



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 4: ISSUE 2: FEBRUARY 2008

SIWIB COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE

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

Mary Roe, 1st Vice Chair
e-mail: roe@onecliq.net

Rodney Cabaness, 2nd Vice Chair
e-mail: cabaness@aol.com

John Alongi, 3rd Vice Chair
e-mail: johnr@alongis.com

Michele Rheinecker, 4th Vice Chair
e-mail: rheinecker_m@yahoo.com

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

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

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

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

John Hammack, Vice Chair
hammack@midwest.net

ONE-STOP

Alan Summers, Chair
e-mail: alansummers@illinois.gov

Angela Holmes-Young, Vice Chair
e-mail: a-holmes@aisinil.com

WIA POLICY & PLANNING

Michele Rheinecker, Chair
e-mail: rheinecker_m@yahoo.com

Vice Chair
To be elected

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

Rural Healthcare: Pilot Program

BY STEVEN MITCHELL

Late last year, Northern Illinois University (NIU), in conjunction with many other participants including Southern Illinois University's School of Medicine, was awarded a \$21 million dollar grant to connect a number of rural hospitals throughout the state to one another via fiber optics and high speed wireless.

The grant provides for wireless connections but no fiber infrastructure south of Centralia. In early December, Deborah Seale (executive director for Telehealth Networks & Programs at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and also a member of the Healthcare COI) led a meeting at Man-Tra-Con offices with Connect SI leadership to discuss this issue and possible ways that southern Illinois could take better advantage of the grant opportunity.

During the meeting, Connect SI leadership learned that there may be some flexibility within the grant to allow for utilization of

existing fiber assets, and the possible inclusion of healthcare facilities that were not included in the original grant proposal. Connect SI was assigned two tasks: gathering information on the locations of fiber assets and high points (for wireless antennas) in the region, and assembling technical and administrative healthcare personnel for a second meeting. This meeting was held at the end of January with Dr. Alan Kraus and Roger Holloway, two of the primary individuals involved with NIU's grant writing effort.

During the second meeting, attendees were assured by Dr. Kraus that there was indeed flexibility within the grant to utilize existing fiber infrastructure. To help NIU staff prepare for implementing the grant, Connect SI will provide a listing of applications that our local healthcare providers require that utilize high speed

(Continued on back)

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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 3, 2008

Youth Council Meeting
3:30 p.m. at the
Marion One-Stop Business
& Employment Center

MARCH 6, 2008

**Business &
Economic Development
Committee Meeting**
(Tentative)
4:30 p.m. at the
West Frankfort
Man-Tra-Con office

MARCH 18, 2008

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

MARCH 20, 2008

SIWIB Board Meeting
5:30 p.m. at the
Elks Lodge
Mt. Vernon, Illinois

MARCH 25, 2008

**Connecting with the
Future of Energy Series 3:
"Biofuels: Ethanol,
Biodiesel, and Beyond!"**
5:30 p.m. at the
Old Firehouse Event Center
108 N. Emma Street
West Frankfort, Illinois

SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Board Development Committee

At the January 25th meeting, Board Development Committee Chairman Milton Maxwell requested that notice be sent to all SIWIB members informing them of the local awards dinner and the March SIWIB meeting. He asked that SIWIB members be reminded of the importance of honoring the local award nominees by being on time for the 5:30 p.m. dinner. Following the dinner, the Board will meet to conduct business. Dr. John Washburn will make a presentation to the Board outlining his recommendations based upon proposed WIA Reauthorization legislation. The committee elected to hold the March dinner and meeting at the Elk's Lodge, 1107 Jordan Street in Mt. Vernon.

The committee discussed two WIA related conferences. It was noted that all the arrangements for

the National Association of Workforce Boards' (NAWB) conference have been finalized. The committee discussed the need to make final arrangements for the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals' (NAWDP) conference. Because conference attendance is limited, the committee asked that Board membership be reminded of the attendance and participation policy for attending conferences.

Chairman Maxwell informed the committee that he and Ms. Lively had interviewed a Graduate Assistant candidate for the Board. Ms. Lisa Knight, who is working on her Master's Degree in the Workforce Education and Development Department at Southern Illinois University, was interviewed and approved. Ms. Knight has human resource experience with the Target Corporation and should prove to be a valuable asset to the local workforce development system. ■

Rural Healthcare: Pilot Program

(Continued from front)

Internet connections, and additional information on the existing fiber infrastructure. Connect SI is in the process of compiling that information.

ConnectSI leadership is convinced that time and effort spent now will lead to additional investment in the region, and enable the residents of southern Illinois to get the timely care they deserve. This project is yet another example of how Connect SI, and the collaboration it creates, benefits our region. ■