

**Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium
Monthly Meeting
October 2, 2008**

Attending:

Members

Vickie DeThomas (OSTI)
Alex Stockmal (Mid-Atlantic District Labs)
Diane Dowling (Nature's Blend)
Jeff Fullerton (DRS Technologies)
Jim Pish (Dielectric Solutions)

Resource Partners

Kate Hall (Clarion SBDC)
Marie Dillon-Griffith (PA CareerLink)
Pat Hollinger (Penn State New Ken)
Rich Muth (IUP Northpointe)
Joe Fullerton (Lenape Tech)
Lori Harvey (Tri-County WIB)
David English (AET)

Guest

Kevin Bode (Employee Benefits)

President DeThomas called the meeting to order at 7:36 AM.

Minutes

The minutes of the September meeting were reviewed. Upon a motion to accept by Alex Stockmal, seconded by Diane Dowling, the minutes were approved as written by voice vote.

President's Report

Vickie DeThomas reported on:

- The next meeting will be held on November 6 at the Belmont Complex with speakers from the Lehigh Valley WIB, including Nancy Dischinat, executive director.
- The December meeting of the consortium will be a members-only meeting.
- The January meeting of the consortium will be held on the second Thursday, January 8, due to the New Year's Day holiday.

Nominations for officer positions should be sent to Joanne Petras by November 15. Elections will be held at the December meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Since Joanne Petras was unable to attend the meeting, Vickie reported that the current balance in the consortium account is \$2894.55.

Committee Reports

Public Awareness:

The radio campaign continues. The committee is looking for ideas for upcoming shows. Please contact Jeff Fullerton, Lori Harvey, or David English.

Training:

Advanced Employment Law is scheduled to be held at the Trust on October 29. There are 20 participants signed up, the maximum for the class.

We have not heard yet from the state on this year's industry partnership funding.

Educational Awareness:

There is a request to allow participation in the Work Certified program from those who do not hold a GED or high school diploma. After discussion on this issue, the members and resource partners agreed that the consortium does not support this request.

New Members:

The committee is updating the list of prospects and drafting a recruitment letter. The plan is to send out a letter with consortium packet to prospects in January, using the new officers' signatures.

Special Guest Presentation

Kevin Bode presented an informative session on health insurance trends and alternative plans.

Partner Updates

Lenape:

A survey for welding/soldering needs as well as blueprint reading is out for member completion. Please return your survey to Joe Fullerton.

An e-Mentoring program is to be piloted through Lenape. Mentors are to be recruited to work with students through electronic mail. Please contact Joe if you are interested.

In response to a question about electrical technician training, Joe said the program is not available through Lenape at present, but if we can determine the exact need, a program may be prepared.

Other Items

Vickie DeThomas thanked everyone for all that has been accomplished over the last four years.

Alex Stockmal reported on his review of potential non-profit status. He recommended consideration of pursuing 501 c 6 status (membership non-profit). Cost is approximately \$1000, and the timeframe may be between 2 months and 2 years to complete all the necessary paperwork and filing.

With no other business, President DeThomas adjourned the meeting at 9:05 AM.