

N.E.W. Manufacturing Alliance
General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2009
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

Attendees Present: John Davis, Jeff Pallini, Shannon Niccum, Ron Buchinger, Dave Goblisch, Todd Swanson, Jami Harrington, John West, Paul Rauscher, Joe Guell, Jack Ignatowski, Jerry Murphy, Ted Kemen, Jeanne Geib, Karen Diedrich, Jeff Van Zeeland, Travis Van Zeeland, John Schwantes, Mark Kaiser, Mike Troyer, Nanci Plog, Rick Berg, Mike Thomas, Scott Meek, Rick Rectenwald, Jim Golembeski, Rashad Cobb, Jeff Gahnz, Michael Bina, Jeff Vande Hei, Jeremie Meyers, Harley Griesbach, Mike Elkin, Mark Duerwaechter, Bobbi Miller and Ann Franz

1. **Welcome and introductions:** John Davis welcomed attendees and attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Featured Speakers: Educators from Preble, Pulaski and Neenah high schools, along with a DVD presentation about Brillion high school**

Jeremie Meyer from Preble high school discussed a competition his students are participating in called, "Formula High School." It was created to allow students who are interested in motorsports, engineering, and technology areas an outlet to showcase their skills and talents. Students will compete against other schools in a controlled racing time-trial event.

The goals of the high school formula project are:

- Promoting teamwork and interpersonal skills among competitors
- Construction of a product with specific tolerances and deadlines
- Help create the workforce of the future



Companies sponsor the car for \$3,000. Students can come to NWTC on Thursday evenings to get assistance on their build projects. There are 8 teams competing from Preble, Ashwaubenon, Bay Port, Clintonville, and Shawano high schools. The website is: www.formulahighschool.com/home.html.

Preble is no longer considered a manufacturing academy. Instead the high school has Project Lead the Way (PLTW). The nationally recognized program has classroom instruction with one third theory and two-thirds application, giving meaningful, hands-on experience in problem solving, teamwork and project-based learning. Preble has 3 classes being taught this semester in "Introduction to Engineering Design" with approximately 70 kids enrolled. Students who complete the program will receive college credit from MSOE or UW Madison.

Jeremie asked the manufacturers in attendance, "Do you know where the good high school manufacturing students are?" He shared that by connecting with the schools, manufacturers can find out who those kids are.

Harley Griesbach from Pulaski High School shared his school has 120 students in its Project Lead the Way classes. He has had several students participate in Skills USA and youth apprenticeship. On October 2, he will learn if a student team's application was accepted for the MIT InvenTeam competition. Harley addressed the problem with getting females into tech ed classes. He said the number one problem is from parents not wanting their daughters to enroll in these classes. Jeremy shared that his school has similar problems. Mike Thomas suggested having an event, where parents would be invited to an evening program featuring manufacturers discussing careers.

There was a video presented showcasing Brillion High School. Ariens Company donated 1.5 million dollars to the school to expand the facility and programming. Female students were featured in the video, whom participated in designing and building a race car. Forty percent of the females at Brillion high school enroll in classes in the technology center. Todd Swanson from Ariens stated that investing in time is as valuable as financial sponsorship. His company has several staff work with the school on several different projects.

Mike Elkin and Mark Duerwaechter from Neenah High School discussed the new Manufacturing & Engineering Academy at their school. The academy is a project-based, hands-on experience designed to teach the key

elements and skills of science, technology, engineering and mathematics-based careers by addressing various engineer problems. Project Lead the Way is what the school is using for curriculum. The concept of the academy started when Plexus approached the school about working together. The process took several years, but the end result was worth the wait. Mike reported that 103 students signed up for Introduction to Engineering and Design for the fall 2009. The school has an advisory board that will lead the direction of the program. Rick Recktenwald from Walker Forge stated that he is working with Clintonville High School on a School to Manufacturing program. He found that students did not want to leave school during the day to go to work. This program allows students to participate in the summer. The key was working with guidance counselors in finding the students that would best fit the program. One of the top students in the program is a female.

3. Business Pulse Survey presentation by Jeff Gahnz, Nicolet National Bank

Nicolet Bank partnered with the NEW Manufacturing Alliance and New North in having its latest Business Pulse survey focused on manufacturers' perception of the economy and the region. Two items were of special interest:

- 91% of manufacturers said the quality of the workforce is the greatest positive attribute in the New North region.
- 72% of manufacturers said they were somewhat/very optimistic about the future of manufacturing in the New North.

The full survey is attached to the minutes. Jeff invited manufacturers to participate in the bank's guest blog.

4. Updates on task forces

Recruitment: New Alliance members: DeLeers Millwork, Olson Fabrication, Kohler Co., MEGTEC Systems, Fox Valley Wood Products and Finacanteri Marine Group. Schenck is a new Associate Member. The Alliance is collaborating with the Green Bay Chamber on the Manufacturer of Distinction awards. In addition, the Fox Valley's Manufacturer of Distinction will have an Alliance member serve as a judge.

K-12: Shannon Niccum reported October 8 the Alliance will present a manufacturing careers assembly program at Gillette Middle/High School. Bayview Middle School is scheduled for Oct. 28.

Communications: Ann encouraged members to visit the updated website: www.newmfgalliance.org. One new feature is the "Information Exchange." It will have interesting articles and surveys related to manufacturing. Members are encouraged to send articles of interest to Bobbi or Ann. It will then get posted to the website.

5. Announcement of the 2010 All-Stars

Jack Ignatowski, one of the 2009 All-Star winners, announced the 2010 All Stars. They are:

Matt Busch	Fox Valley Metal Tech	Welder
Karl Peters	Walker Forge, Inc.	Automation Technician
Jamie Boylan	CMD Corp	Class A Machinist
Mike Maciejewski	Georgia Pacific	Maintenance Leader
Mark Giebel	Manitowoc Ice	Engineer II
Brad Lamers	CEI	Extruder Operator
Chad Schmertman	Nicolet Plastics, Inc.	Mold Maintenance Technician
Michael Smith	Absolute Supply	Project Manager/Estimator/Scheduling
Brian Vanden Langenberg	Robinson Metal, Inc.	CNC Sheet Metal Programming
Yee Yang	Johnsonville Sausage	Team Leader 2nd shift Auto-line

First Ever All-Star Mentor:
Tim Dyer

Fox Valley Metal Tech Shop Floor Supervisor

6. Next quarterly General Membership meeting: Tuesday, December 8 at 1:30 p.m. at KI Center in Green Bay.