

**Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium
Monthly Meeting – Members Only
December 4, 2008**

Attending:

Members

Vickie DeThomas (OSTI)
Alex Stockmal (Mid-Atlantic District Labs)
Mandi Marcusek (Nature's Blend)
Joe Goldcamp (Nature's Blend)
Jeff Fullerton (DRS Technologies)
Jim Pish (Dielectric Solutions)
Bill Ellwell (AlphaCarb)
Joanne Petras (Fuzion Technologies)
Pat Huth (Electro-Optics)
Chuck Slagle (CES Designs)

Resource Partners

Marie Dillon-Griffith (PA CareerLink)
Lori Harvey (Tri-County WIB)
David English (AET)

President DeThomas called the meeting to order at 7:30AM and stated this would be her last meeting as President.

Minutes

The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. Upon a motion to accept by Joe Goldcamp, seconded by Alex Stockmal, the minutes were approved as written by voice vote.

President's Report

Vickie DeThomas reported on the history of accomplishments of the group over its four year life span:

- Training – The Work Certified Program has begun and has students. The cost of the program was \$25,000. The SET-Program was established for entry level training. The cost of this program was \$20,000.
- Manufacturing Image – There was a large effort to change the image of manufacturing via, Radio, TV Commercials, Cable and Videos
- Speakers – There have been over 40 speakers over the past 4 years. The PA Ombudsman, Benefits, Educational Resources, Vendor Resources and many more.
- Grants – There were Tri-County grants totaling \$684,500. Armstrong County received an additional \$350,000 exclusively for the Armstrong Manufacturing Consortium.
- The 4-year goals of the Consortium have been met.
- The Consortium has achieved a great reputation with the state.

Treasurer's Report

Joanne Petras reported that the current balance in the consortium account is \$2514.55.

Tri-County Update

Butler County Consortium:

Butler County is still growing but has not gotten anymore companies than what Armstrong County has as members. They are focusing on schools and getting the students excited. They are using commercials and radio shows. They are involved with schools to use software to connect schools and businesses. The Armstrong County Schools are not as willing to cooperate as the ones in Butler County. They are trying to initiate a reimbursement program similar to the Armstrong County Manufacturing Consortium uses.

Indiana County Consortium:

Indiana currently has 20 companies some are doing extremely well while others are struggling to survive. They re initiating the PRIDE program to motivate their employees with this reward program. Clark Industries, 175 employees, increased their profit by 600% since beginning this program. We have been asked to join a video conferencing meeting on December 16th to receive more details on this program that originated in Japan.

TriCounty Funding:

The group was told that each county would receive \$10,825 for Education in the Workplace, Career shows, etc. There is also \$166,000 for training; ½ for the tuition reimbursement program. It is recommended since each company has different training needs that they should take advantage of this program so they can customize their company's training. There were some shared topics such as: Helping Companies Go Green, Welding Programs, H/R Topics, KAIZEN and Customer Service.

Future of the Group:

The terms for the Consortium Board are up and Vickie DeThomas said there were three options for restructuring the group.

- (1) New Board Members – President, Vice President & Secretary/Treasurer. The office of Past-Chair was added to assist the new board with decisions.
- (2) A group of 3 or 4 members from each cluster could have meetings & then have quarterly meetings as a large group.
- (3) An entity separate from the group would facilitate the meeting but it would still require election of new officers.

Alex Stockmal volunteered to be Interim President, Joe Goldcamp for Interim Vice President and Joanne Petras volunteered to be Secretary/Treasurer for another year. Vickie DeThomas will be holding the office of Immediate Past Chair which sits as Co-Chair. David English, Lori Harvey and Marie Dillon-Griffith graciously offered their full continued support to keep the group functioning as smoothly as possible.

The group is also concerned about having volunteers to perform what is necessary to keep the Consortium running. It was suggested by Jeff Fullerton to maybe lower the membership fees. Joe Goldcamp stated new members would possibly solve the volunteer issues. The new membership committee will decide on a dues amount and bring a recommendation to the group in January. Bill Ellwell stated that many companies cannot afford to be away from the office for the meeting so it discouraged them from joining. Jeff Fullerton suggested the use of technology to promote membership so the members would not have to be away from their companies. It was also suggested again to have some of the members's only meetings at company locations.

With no other business, President DeThomas adjourned the meeting at 9:35 AM. The next meeting will be held on January 8th, 2008 at 7:30 am.