

**N.E.W. Manufacturing Alliance**  
**Steering Committee Meeting**  
April 14, 2009  
Coating Excellence International

*Minutes*

**Attendees:** John Davis, John West, Ron Buchinger, Chris Linn, Paul Rauscher, and Ann Franz

**Topic 1: Goals for 2009**

John Davis distributed a form that identified the goals of the organization, along with the metrics to measure progress. Some modifications were made to the document to link it with the progress from the task forces. One suggestion was to have the new website have a shared database where the task forces could modify/add updates.

**Topic 2: Task force updates**

*K-12 Outreach & Training* – The following activities took place, since the last Steering committee meeting:

- Presentation to East High School Forward Bound students on March 5, 2009.
- Presentation to 200 Coleman High School students on April 3, 2009.
- CNC and Industrial Maintenance career pathways is completed.
- Guidance counselors from area schools presented information to the committee about the new career pathway program the schools are implementing.

*Recruitment* – The task force has identified businesses to target for membership. Steering committee members will be asked to contact business colleagues from this list. New members since the last meeting are Tidi Products, Absolute Supply and Metals Engineering. One of the founding Alliance members chose not to renew its membership, due to a sizeable layoff of its workforce. The Steering committee agreed that if a company that is active is unable to pay its dues, the annual dues will be waived for one year.

The chairperson, Ernie Remondini has requested some of the Steering committee members' assistance in developing the criteria for Associate membership. A special sub-committee will be formed in forming this new membership opportunity. Some suggestions for the membership include allowing Associate members to have a booth at the quarterly membership meetings and/or being able to make presentations at these meetings.

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

*Communications* – at the last meeting, Jerry Murphy shared that the Alliance could use the New North's public relations specialist. In addition, the Alliance could give him two survey questions for an upcoming Nicolet Bank's "Pulse" survey.

The website is currently be retooled. On Thursday, April 16 the task force will be meeting with the web designer. One suggestion was to have the site be more interactive by using a bulletin board where members could discuss issues.

**Topic 3: Quarterly General Membership meeting**

The June quarterly General Membership meeting is set for June 17, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Fox Valley Technical College. Jerry Murphy secured a representative from Godfrey & Kahn to present information about the stimulus bill.

**Topic 4: Scholarship funding**

The committee approved a scholarship be given to one deserving high school student for the amount to pay half of the tuition for an Associate's degree in a manufacturing-related program. John West approved and Ron Buchinger second. Motion passed on a unanimous vote. Ann will contact NWTC's scholarship coordinator on how to proceed. The recipient will be able to choose any of the four technical colleges in the New North. Ideally, the Steering committee would like to offer the scholarship for the fall.

**Topic 5: Next Steps**

A professor from UWGB has offered to have his human resource students administer surveys the Alliance may want to do with its membership.

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

The next Steering committee meeting will be held on May 19 at 3 p.m. at Coating Excellence International.