

**N.E.W. Manufacturing Alliance**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
January 21, 2009  
Coating Excellence International

*Minutes*

**Attendees:** John Davis, Mark Kaiser, Chris Linn, Shannon Niccum, John West, Jeff Pallini, Ron Buchinger, Cheryl Welch, Mike Nowak, and Ann Franz

**Topic 1: Steering committee members and Task Force leadership.**

The Steering committee has four new members:

- Mark Kaiser – Lindquist Machine
- Jeff Pallini – Fosber
- Ron Buchinger – CMD Corp.
- John West – Fox Valley Metal-Tech

Two people from last year's committee did not renew: Tom Krajewski and Barb Krueger. It was decided that each task force should have a chair that would be responsible for setting 2-3 goals for the task force and identify at least one metric. Ernie Remondini has agreed to chair the Recruitment task force. Chris Linn will serve as chair for Communications and Shannon Niccum for K-12 Outreach/Training.

**Topic 2: Goals for upcoming year (alignment with New North goals)**

New North has a new committee called, "Business/Education Alignment." This committee is trying to identify if the various committees and organizations are working on similar goals. New North identified six goals and would like the Alliance to identify if what we are working on are in line with theirs. At first glance, it seems like they are similar to the Alliance's goals. John will be meeting with the chairs of the task forces and solidify our goals and then we will be better able to determine if they are in alignment.

**Topic 3: Associate membership**

Several companies (i.e. Optima and transportation companies) have approached the Alliance about membership. John stated that it may be time to consider Associate membership with some of these companies. The benefits would be more revenue for programming and participation on task forces. One negative is businesses might be joining only so they can sell their services to the manufacturing members. The Recruitment task force will discuss this issue at its next meeting and bring back a recommendation and criteria for Associate membership at the next Steering committee meeting.

**Topic 4: Request for funding**

The following have been approved for funding:

Copper Leaf Hotel - \$146.31 (conference room/beverages for Dec. 2008 General Membership meeting)  
Insight publications - \$445 (Dec. 2008 issue as well as funding quarterly ads for 2009)  
Green Bay Chamber - \$80 (Career Expo booth)  
Infinity - \$742.50 (restoring website after it crashed and adding artwork/link for All-Star magazine)

**Topic 5: Next Quarterly General Membership meeting**

Several topics were discussed for the next General Membership meeting including Lean, sustainability and inviting elected officials. It was determined that due to the economic climate/credit crunch, two bank representatives will be asked to present. Jeff will invite a rep from Nicolet Bank and M & I. The date for the next General Membership meeting will be on March 11 at 1 p.m. in Green Bay.

**Topic 6: Next steps and next meeting**

Cheryl shared that she is a new member of the Great Lakes Manufacturing Association. The next Steering committee meeting will be held on Feb. 25 at 3 p.m. at Coating Excellence International.