

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium
Members and Resource Partners
Minutes
1/03/08

The January 3rd meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was called to order by president Vickie DeThomas at 7:30 AM.

Present

Members

Vickie DeThomas – OmniTech Partners
Bill Elwell – Alpha Carb Enterprises
Patrick Huth – Electro-Optics Center
Joe Goldcamp – Natures Blend Wood Products
Chuck Slagle – CES Design
Randy Bowser – ALKAB
Alex Stockmal – Mid-Atlantic District Labs

Resource Partners

Justin Nolder – Armstrong County
Rich Muth – IUP Northpointe
Pat Hollinger – Penn State New Ken
Karma Edwards – MAC
Lori Harvey – TCWIB
Marie Dillon-Griffith – CareerLink
David English – AET

Minutes

Prior meeting minutes were approved without change upon a motion by Joe Goldcamp seconded by Chuck Slagle.

Charter Changes

The consortium charter has been amended to include two changes.

- The term of office for all officer positions has been extended to four (4) years.
- The office of immediate past president or chair has been added to the executive committee.

Meeting Changes

For a trial period of one quarter, meetings will alternate between members-only and open to all including resource partners. The February meeting will be a members-only meeting.

Each month, a segment of the meeting will be set aside to highlight an individual member company.

Colored name tents have been put into effect to help new members distinguish between member companies and resource partners.

Committees

Five new committees are in place, and members and resource partners are asked to sign up to serve on a committee. The committees and chairs are:

- Education Awareness Vickie DeThomas
- New Members Doug Bartosh
- Preferred Vendors Joanne Petras

- Public Awareness Jeff Fullerton
- Training Joe Goldcamp

Safety Video Library

The Electro-Optics Center has funded the purchase of ten safety video programs on DVD for use by members. The DVDs are in the resource library at the AET. Members can sign out the programs by contacting David or Pat.

Workforce Forum Update

Flyers for the presentations by futurist Ed Barlow were distributed for the sessions to be held on Monday evening, January 21 at Lenape Tech and Tuesday morning, January 22 at Lenape Heights Golf Course. All were encouraged to attend.

Marie Dillon-Griffith reported on plans to work with Apollo-Ridge and Armstrong school districts on career awareness and exploration programs this spring. Both districts will be looking for employers to interact with students during these programs. Invitations and more information will follow over the next several months.

David English reported that a student forum program is planned for the Friday of the ARMTech Showcase with selected students from all county high schools to work with a business mentor while visiting the showcase.

Member Certificates

A sample ACMC member certificate was passed around for review. Lori Harvey is working on preparing one for each member to display at their shop/plant/office.

Video Project

Filming for the video project began in January and is to finish in February. Armstrong County firms to be featured include OmniTech Partners, Nature’s Blend, and the Electro-Optics Center. Indiana County firms will be filmed on January 8 and 9, with Armstrong firms to follow.

The ultimate goal for the program is to have it ready to show at the ARMTech Showcase.

Member Updates

- Electro-Optics Center:* Making school visits.
- Nature’s Blend:* IUP students are helping with Lean Manufacturing training. They hope to implement the training in a couple areas of the plant. Joe Goldcamp and Vickie DeThomas encouraged members to consider bringing in Penn State or IUP for training, not just on the floor.
- ALKAB:* They are experiencing peaks and valleys. They have found some new business as competitors go away.
- OSTI:* Purchased the North Buffalo Elementary School (“deed in hand.”) They will be moving grinding and polishing to that building. They have purchased 4 machines with 2 more coming. Engineering staff from Keystone are also moving

to the new building. They are hoping to have a couple of new products by the end of the year.

It was suggested that we need to find a way to help companies with ISO training and perhaps certification.

Resource Partner Updates

- MAC:* Starting a new class on Monday. Karma stressed the importance of getting people to training for those who apply for jobs but do not have the skills necessary. They do give out packets with training programs and funding available as well as employers offering apprenticeship programs.
- Armstrong County:* ARMTech Showcase dates should be finalized by March.
- TCWIB:* Lori sent out training survey link by e-mail; the survey is on Survey Monkey. If any member did not receive the link, please contact Lori. There are now WEDnetPA funds available for groups such as consortia. Among the Industry Partnership grant funding, there is \$25,000 left for the Dream It Do It campaign (the original request was for \$45,000.) \$105,000 is available for incumbent worker training.
- IUP Northpointe:* Classes begin in a couple of weeks. The 2+2+2 program is expanding to Northern Westmoreland and Butler Vo-Techs.
- Penn State:* Pat is working with WEDnetPA deadlines. She will be sending out information on courses offered.
- CareerLink:* Current unemployment rate for the county is 5.2%. The most recent Work Certified class ended in December in Armstrong County, and a new class begins January 14 in Butler County. Another round of layoffs at Eljer last Saturday will have an impact on 40 more individuals.

The next meeting will be a members-only meeting scheduled for February 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM.