



SIWIB NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR BOARD MEMBERS ■ VOL. 4: ISSUE 3: APRIL 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: kathy@lively@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

Connect SI Update

BY TAMMY KIRK

The Connect SI initiative has been very active during recent months. VITAL Economy completed the readiness assessment study. Meetings held in February at John A. Logan College and Southeastern Illinois College introduced the assessment to the entire 20-county region. In March, Kathy Lively met with volunteers in each of the four regional communities of interest to discuss strategies, goals, and action items for the 2008-2012 phase of the project. The meeting also included a discussion to determine which industry clusters were most important to the economic development of southern Illinois. The Leadership Advisory Committee approved moving forward with the strategy for 2008, and the Executive Team is working with VITAL Economy to set a budget. A collaborative fundraising effort is also being established to raise the funds needed to bring strategy goals to fruition. Readiness assessment and strategy documents may be viewed at http://www.mantracon.org/new_connectsi.htm.

Lead SI, a youth initiative supported by Connect SI, will hold its first Lead SI Institute workshop from June 11 to June 13, 2008, at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale

(SIUC). High school principals will nominate students from their schools and approximately 50 students will be chosen to participate in the three-day event. Lead SI is spearheaded by leaders from within and outside southern Illinois who are working together to prevent the migration of our educated young people from the area. The mission is to develop a new core of leadership that recognizes and acts upon the necessity of regional engagement and collaboration. Lead SI is working to make the concept of "One Region — One Vision" a reality by identifying our future leaders and providing them with the skills they will need to bring our region into the 21st century.

Former Murphysboro resident Ron Barger, currently an attorney with the Archon Group, a division of Goldman Sachs, has been involved with developing this youth leadership initiative and has personally made a \$10,000 donation to help fund the Lead SI Institute. His company will also provide a matching \$10,000 donation. Ron has issued a challenge to area leaders to match this \$20,000 donation. For more information or to make a donation, please contact Kathy Lively. All donations are tax deductible.

(Continued on page 3)

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 am pleased to announce that Governor Rod Blagojevich has recertified the Board. We are once again “official”.

I have appointed Mr. Jim McPhail to the Business and Economic Development Committee. Jim is CEO of McPhail Enterprises in West Frankfort. As a business owner, a retired Proctor and Gamble executive, and a member of the Franklin County Board, Jim brings his vast business and economics expertise to the committee.

Welcome aboard to Ms. Lisa Knight, our newest SIU-C Graduate Assistant. Ms. Knight is working on her Master's Degree in the Workforce Education and Development Department. As a former Human Resource Manager with Target Corporation, Ms. Knight brings her many H.R. skills to benefit our customers. Lisa joins doctoral student Lianbin Cui in the trenches at the Marion One-Stop Center.

Our staff liaison for the One-Stop Committee, Ms. Zina Nolen has retired after 28 years of service to her neighbors throughout southern Illinois. I know we all send Zina

(Continued on page 4)

SIWIB COMMITTEE PROJECT OVERVIEW

Business & Economic Development Committee

The Business & Economic Development Committee reviewed the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) application that was submitted by General Dynamics. A recommendation was made to award General Dynamics the funding for Basic Quality Training for 78 employees. The contract amount will not exceed \$10,000.00.

Rosie Robinson handed out new marketing materials that were printed and paid for with rebranding grant funds associated with Illinois workNet. This material included the new On-the-Job-Training (OJT) brochures and the IWT postcard.

Rosie Robinson provided everyone with a copy of the Southern Illinois Economic Development Conference flyer. The conference is titled *"Economic Development in Motion — Transportation Locally, Nationally, and Globally"*. Ms. Robinson asked that anyone interested in attending let her know. She also stated that the cost of attending the conference can be paid with board funds.

Copies of the Connect SI retention survey were included in the handouts. Ms. Robinson asked the committee to help promote awareness of this survey and to encourage businesses to cooperate.

A discussion was held on the funding rescission proposed by President Bush. Copies of NADO news was distributed to committee members and Ms. Robinson asked members to become an advocate. She also asked the committee to speak to

their State representatives or Senators about how the rescission would impact our local area, should they have any opportunity to do so.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2008, at the Man-Tra-Con Family Opportunity Center in DuQuoin.

One-Stop Committee

The One-Stop Committee met on February 20, and March 18, 2008, at the Marion Man-Tra-Con office. A sample referral form was presented to the group for those agencies that do not currently have a process in place for tracking referrals. Roxanne Brewer-Coffey volunteered to compile numbers quarterly — so the monthly tally of those referrals made should be submitted to her by the 10th of the following month reflecting the previous month.

New traffic reports generated through IWDS were reviewed with a notation that Illinois workNet is being closely tracked. Both the Marion and Mt. Vernon resource rooms have been very busy.

The Center for Economic Progress is providing free tax preparation in Marion with almost 1,500 served, and the pilot program for filing unemployment claims online in Mt. Vernon has resulted in a respectable number of visits.

Marketing efforts for Illinois workNet through the rebranding grant continue with the installation of two billboard signs advertising to both job seekers and businesses. One sign is located on I-57 southbound near Ina; the second sign is on Illinois Route 13 westbound

(Continued on page 3)

One-Stop Committee

(Continued from page 2)

at the intersection of Walton Way in Marion. Brochures, newspaper advertisements, folders, banners, giveaways and flyers have all been prepared to promote the “get connected” new look.

The RIG employer survey currently has received information from 475 employers with an additional 300 scheduled appointments for responses. The data compiled can be manipulated in a multitude of queries, and should be an effective method for organizing survey results.

Sixteen Ruth Snider Individual Achievement Award nominations have been received to date, along with two Business Leadership nominations. Each will be acknowledged at the SIWIB meeting in June.

Youth Council

The Youth Council met on March 12, 2008, with a quorum present. The Council discussed the monitoring conducted by Man-Tra-Con's Youth Liaison on each current contract. The Council debated whether to renew all contracts for another year or advertise for new proposals. After a lengthy discussion, the Council voted to advertise for new proposals to provide youth education and employment services for program year 2008.

The new Request For Proposals (RFPs) will have few changes from the 2007 program year but will restrict each service provider to one contract — either education or employment. RFPs will be ready for distribution on March 27, 2008, and proposals must be submitted by April 28, 2008. The new program year will begin June 1, 2008. ■

Spotlight On...

GRADUATE ASSISTANT LISA KNIGHT

We are pleased to announce the addition of Lisa Knight to the *Special Projects Team*. Lisa is a graduate assistant who will be working with Job Club and Employ SI projects, reviewing customer resumes and helping with other miscellaneous projects at Man-Tra-Con's Marion office. Lisa is currently finishing her final semester toward receiving a Masters degree in the Workforce Education and Development program at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Her main focus is Human Resources and Training and Development. Lisa also holds a second graduate assistantship with the university in the Financial Aid Department, where she works ten hours a week.



Lisa Knight, graduate assistant

In December of 2006, Lisa earned her Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Southern Illinois University, where she is currently majoring in Workforce Education and Development.

Prior to returning to school to further her education, Lisa was the Human Resource Executive with Target in Marion. Lisa worked at Target for nearly eight years, where she held two executive positions and served on various committees.

Lisa is also a long-standing board member on the Greater Marion Area United Way Board of Directors, coordinator of two fundraisers annually in Marion, and a proud Alumni member with Southern Illinois University.

In her “spare” time, Lisa enjoys volunteering, being with her family and friends, watching the latest DVD movie releases, and being able to read a book that isn't a textbook. *Congratulations, and welcome to the team!* ■

Connect SI Update

(Continued from page 1)

The third discussion in the *Connecting with the Future of Energy* series was held in West Frankfort at the Old Firehouse Event Center on March 25. The symposium, titled *Biofuels: Ethanol, Biodiesel and Beyond*, was well attended. The fourth and final symposium, *Energy Sustainability*, will be held at the Dunn-Richmond Business and Economic Development Center on May 22.

Kathy has also been facilitating training sessions on the Economic Development Scenario Model throughout the southern Illinois area, including the Southeastern Small Business Development Center and the SIUC Dunn-Richmond Center. Economic development directors, city planners and community leaders are excited about the benefits the model offers to our region. ■



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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

INSIDE:

- **Connect SI Update**
- **Message from Our Chairman**
- **Committee Reports**
- **Spotlight On...
Graduate Assistant: Lisa Knight**

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

Message from Our Chairman

(Continued from page 2)

our thanks and best wishes for a happy retirement! The ball has been handed off to Ms. Roxanne Brewer-Coffey, who has now assumed the role of Special Projects Manager and will now staff the committee.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to CLEO Chairman Wayne Bigham and SIWIB members John Alongi, Jack Struck and Kathy Lively for accompanying me to the National Association of Workforce Board (NAWB) Annual Conference — where they spent a weekend away from their families in a very cold Washington, DC. The conference not only provided an array of informative sessions and workshops but also offered a first hand peek at a multitude of exhibitors' products in one convenient location. Regionalization, consolidation, common measures and WIA reauthorization were the hot topics at the conference this year.

It's that time of year, once again, for completing your Economic Interest Statement. The Williamson County Clerk's office is in the process of mailing out the statements. Please remember to respond quickly as there are fines and penalties for filing late.

Please remember to submit your Travel Expense forms as this is the end of the quarter. The mileage rate will increase to \$0.50 per mile effective March 29, 2008. ■

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 17, 2008

**Business & Economic
Development Meeting**
4:30 p.m. at the Man-Tra-Con
Family Opportunity Center
DuQuoin, Illinois

MAY 2, 2008

H.O.P.E. Trivia Night
6:00 p.m. at the
Trinity United Methodist Church
304 N Sunny Slope Street
West Frankfort, Illinois

MAY 22, 2008

**Connecting with the
Future of Energy Series 4:
"Energy Sustainability"**
5:30 p.m. at the
Dunn-Richmond Economic
Development Center
150 E. Pleasant Hill Road
Carbondale, Illinois