

Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium

Minutes

May 07, 2009

The May 7th meeting of the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium was brought to order by Vickie DeThomas at 8:00 am.

Vickie asked Joanne to send out an e-mail before each meeting to see if members are planning to attend.

ARMTech Showcase of Industry and Technology

The Armtech Showcase will be held on August 19-21.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for coverage of the booth at the showcase. If anyone has any questions on the event, please contact Alex Stockmal.

Tri-County Meeting

The Tri-County meeting will be held in Armstrong County, possibly at IUP Northpointe. The other Consortia are interested in having Tom Palisin, the state's manufacturing ombudsman, come in to talk about manufacturing as well as other speakers from the state. This meeting will most likely be held in late July. There will be a continental breakfast and a bus may be available from outlying areas (Butler and Indiana.) The chairs are going to meet again on May 21; more information will be given at the June meeting. Joanne volunteered to contact members to inquire about their interest in participating in this meeting.

2008-2009 Industry Partnership Funding

The funding came in late. There are \$4000 dedicated to Educator in the Workplace and \$2000 dedicated to Student Forum. There are other funds left for STEM and career fairs. There may be requests for FASE-related programming. Vickie received a recent request from Slippery Rock for a program for girls.

Marketing is yet to be determined. We may continue the radio program but it may work best if it is a tri-county process. We are in the process of getting more pamphlets printed for use.

Training dollars: \$100,000+ for tuition reimbursement. Three companies in Armstrong County took advantage, OSTI and KAT and JIT. There were more companies in Butler and Indiana that took advantage of the opportunity. There have been questions about using these funds for internal training; Ken will look into this possibility.

Shared training: We have enough funding for these classes.

Human Resources Update - IUP (could be held at AET)

Going Green/Facility - Penn State (could be held at AET)

Going Green/Product - Penn State (could be held at AET)

Strategic Business Communication - BC3 (could be held there or at another central location)

All of these classes must be paid for before June 30, but the classes may not be held before then. If anyone has employees wanting to attend, please contact Ken Raybuck with the information.

Welding was put on hold for now due to possible other funding available for that purpose (Clarion has a grant for this purpose of more than \$300,000). In addition, it has been difficult to identify what type of welding is needed for each company.

Joanne will send out notice to all members after Ken sends it to her by e-mail. We will need to figure out who is interested in each topic.

Tri-County Technology Consortium does still have about \$20,000 left in training funds.

2009-2010 Industry Partnership Funding

Mary Salony will begin writing these grant proposals soon. Tuition reimbursement will definitely be a part of the request again, but we will need to figure out what topics are of interest for shared training.

There may be a stipulation added to training participation that companies must attend at least one meeting a quarter.

Other issues: video-conferencing possibilities - waiting to hear from the Tri-County Technology Consortium work, perhaps moving meetings to less than once a month, etc.

Committee Reports

Public Awareness - Dynamic Manufacturing did the radio show most recently.

New Members - Vickie will meet with the committee to re-visit the campaign to recruit new members.

Other Items

Balance in the ACMC checking account is \$2190.80. Joanne checked on rates for CDs - they are variable right now.

Vickie and Lori are re-vamping the ACMC pamphlet, taking out the members' list.

Old Business

Educator in the Workplace - there are 16 teachers who have applied. Companies will be contacted soon to make connections. Consider whether we can purchase other materials for the teachers to use when they return to the classroom.

Student Forum - there will be 2 students from each school going to the exhibitors' booths to represent the company. Vickie asked resource partners for information to give to the students - probably 200 of each.

Regional Approach - there will be a push to work with the three counties on joint approaches and partnering. Vickie said this may include Neil Ashbaugh and one of several members in Indiana.

FASE - Sponsorships for Butler AVTS and Penn State New Kensington as well as elementary school program at Lenape Elementary School. The FASE pamphlets were sent to all sixth-grade girls. They also paid for girls to attend a robotics program.

Member Updates

OmniTech – There were no layoffs at this time. They are waiting to hear on contracts and foreign countries.

Dielectric Solutions – They are working through the legal and competitive issues related to their status. Things are looking better but it will be awhile before things are back to pre-layoff status.

Fuzion Technologies – Business is slow. They have laid off an amount of employees to wait out the down time.

Resource Partner Updates

It seems that training is down everywhere right now. The economy is so down that the companies are putting all hands into the efforts and cannot set aside time for training.

Next Meeting

We will have a speaker from Congresswoman Dahlkemper's office to talk about the funding available through the Recovery and Reinvestment Funds. The next meeting will be held on June 4th at 8:00 am.