

N.E.W. Manufacturing Alliance
Steering Committee Meeting
February 25, 2009
Coating Excellence International

Minutes

Attendees: John Davis, Mark Kaiser, Maribeth Zeller, John West, Jeff Pallini, Ron Buchinger, Mike Nowak, Jerry Murphy, Jim Golembeski, Bobbi Miller and Ann Franz

Topic 1: Goals for 2009

John Davis has set a strategic planning session with the chairs of the three task forces on March 4, 2009. Mark stressed the importance of setting goals that have metrics to support if they are effective or not. The Steering committee agreed that the goal of positioning New North as a hub for manufacturing opportunities should be removed. New North is better equipped to address this effort.

The benefits of having Associate memberships were discussed. The committee agreed that in 2009 there should be a focus on enhancing/developing partnerships with manufacturers, education, and organizations (Boys and Girls Club). In addition, the Steering committee would like to see a benefits structure of membership outlined.

Topic 2: Task force updates

K-12 Outreach & Training – The goals for 2009 will be:

- Produce a portable K-12 assembly program
- Present 4 high school assembly programs
- Present 2 middle school assembly programs
- Produce two career pathways in CNC Machining and Industrial Maintenance

Two facilitated meetings were held to develop a career pathway in CNC and Industrial Maintenance careers.

Electro-Mechanical/Industrial Maintenance

Employers participating: Aarrowcast, Coating Excellence International, Georgia Pacific, Little Rapids, Fosber America, Johnsonville and Paper Converting Machine Co.

CNC Machinist

Employers participating: Centerline Machining, Lindquist Machine, Velocity Machine, Robinson Metals, EMT International, Fox Valley Metal-Tech, PCMC, Innovative Machine, and World Class Manufacturing.

Companies filled out a spreadsheet listing the occupations in each pathway, wage, skill sets needed, level of difficulty in filling position and skill gaps.

Recruitment – The 2009 Goals for the Recruitment task force are:

- 25 new members
- 100% retention
- Sponsorship of Manufacturing & Technology Career Fair

Each task force member will contact 5 businesses about joining the Alliance by the next meeting. The Steering committee is also encouraged to contact business colleagues.

The Manufacturing & Technology Career Fair will be held on May 6, 2009 at Fox Valley Technical College.

Before the job fair, at 11:30 a.m., there will be a presentation on the future of manufacturing and careers that will be in demand. After the presentation, there will be three breakout sessions on a variety of topics including, career speakers, career planning, interviewing skills, and how to use networking in obtaining your next job. The Alliance was asked to present at the 11:30 a.m. session.

Communications – the goals for 2009 will be to revamp the Alliance’s website and produce a 2010 All Stars magazine. The task force is meeting with the website contact management system finalists (Build My Own Site.Com and Infinity) on Friday, March 6. The new website will be funded by the RISE 2 grant.

Topic 3: Quarterly General Membership meeting

Jeff will contact the speakers for the March meeting about what topics we would like them to address. Suggestions included what do lenders see in the stimulus package related to manufacturers, how long will it be until manufacturers and their customers will be able to access capital and what can manufacturers do to assist their customers in getting financing. Each speaker will have 20-25 minutes.

The June quarterly General Membership meeting was set for June 17, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Fox Valley Technical College. In order to encourage networking, a cash bar will be made available after the meeting. Jerry will contact Godfrey & Kahn about speaking about the stimulus bill for the June meeting.

Topic 4: Request for funding

The committee approved the purchase of printing membership recruitment brochures.

Topic 5: Endowment fund

Paul Rauscher asked John Davis to address the idea of the Alliance sponsoring a college endowment fund. The committee’s initial impression is to have a scholarship fund directed to technical college degrees. One suggestion is to call the scholarship, “Future All-Stars.”

Topic 6: Next steps and next meeting

John informed the committee that at the next meeting a vice-chair needs to be appointed. He would like interested members to contact him. The next Steering committee meeting will be held on April 14 at 3 p.m. at Coating Excellence International.