

# **BUTLER COUNTY MANUFACTURING CONSORTIUM**

## **Minutes for December 16, 2009 Christmas luncheon at Conley's Inn**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Jim Ferguson welcomed everyone, immediately followed by introductions.
- B. Copies of the November 18, '09 minutes were distributed prior via email and accepted.
- C. Doug Bartosh reported we have \$782.58 remaining in treasury.

### **II. GUEST SPEAKER – no guest speaker for December.**

### **III. TRAINING / GRANT**

- A. We are scheduled to receive \$7564 in Industry Partnership money.
- B. Tuition Reimbursement program- Tri-County approved for \$64,600.
- C. Shared Training – Tri-County approved for \$96,900. Ken passed out a list of possible shared training topics such as website optimization, MBA certificate program, business innovation, executive leadership, welding, communications, etc...
  - 1. Other ideas discussed included ISO overview? HR Law? Benefits? Companies could be experiencing a 17-40% increase in health care costs this year. What about a training on benefits administration or wellness programs to help reduce these costs?
  - 2. Regarding scheduling, most members present agreed that 2 day short in-depth classes on a narrow, particular topic works best for HR topics.
  - 3. There will be a WIB meeting tomorrow to help narrow down shared training topic ideas.
- D. Ken sent out an email regarding grant funded training opportunities. Think about what training your company may need. These would involve advanced training (not basic and not OSHA required).
- E. "Training within Industry" workshop - BC3 will be hosting this workshop being provided by Catalyst Connection. It is a 2 hour FREE training held at BC3 coming soon in January or February on Lean Manufacturing and 5 S.

### **IV. OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS**

- A. **Career Cruising Network** – no report.
- B. **Educator in the Workplace / Job shadowing** – the next BCE2 meeting will work to how to better promote Educator in the Workplace and job shadowing. PennaFlame and Penn United both had requests for engineering job shadows, which they were able to accommodate.

### **V. BCMC MEDIA / ADVERTISING**

- A. **BCMC Website** –
- B. **Butler Business Matters** –
  - 1. February issue is on Manufacturing. \$295 for 1 time ¼ page ad. BBM also offers free editorials.
  - 2. Could also run an additional ad in the Butler Eagle.
  - 3. Promote the fact that our members are not just HR, but rather represent Marketing, Production, Engineering, owners, etc.... a broad base of manufacturing and departments are represented.
- C. **Facebook** –
- D. **Brochures** – need to update with new members, corrected meeting time/ location, correct Doug Bartosh's email, and add the fact that we are now on Facebook.

## VI. BCMC GROWTH

### A. Tri-County -

1. Legislative committee would like to sponsor a candidate “meet and greet”. See comments in legislative committee notes.
2. SMC (Small Manufacturing Council) – Bill Ringle mentioned his involvement with this group and how they seem to have similar goals as BCMC. The SMC met with the WIB in Armstrong County previously.

B. **Outreach** – in January, the BCMC plans to send out a letter regarding membership interest along with invoice. Also provides opportunity to provide us with most current contact names and contact information. November outreach events resulted in 1 new member – welcome Starr Products to the BCMC!

### C. Self-Sustaining

1. Ken Raybuck reported that 10 people from Butler County responded to the survey. 78% responses were from employers. 21% of results were from “partners”.
2. The #1 reason for joining the manufacturing consortiums, 87% said it was for networking with other manufacturers. To help facilitate networking and learning about other manufacturers and partners, the BCMC will renew the “company spotlight” starting in 2010.
3. Also high on the list of “greatest value” was Reimbursement of Training costs at 52%
4. Consensus is that we still need to grow membership.
5. Number 1 idea to grow membership is for members to invite non-members.

## VII. LEGISLATION ISSUES

A. **Legislative Committee** – one of the primary ideas or goals is to host a legislative panel “meet and greet” of candidates running for political offices. Would help to meet and get to know candidates and learn what their ideas are as they pertain to manufacturing. As well as to share with them about the issues facing manufacturers today. Would members be interested in such a forum? If so, would the spring be a good time?

## VIII. UPCOMING EVENTS / MISCELLANEOUS

A. 2010 Calendar: in 2009 we tried to reach out to Cranberry area with alternating locations. However, for the sake of consistency, Jim recommended 2010 meetings be held in same location, same time each month. Members agreed. Meetings for 2010 **January – November 8:00 am 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the PA CareerLink.**

December meeting will try to do a Christmas luncheon.

B. 2010 possible speaker topics: drug abuse in the workplace, occupational medicine injuries, pre-employment screenings. Another possible topic could be the need for companies to use instant communication technologies to reach employees (e-mail, text message, voice messaging). Penn United is looking into a communication system for communicating emergency information and how that would be a benefit from a safety perspective. Bill Ringle stated that he would be happy to do such a presentation. Anita Orozco shared that her company uses auto dialers that contact the fire department, HR, and First Responders. Cost is \$50 / year.

C. BCMC officer nominations were taken. Jim Ferguson will be stepping down as Chairperson and Kristen Bastaja will be stepping down as Secretary.

1. Bruce Curry nominated Neil Ashbaugh for Chairperson, Jim Ferguson as Co-Chairperson, Doug Bartosh as Treasurer, and Anita Orozco as Secretary. Nominees accepted and members present approved.

D. Sandy, from the Butler County Tourism Council brought brochures on the “super shuttle” which is now available to Butler County. Can help transport employees, customers to the Pittsburgh airport.

E. Anita Orozco shared that she recently attended “Manufacturing in the Future” held at CMU and taped by CNBC. The president of NAM, the president of the United Steel Workers, CEO of GE, CEO of Ford, and the head of the Department of Labor and more spoke on the topic of how to keep manufacturing alive in America. Anita commented that it was a good discussion. Discussed the outsourcing of American jobs. America has always prided itself on our ability to innovate; but when will innovation begin to be outsourced? America is becoming a service economy and that is not good for this country.

F. Jim asked if the consortium would like to join the PA Manufacturers Association? Has been around since 1909. Focuses on a variety of manufacturing throughout Pennsylvania. May be a good thing to be part of a bigger association. They have associate member and member categories and fees. Encouraged all to check out their website to learn more: [www.pamanufacturers.org](http://www.pamanufacturers.org)

G. April, 2010 – Energy and Environment Show at the David Lawrence Convention Center

H. August, 2010 – Coal Power Generation Show

*Next meeting will be at  
8:00 am Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
PA CareerLink  
Pullman Commerce Center  
112 Hollywood Drive, Suite 101  
Butler, PA 16001*