

Meeting Minutes: Lavine, Lofgren, Morris, and Engelberg WFH, "Zooming," and Remote Success

11/8/2021

Presenters:

<u>William Abel:</u> Tax Manager, Been with the LLMS ~1 year, from the Bay Area abelb@llme.com

<u>Remington Mosey:</u> New Tax Manager, USD Alumni, born and raised in San Diego <u>moseyr@llme.com</u>

Presentation:

LLME:

- Local firm based in La Jolla, 80 employees and growing
- Big firm expertise, small firm feel
- Founded in 1985
- Member of BKR International
- Lots of fun activities done at the firm!

How LLME Does Work From Home (WFH)!

- Everyone in the firm was included in a group chat
 - o People sent pictures of their WFH life; kids, pets, etc.

Fall Recruiting Important Information!

Currently hiring for full time tax and audit associates to start in January or August

WFH: The Virtual Side of Things: Dealing with the ever-changing work environment

- WFH New Norms
 - Covid forced businesses to adapt to virtual environment
 - Employees transition to online/remote work

Some WFH Advantages

- Saving time and Money on commute, reduced pollution
 - Some positive effects on the environment
- Increased work life balance (?)
 - Studies show that people who work from home tend to work longer
 - Potentially because of less disconnect from work

- Advantage of being able to leave work and instantly be able to relax
 - However, it's harder to stay diligent during work hours
- Safety (Virus Spread)

Challenges with WFH

- Distractions
 - o Different scenarios for those who live on their own than those who live with family
- Increased isolation
- More difficult to have routine
 - Some thrive at home more, some thrive at work more. It depends!
 - o More flexibility in starting, but it is easy to push schedule around
- Less office perks

Mitigating the Downsides of WFH

- Have a set office space
- · Create a routine and stick with it
- Work from the office when possible
 - o Can be helpful during stressful times and when you're new to a firm
- Set boundaries with household members about work time

Zoom Etiquette

- Focus on speaker/screen
 - Avoid doing other activities, it is still obvious when on zoom
- Have your camera on
 - People will be able to know your face!
- Good microphone
- Body Language still matters

Online Event Preparation

- Test your hardware and wifi
 - o If you are taking it in a public place, make sure the wifi is strong enough
- Dress like you would for an in person meeting
- Find a quiet place
- Check your background
 - o Can use digital, or a plain IRL one.

How to Thrive Remotely: Showcasing Professionalism Online

- Timely Responding to emails and team messages
 - Everyone, not just those who are your senior
- Make yourself available, communicate with busy
 - o Make sure you make the effort to reach out to those who you are working with
 - Has always been important, but is even more critical in a digital work environment!
- Going above and beyond

- o Overcommunication is never a bad thing!
- To be successful, you do generally have to spend more time reaching out and making connections in a virtual environment than in person
- Time management is your best friend!

Questions: