



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 2: ISSUE 1: FEBRUARY 2005

SIWIB COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE

William Armstrong, Chair
e-mail: armstrong@mvn.net

John Rendleman, 1st Vice Chair
e-mail: jsr@fmgr.com

Mary Roe, 2nd Vice Chair
e-mail: roe@onecliq.net

John Alongi, 3rd Vice Chair
e-mail: johnr@onecliq.net

Rodney Cabaness, 4th Vice Chair
e-mail: cabaness@aol.com

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Milton Maxwell, Chair
e-mail: info@siwib.org

Kathy Lively, Vice Chair
e-mail: kathylylively@mantracon.org

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

John Rendleman, Chair
e-mail: jsr@fmgr.com

Richard Morris, Vice Chair
rmorris@ides.state.il.us

MARKETING

James McPhail, Chair
e-mail: jimmac@mychoice.net

Crystal Lukens, Vice Chair
e-mail: irnsnfir@midwest.net

ONE-STOP

Patricia Drake, Chair
e-mail: pdrake@ides.state.il.us

Alan Summers, Vice Chair
e-mail: dhsz500@dhs.state.il.us

YOUTH COUNCIL

Tyler Young, Chair
e-mail: tyjr@midwest.net

June Hickey, Vice Chair
e-mail:
jhickey@cchs165.jacksn.k12.il.us

Visit our web site at
www.siwib.org

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE

The SIWIB Business Service Team is in business!

It took a year and a half of hard work, intensive discussions, and much planning, but your Business Service Team (BST) has kicked 2006 off with a bang. All participating agencies have officially begun visiting businesses as a team. Thanks to the guidance of the SIWIB, we are targeting smaller businesses related to healthcare. Representatives of the five actively participating agencies; Illinois Department of Employment Security, Rend Lake College, John A Logan College, Illinois Office of Rehabilitative Services and Man-Tra-Con Corporation are each visiting businesses in our five county area and promoting the services of all the other agencies as well as their own.

This team approach has significant advantages for all concerned. It helps businesses by reducing the number of visits. One visit from a BST member equals five visits from separate partners. It also provides businesses with a wider set of potential solutions to their workforce problems, and it shows that the agencies involved are collaborating and making good use of tax dollars.

The participating agencies receive advantages as well. Business outreach efforts will become more efficient; rather than each one of us visiting all the targeted companies, we will share the load. Our Business Service Team's efforts also give the agencies involved a means to communicate concerns, share successful strategies and improve the quality of relationships between the members of each organization. It is our hope that this interaction will spur a new level of success for all partners.

The team developed processes with key steps included to ensure success. These include pre- and post-visit actions. A checklist was created to ensure consistency in each visit.

One of the final accomplishments of the BST to date is not all that glamorous, but is vital to our success. The team developed an in-house database that will allow us to capture the specifics of our business visits over time and report on the activities to the SIWIB. The two primary purposes of this database are to allow us to gauge success over time and to provide a reporting mechanism on such items as; the increased number of new businesses visited, the increased number of referrals among agencies and increased number of inquiries of the BST. As data is gathered over the next twelve months, the information provided will be used as benchmarks for measuring our performance in future years.

The success of our efforts can be attributed to the hard work of our participating partners and their willingness to contribute to the year-long process. It is an example of the benefit of working together, sharing responsibilities, and creating a better way of serving our business customer.

CSSI Manufacturing Grant

**Southern Economic Development
Region awarded \$240,000 grant under
Critical Skill Shortages Initiative**

(Continued on page 2)

SIWIB News is sponsored by the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board and published monthly by Man-Tra-Con Corporation under a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant provided by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). This publication seeks to promote workforce development efforts in Local Workforce Area 25. Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For those who do not use traditional print this information is available electronically. For specific access information please contact (Voice) 618-241-6731, (TTY) 618-242-7328 or accessinfo@mantracon.org. Please allow two weeks advanced notice for interpreter requests.

Message from Our Chairman...



WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

I see that members have re-energized over the holidays and have hit the road running. In reading the reports from the various committees you will see that things are moving right along.

The new year will bring many changes. The LWIB Chairs Leadership Association is working to create a training manual for new Chief Local Elected Officials and Local Workforce Investment Board Members. The State is working on an Incumbent Worker Training program which I look forward to hearing more about in the months ahead. The Rapid Response Team has been very busy responding to the many area lay-offs. The State through our Critical Skills Shortage Initiative has provided us with both a healthcare and a manufacturing grant.

While Congress had passed the WIA appropriations before they adjourned for the holidays, they have not had the opportunity to take action on the WIA Re-Authorization. The LWIB Chairs Leadership Association in conjunction with the Illinois Workforce Partnership is sponsoring a legislative breakfast on Capital Hill to inform our congressional delegation of our concerns about the WIA Re-Authorization and its local implications. One major concern is the possible loss of local control of WIA programs. I look forward to meeting with our Congressmen later this month.

(Continued on page 4)

SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Business & Economic Development

The Business and Economic Development Committee received a report from Mr. Dennis Hoffman, IDES Labor Market Analyst, on the current labor market trends within workforce area 25 and the state. He explained county and state unemployment rates, as well as, labor force and employment numbers for 2004 compared with 2005. He noted that retail, business services, healthcare and construction occupations remain high in the region. The committee was educated on the formulas used by the U.S.D.O.L. Bureau of Labor Statistics to compile its reports.

The committee was briefed on the work of the four subcommittees formed by the Business Services Taskforce — 1) Work Ethics/Job Readiness, 2) Life-long learning, 3) Employer driven systems and 4) Encouraging Entrepreneurship. The Business Services Taskforce was formed under the auspices of the Community Audit. Not only does the Business Services Taskforce support

the Work Certified program but they will also assist in marketing the program to area businesses. The Taskforce has met with the administration at Marion High School and discussed utilizing the Work Certified program in area high schools as an extension program for alternative students.

The committee viewed a PowerPoint presentation on the Work Certified program. The committee was provided with statistical analysis of the first Work Certified class held at JALC.

One-Stop Committee

The One-Stop Committee held their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, at Man-Tra-Con Corp. in Marion. The members present were provided updates on activities at all sites from partner agencies. Zina Nolen and Cindy Webb shared information on the Illinois workNet website and the Career Resource Room Specialist Certification. Man-Tra-Con staff shared updates on the Community Audit, Critical Skill Shortages Initiative, and the

(Continued on page 3)

SIWIB INITIATIVES UPDATE: CSSI GRANT

(Continued from page 1)

In a press release issued January 31, 2006, Governor Blagojevich announced the Southern Economic Development Region (SEDR) will receive \$240,000 in Opportunity Returns funding to help meet projected workforce shortages in Southern Illinois. The grant, awarded under the Critical Skill Shortages Initiative (CSSI), will support delivery of the Work Certified program, a short-term training and credentialing program designed to provide employers with a pipeline of skilled workers. "When it comes to economic development, the most important investment we can

make is in our workforce", the Governor stated in the release. "Opportunity Returns is about tangible, specific actions to make each region more accessible, more marketable, more entrepreneurial and more attractive to businesses. It is about upgrading the skills of the local workforce, increasing the access to capital, opening new markets, improving infrastructure, and creating and retaining jobs. Opportunity Returns is about successfully partnering with companies and communities, both large and small, to help all of Illinois reach its economic potential." ■

SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

(Continued from page 2)

Business Services Team. At each committee meeting, a resource room service is highlighted. For the January meeting, members enjoyed a presentation by Cindy Webb on the G*Stars Reporting System. The overview included tips on ways to effectively utilize the system, the many features available, and how system reporting features reflect the number of customers served by the agency. G*Stars is available for all partners and the use of the system is encouraged.

The next meeting of the One-Stop Committee was held on February 14, 2006, at 8:00 a.m. at Man-Tra-Con. Member updates were followed by a discussion of signage needs for our resource rooms. An update on Illinois workNet was provided by Cindy Webb. A letter was sent to Becky Harmon at DCEO detailing our LWIA's option of continuing with the present MOU rather than re-negotiating at this point. All One-Stop Committee members present were in agreement that our present MOU was serving our system well. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2006, at the Man-Tra-Con Conference Room in Marion.

Marketing Committee

Marketing Committee Chairman Jim McPhail is pleased to announce that the One-Stop Business and Employment Center sign for the Marion center is now finished.

The committee started work on a marketing plan for the upcoming program year. The plan includes a survey of area businesses to ascertain their knowledge of the One-Stop Business and Employment Centers and the services offered. The committee would also like to survey SIWIB members to collect their thoughts for the development of local marketing goals for the One-Stop Business and Employment Centers and what target audiences and strategies the marketing plan should include.

(Continued at right)

Spotlight On...

MILTON MAXWELL

Mr. Maxwell is a member of the Illinois Prisoner Review Board and has served on the Board since his appointment in October 1993. He previously worked in the First Judicial Circuit Probation System for 22 years (the last five years as Chief Managing Officer) prior to his appointment to the Prisoner Review Board.

He was appointed to the Southern Illinois Workforce Investment Board in January 2000.

He is an officer of the Board and serves as Parliamentarian and Chairman of the Board Development Committee. He previously served on the Private Industry Council having been a charter member, appointed in May 1983. He served the Council in a variety of ways including Council Secretary, Parliamentarian, Chairman of the Program Planning Committee and Chairman of numerous Ad Hoc Committees.

Mr. Maxwell has served on the Planning Commission for the City of Carbondale and the Attucks Community Service Board. He has been a member of the Tuscan Lodge #44 Free and Accepted Masons of Illinois and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM of Illinois.

Milton earned his Bachelor's of Science Degree from the University of Arkansas in history and political science. He also earned a Master's Degree in Guidance and Educational Psychology and Criminology from Southern Illinois University. He is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. Milton and his wife, Sandra, are the parents of two daughters, Plesetta and Lakeista and the proud grandparents of Collin Maxwell Clayton and Pierce Tyler Clayton. ■



Milton Maxwell

SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

The committee would appreciate any volunteers, who wish to assist with a One-Stop Center booth at local job fairs. John A. Logan College will start the "job fair season" when it hosts its eleventh annual job fair on Wednesday, March 22, 2006, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. If you wish to be included on the list of job fair volunteers, please contact Michelle Cerutti at 1-800-315-3986, ext. 229.

If you are interested in participating on the Marketing Committee, meetings are held every third Friday of the odd months. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 17th at the Marion One-Stop Business and Employment Center at 11:00 am.

(Continued on page 4)



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

3000 W. DeYoung Street, Suite 800B
Marion, IL 62959

INSIDE:

- **Business Services Team**
- **Manufacturing Grant**
- **Committee Reports**
- **Spotlight On...
Milton Maxwell**

*Additional information about SIWIB Initiatives and board members
can be found on our web site at www.siwib.org.*

SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

Youth Council

The Youth Council viewed a DCEO PowerPoint show on the new Common Measures concerning youth services. The Council formed a committee to review the present RFP and recommend changes necessary to meet new youth performance measures. As part of the continuous quality improvement process, the Council is surveying all WIA youth to ascertain their opinions on the services offered. The Council authorized a "Reunion", during the last 2 weeks in February, for youth who have been inactive or exited from the program but still count in our performance measures. Donated gift cards will be use as incentives to entice youth to re-establish contact with their service providers. An additional gift card will be issued to youth visiting our area One-Stop Centers to register on G-Stars, Illinois workNet and Illinois Skills Match. There will be a Youth Event on April 25th at Rend Lake College. The event will bring youth from all service providers together for a half a day of workshops and activities and will feature a motivational speaker. ■

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

(Continued from page 2)

I wish to thank each of you for your efforts last year. I look forward to an even better 2006, as we rededicate ourselves to the continuous quality improvement of our local workforce development system. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 22, 2006

4th Regional Economic
Development Meeting
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at JALC

MARCH 8, 2006

Youth Council Meeting
4:00 p.m. at the
Marion One-Stop Business
& Employment Center

MARCH 17, 2006

Marketing Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m. at the
Marion One-Stop Business
& Employment Center

MARCH 21, 2006

One-Stop Committee Meeting
8:00 a.m. at the
Marion One-Stop Business
& Employment Center