversity in the workplace by recognizing and leveraging the unique strengths of individuals on the autism spectrum.

This program is valid for 1.5 PDCs for SHRM-CP® or SHRM-SCP® recertification.

This program has been approved for 1.5 HR (General) recertification credit hour toward aPHR®, aPHRi™, PHR®, PHRca®, SPHR®, GPHR®, PHRi™, and SPHRi™ recertification through the HR Certification Institute.

Presenter

Laura Gardner

Clinical Administrator, Skills of Central PA

Laura Gardner is the Clinical Administrator at Skills of Central PA, where she provides strategic clinical leadership across a wide range of behavioral health programs, including Psychiatric Rehabilitation (site-based and mobile), Clubhouse, Peer Support Services, and Behavioral Support Services. With more than 20 years of experience as a Mental Health Therapist and over 27 years in the mental health and human services field, Laura brings a deep understanding and unwavering commitment to person-centered care.

Her diverse career includes roles in behavioral health, higher education, mobile therapy, and wraparound services, showcasing her versatility and dedication to supporting individuals with mental health challenges and intellectual disabilities.

Laura is especially passionate about working with adolescents and adults facing a variety of mental health diagnoses, substance abuse issues, and intellectual disabilities. She advocates for a person-first approach, firmly believing in the power of recovery and the human potential for growth, change, and becoming one's best self.

To stay at the forefront of the field, Laura continually engages in professional development through training, conferences, and workshops, integrating evidence-based practices into her work and leadership.

August 27, 2026

The Self-Aware Leader: Preventing Burnout from the Inside Out

Technology Center at Innovation Park

200 Innovation Boulevard - Room 243

State College, PA 16801

02:00 PM - 04:00 PM EST

Overview:

Employee engagement is often treated as a culture initiative, but engagement cannot be sustained when individual capacity is steadily declining. Burnout develops gradually, beginning with subtle shifts in energy, focus, and resilience that are easy to overlook until they begin affecting performance and team dynamics.

In this interactive and energizing session, leadership and organizational development practitioner Samm Smeltzer helps participants understand how burnout unfolds along a continuum and how personal capacity shapes engagement at work. Using Samm's Burnout Stages Assessment—completed during registration—attendees will explore anonymized group insights and gain a clearer picture of how capacity levels influence communication, motivation, and workplace effectiveness.

Blending organizational development insight with practical approaches to rebuilding energy, this session leaves participants with a deeper awareness of their own capacity and a renewed perspective on how sustainable engagement begins with self-aware leadership.

Learning Objectives:

Explain how burnout develops along a continuum and how individual capacity influences employee engagement and performance.

Interpret group burnout assessment data to identify patterns affecting engagement within their teams or organizations.

Recognize foundational principles of energy capacity and how they support sustained engagement and workplace well-being.

This program is valid for 1.75 PDCs for SHRM-CP® or SHRM-SCP® recertification.

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Presenter:

Samm Smeltzer, Energetic Health Advocate, Author of Five Books, and Founder of The HRart Center

Samm Smeltzer knows that when leaders care for their own energy, everyone benefits. With more than a decade of experience as an award-winning HR leader, Samm now leads The HRart (pronounced "heart") Center, where she helps individuals and organizations create workplaces where people feel valued, balanced, and energized. Blending her background in HR and Classical Oriental Medicine, Samm bridges the gap between well-being and performance through her work as a Medical Qigong Therapist. She is the author of five books, including Workplace Healers and the children's book The Little Healer, which introduces young readers to the magic of energy and self-care. Through her writing, speaking, and practice, Samm helps leaders and teams cultivate energetic awareness, recover from burnout, and reconnect with the vitality that drives sustainable growth and genuine human connection.

September 2, 2026

Members Only - Leadership Roundtable Discussion - Time Off & Leave Policies and Practices
Technology Center at Innovation Park - Room 243
200 Innovation Boulevard
State College, PA 16801
02:00 PM - 04:00 PM EST
September 2, 2026 - 2-4 PM
In-Person
Topic: Time Off & Leave Policies and Practices

Discuss what time off policies and practices are working to engage your workforce. How do they support/interact with other requirements such as ADA, FMLA, and State or Regional laws?

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September 24, 2026

Risk Management & Risk Transfer as They Relate to HR & Administrative Functions
Technology Center at Innovation Park
200 Innovation Boulevard - Room 243
State College, PA 16801
02:00 PM - 04:00 PM EST
What you will learn in this session:

How to start a safety committee and why it is important

Creating engagement through action

Return to work – Why it matters (culture and cost)
Employment Practices Liability (EPLI) & how administrative processes support better outcomes and less expensive claims

Importance of disciplinary documentation and uniformity in process

Cyber – Best practices and how to reduce frequency & severity

Importance of continuity planning

Non-insurance risk transfer and why it is more important than ever
General compliance and licensure

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PRESENTER:

Anthony DiNallo Bio:

Anthony DiNallo began his tenure at the State College office of The Hartman Agency in 2004 as an Account Executive for Commercial Lines, consulting with businesses on their property and casualty insurance needs. He was previously employed as a Grant Administrator at Lycoming County Government.

Anthony earned his Bachelor's degree in Finance from East Carolina University. He is a former United States Marine, serving with 3rd Battalion 6th Marines as an infantryman. Anthony currently sits on the American Builders and Contractors Board and is a board member of Centre Helps. Anthony has his "ARM" (Associate in Risk Management) designation.

Brady Grove Bio:

Brady Grove works in our State College office as a Producer with the commercial lines team providing service to our property and casualty clients.

Brady is a native of Williamsport and a Lock Haven University graduate. Before joining our team, he served as the Corporate Manager for a technology-based auto supply business. Prior to that, Brady was an Athletic Director and High School Teacher. Brady

and his family live in State College and enjoy spending time outdoors.

Curtis Shulman Bio:

Curtis joined the Hartman Group with an extensive background in private industry. Most recently, Curtis served as the Director of Operations for Hotel State College, a hospitality company located in Downtown State College, including The Corner Room, Allen Street Grill, Pickles, Zeno's and Chumley's. Prior to this, he worked as a casino executive in Las Vegas with The Wynn, and with MGM Resorts. He is active in both the State College and Williamsport offices, providing service to existing clients, producing new business. Curtis is a PA native and graduated from Penns Valley High School and York College. He resides in State College with his wife, Brittany, and his daughter, Cora.

October 29, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!! 2026 Labor & Employment Law Update & Conference

Toftrees Conference Center

1 Country Club Ln.

State College, PA 16803

08:30 AM - 03:00 PM EST

Save the date for a full day with McNees, Wallace, & Nurick

More details coming soon.

Thursday, October 29, 2026

Toftrees Conference Center, State College, PA